



Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council

17th Supplement

2010-2011

Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

Threats to international peace and security

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council received two briefings by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and adopted one presidential statement in connection with the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security”. The Council explored a comprehensive, balanced, and coordinated response to counter the threats to international peace and security posed by drug trafficking, organized crime, and terrorism.

A table lists the meetings held in consideration of the item, as well as related information, including invitees, speakers and decisions adopted.

24 February 2010 to 6 June 2011: response to transnational threats

On 24 February 2010, the Secretary-General delivered an opening statement, stressing that the responses to transnational threats posed by drug trafficking and organized crime should be both global and integrated across the United Nations system and among Member States.^a Presenting the report of UNODC entitled “Crime and instability: case studies of transnational threat”, the Executive Director of UNODC underlined that vulnerability attracted crime and crime, in turn, deepened vulnerability. He suggested a two-pronged approach to break the vicious cycle: strengthening capacity of individual states while promoting cooperation among Member States within a multilateral framework. He noted that the legal framework and judicial institutions needed to ensure the rule of law as

^a [S/PV.6277](#), p. 2.

well as better intelligence sharing among Member States were crucial in tackling organized crime.^b In the subsequent discussion, members expressed deep concern over the threat to international peace and security that transnational organized crime represented. They noted that such criminals took advantage of the opportunities presented by globalization and by advances in technology.^c The representatives of both Turkey and Lebanon underlined that transnational threat undermined the peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding efforts.^d Stressing international cooperation must adhere to the principles of respect for sovereignty and equal mutual benefit, the representative of China underscored that the Council should focus on drug trafficking and related transnational organized crime faced by countries in conflict or post-conflict situations so as to help address the problem of armed conflict.^e

Following the meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement by which it noted with concern the serious threats posed in some cases by drug trafficking and transnational organized crime to international security in different regions of the world, and invited the Secretary-General to consider those threats as a factor in conflict prevention strategies, conflict analysis, and the assessment and planning of integrated missions. Furthermore, it encouraged Member States to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation to counter drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism and corruption and to investigate and prosecute, as appropriate, persons and entities responsible for these crimes, consistent with international law.^f

On 24 June 2011, the Executive Director of the UNODC reported that a United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking had started its work. He underscored four areas of responses to the threat: strengthening international collaboration, building regional capacity, reinforcing criminal justice system and adopting a comprehensive cross-disciplinary strategy.^g While some speakers stressed a coordinated approach to address the threat,^h other speakers called for a comprehensive and balanced drug

^b Ibid., pp. 3-4.

^c Ibid., p. 6 (Turkey); p. 17 (United States); and p. 19 (Austria).

^d Ibid., p. 6 (Turkey); and p. 11 (Lebanon).

^e Ibid., p. 10.

^f [S/PRST/2010/4](#).

^g [S/PV.6565](#), pp. 2-3.

^h Ibid., p. 4 (India); p. 6 (Brazil); p. 8 (United Kingdom); p. 9 (Nigeria); and p. 15 (France).

control strategy, including curbing both supply of and demand for drugs, and providing alternative livelihood through sustainable economic development.¹

Meetings: threats to international peace and security

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6277 24 February 2010	Briefing by the Executive Director of UNODC	Letter dated 17 February 2010 from France to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper (S/2010/94 , annex)	Executive Director of UNODC	Secretary-General, all Council members and rule 39 invitee	S/PRST/2010/4
6565 24 June 2011	Briefing by the Executive Director of UNODC		Executive Director of UNODC	All Council members and rule 39 invitee	

¹ Ibid., p. 11 (South Africa); p. 13 (China); p. 14 (Lebanon); and p. 17 (Colombia).