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Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held five meetings, adopting three resolutions and three presidential statements in connection with threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. The Council decided that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) should continue to operate as a special political mission.¹ Furthermore, the Council decided to establish a Committee of the Council to oversee sanctions measures in connection with any individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban.² The Council also strengthened the Office of the Ombudsperson and extended its mandate for a period of eighteen months.³

The table at the end of this section lists the meetings held in consideration of this item, as well as related information, including invitees, speakers and decisions adopted.

September 2010 to May 2011: responses to threats posed by terrorist acts

On 27 September 2010, the Council held an open debate at ministerial level to review and assess the efforts in combating terrorism in the past 10 years and to lay out a strategy for future action. Speakers underscored the importance of a comprehensive approach in combating the global threat posed by terrorism, which required action not only in strengthening security and law enforcement but also in addressing root causes and

¹ [Resolution 1963 \(2010\)](#).

² [Resolutions 1988 \(2011\)](#) and [1989 \(2011\)](#).

³ [Resolution 1989 \(2011\)](#).

conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.⁴ They agreed on the urgent need to eradicate this scourge through coordinated efforts led by the United Nations, in particular in enhancing collective efforts to combat terrorism and to address existing gaps in this global fight.⁵ Several speakers highlighted the need for a coordinated approach to address terrorism through international and regional cooperation as well as information and best practices sharing.⁶

Following the meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement by which it noted with concern that terrorism continued to pose a serious threat to international peace and security and that this threat had become more diffuse. Recognizing that terrorism would not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone, the Council underlined the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In that regard, the Council recognized that development, peace and security and human rights were interlinked and mutually reinforcing and underlined the international effort to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all.⁷

2 May 2011: presidential statement on the death of Osama bin Laden

On 2 May 2011, the Council issued a presidential statement welcoming the news on 1 May 2011 that Osama bin Laden would never again be able to perpetrate such acts of terrorism, and reaffirming that terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or group. Furthermore, the Council stressed that no cause or grievance could justify the murder of innocent people and that terrorism would not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures, and intelligence operations alone, but only by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active

⁴ [S/PV.6390](#), p. 3 (Secretary-General); p. 5 (Austria); p. 6 (United States); p. 7 (Brazil); p. 8 (United Kingdom); p. 10 (Nigeria); p. 11 (Uganda); p. 13 (Russian Federation); pp. 15-16 (Lebanon); p. 19 (China); and p. 20 (Turkey).

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 4 (Austria); pp. 5-6 (United States); pp. 6-7 (Brazil); and pp. 9-10 (Nigeria).

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 4 (Austria); p. 9 (Gabon); p. 10 (Nigeria); p. 11 (Uganda); p. 12 (Russian Federation); and p. 14 (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

⁷ [S/PRST/2010/19](#).

participation and collaboration of all States, relevant international and regional organizations and civil society in addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate the terrorist threat.⁸

20 December 2010: resolution on Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

On 20 December 2010, the Council adopted [resolution 1963 \(2010\)](#), by which it decided that the Executive Directorate should continue to operate as a special political mission under the policy guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the period ending 31 December 2013, and further decided to conduct an interim review by 30 June 2012. Moreover, it directed the Executive Directorate to produce an updated Global Implementation Survey of [resolution 1373 \(2001\)](#) by 30 June 2011 and to produce a Global Implementation Survey of [resolution 1624 \(2005\)](#) by 31 December 2011. Both surveys were expected to assess the evolution of risks and threats as well as the impact of their implementation, identify gaps, and propose new practical ways to implement the resolutions.

17 June 2011: decision to split the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime

On 17 June 2011, the Council adopted [resolution 1988 \(2011\)](#), by which it established a new sanctions regime and requested all States to take measures with respect to individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan as designated on the List of the Committee established pursuant to [resolution 1988 \(2011\)](#). The Committee, under the new regime, oversaw the implementation by States of the three sanctions measures (assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo) imposed by the Security Council on individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban. In addition,

⁸ [S/PRST/2011/9](#).

the resolution introduced broader listing criteria and a greater role for the Government of Afghanistan in consultations on listing and delisting decisions.⁹

By [resolution 1989 \(2011\)](#), the Council decided that the sanctions list maintained by the Committee established pursuant to [resolution 1267 \(1999\)](#) would henceforth be known as the “Al-Qaida Sanctions List” and include only names of those individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida. It directed the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee to transmit to the Committee established pursuant to [resolution 1988 \(2011\)](#) all listing submissions, delisting requests and proposed updates to the existing information associated with the Taliban. Moreover, the Council renewed the mandate of the Monitoring Team and directed it to keep the Committee informed of instances of non-compliance with the measures imposed, and further directed it to provide recommendations to the Committee on actions taken to respond to non-compliance.

Following the adoption of [resolutions 1988 \(2011\)](#) and [1989 \(2011\)](#), speakers stressed that their adoption was an important step to further support political dialogue in Afghanistan, to counter the threat to international peace and security posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliates, and to strengthen the effectiveness of targeted sanctions through further enhancing fair and clear procedures.¹⁰

February to June 2011: strengthening the Office of the Ombudsperson and renewal of its mandate

On 28 February 2011, the Council issued a presidential statement by which it underlined its commitment to ensuring that the Office of the Ombudsperson was able to continue to carry out its role effectively, in accordance with its mandate, and, in that regard, undertook to renew the Office’s mandate in June 2011. Furthermore, the Council welcomed the first report¹¹ of the Ombudsperson submitted pursuant to annex II of [resolution 1904 \(2009\)](#) and the work of the Ombudsperson to date. The Council took

⁹ [S/PV.6557](#), p. 5 (United Kingdom).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 2 (United States); p. 3 (Germany); p. 4 (France); p. 5 (Portugal); and p. 5 (United Kingdom).

¹¹ [S/2011/29](#).

note of the observations in the report, to which it would respond in the context of the renewal of the Ombudsperson's mandate in June 2011 in order to ensure that any necessary improvements to the Ombudsperson procedure were implemented.¹²

On 17 July 2011, the Council adopted [resolution 1989 \(2011\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of the Ombudsperson for a period of eighteen months from the date of adoption of the resolution. The Council further decided that the measures described in paragraph 1 of the resolution with respect to that individual, group, undertaking or entity should terminate sixty days after the Committee had completed consideration of a comprehensive report of the Ombudsperson, where the Ombudsperson had recommended delisting, unless the Committee decided otherwise by consensus. In case where consensus did not exist, the Chair of the Committee should, on the request of a Committee member, submit the question of whether to delist that individual, group, undertaking or entity to the Council for a decision within a period of sixty days. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Ombudsperson to ensure its continued ability to carry out its mandate in an effective and timely manner.

Following the adoption of [resolution 1989 \(2011\)](#), the representative of Germany hailed it as a “major achievement” that the Committee would need consensus for keeping individuals on the list if the Ombudsperson had recommended delisting.¹³ The representative of Portugal concurred that the strengthened Office of the Ombudsperson was in a better position to play a crucial role in assisting individuals in the process of reviewing their cases.¹⁴ The representative of the United Kingdom highlighted that the introduction of two “sunset clauses”, to be triggered by a de-listing recommendation from the Ombudsperson or a de-listing request from a designating state, would make it more straightforward to delist individuals and entities that no longer constituted a threat, while ensuring that those who did continue to pose a threat remained listed.¹⁵

¹² [S/PRST/2011/5](#).

¹³ [S/PV.6557](#), p. 3.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

Meetings: threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6390 27 September 2010	Letter dated 1 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2010/462)		Secretary-General and all Council members	S/PRST/2010/19
6459 20 December 2010	Letter dated 3 December 2010 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/616)	Draft resolution submitted by France, Japan, Nigeria, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States (S/2010/645)		Resolution 1963 (2010) 15-0-0
6492 28 February 2011	Letter dated 21 January 2011 from the Ombudsperson to the president of the Security Council (S/2011/29)			S/PRST/2011/5
6526 2 May 2011				S/PRST/2011/9
6557 17 June 2011		Draft resolution submitted by France, Germany, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States (S/2011/368)	France, Germany, India, Portugal, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States	Resolution 1988 (2011) 15-0-0
		Draft resolution submitted by France, Germany, United Kingdom, United States (S/2011/369)		Resolution 1989 (2011) 15-0-0