

UNITED NATIONS  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



NATIONS UNIES  
MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Mr. Vijay Nambiar  
A: Chef de Cabinet  
Executive Office of the Secretary-General

DATE: 23 March 2007

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:  
S/C DE:

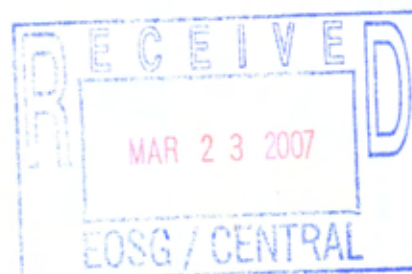
FROM: Horst Heitmann, Director  
DE: Security Council Affairs Division, DPA

SUBJECT: Security Council: Report on activities  
OBJET:



Attached please find, for the information of the Secretary-General, a note on the proceedings of the Security Council on Thursday, 22 March 2007 (a.m.).

cc: Mr. Pascoe



PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Thursday, 22 March 2007 (a.m.)

FORMAL MEETING

**Meeting of the Security Council with the troop-contributing  
countries to UNMIL pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001),  
Annex II, sections A and B**

At its 5643<sup>rd</sup> (closed) meeting, the Council met with the TCCs to UNMIL, having before it the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/151). Participants were briefed by Mr. Alan Doss, SRSG for Liberia, who made a statement along the lines of his subsequent briefing in the Council's consultations (see below). No participants took the floor.

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

**The Situation in Liberia**

Highlighting the major issues arising from the Secretary-General's report, SRSG Doss stated that while the overall political situation in the country had been relatively stable, serious security challenges remained, including the restiveness of those dissatisfied former security forces, disruptions by the disaffected ex-combatants, communal tensions over land and property, and continued uncertainty in neighbouring Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. To address these challenges, SRSG Doss underscored the importance of creating more economic opportunities for the multitude of young people, ex-combatants and former state employees. Still, noting that it was unlikely to quickly resolve all these concerns, SRSG Doss cautioned that "we must be prepared for possible disturbances in the future". As a preventive measure, UNMIL had been closely monitoring the developments in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as managing their respective common borders. On the rumors alleging that Liberian ex-combatants were crossing into Guinea to participate in that country's crisis, SRSG Doss said that to date UNMIL had found no evidence of such an "organized movement".

SRSG Doss, echoing the Secretary-General's report, noted with satisfaction that Liberia had made steady progress in meeting the key benchmarks for the consolidation and drawdown of UNMIL. As a result, following the December 2006 withdrawal of an infantry battalion, UNMIL's another infantry battalion was expected to withdraw in the latter half of 2007. Elaborating on the progress made thus far in meeting the security reform benchmarks, SRSG Doss said that advances had been made in three areas, namely: 1) the elaboration of the national security strategy and architecture was underway; 2) the



training and restructuring of armed forces had continued. However, due to some delay in the training programme, he was concerned that the new Armed Forces (AFL) might not be fully operational until late 2009; and 3) the recruitment for the LNP and the creation of a quick reaction force within the LNP were ongoing. In this regard, he stressed the urgent need for additional external assistance. On the progress in meeting the economic benchmarks, SRSB Doss said that improved economic governance had resulted in a 48 per cent increase in government revenues, adding that the government had also taken action to combat corruption and for the better use of natural resources. On the social benchmarks, SRSB Doss reported that a number of gains had been achieved, notably in the health and education areas. Meanwhile, he deplored that most of the rule of law benchmarks had not been achieved, including the lack of progress in judicial reform and delayed work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Touching on the gender issue, including violence against women, SRSB Doss said that the UN Gender Theme Group had developed an action plan to assist the government in implementing a National Gender Policy, while UNMIL and the UN country team had been actively supporting the national campaign to stop sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). He added in this respect that the government had agreed to make a concerted effort with UNMIL to strengthen the enforcement of the law on rape. Reiterating that UNMIL would continue to enforce the zero-tolerance policy vis-à-vis SEA-related misconducts, SRSB Doss urged more TCCs to delegate authority to their contingent commanders to take disciplinary action "on the spot". Finally, SRSB Doss said that at the recent Liberia Partners' Forum the country's partners had recognized the intrinsic linkage between peace, security and development.

Council members appreciated the significant progress made in meeting key benchmarks identified for the consolidation and drawdown of UNMIL. "This is a time of optimism in Liberia", the United States declared. However, they acknowledged that many challenges still remained and thus supported a continued presence of the mission beyond 31 March 2007.

Belgium, France, Congo and Ghana commended the initiatives taken by President Johnson Sirleaf, particularly in combating corruption and improving the financial sector, and encouraged UNMIL to continue to assist her in building a democratic foundation. Together with Ghana and Peru, the United Kingdom urged the international community to keep a watchful eye on corruption among government officials. Ghana called for further improvement in the financial sector, as the country was going through the difficult phase of post-conflict peacebuilding. Slovakia and Congo voiced concern about the crisis in the legislature, while Qatar urged members of the National Assembly to put the national interests above anything else.



Ghana, Slovakia, Italy, Qatar, Peru and Belgium reiterated the need to help the government to expand its authority nationwide, particularly in terms of the deployment of police forces and management of natural resources. Belgium, the United Kingdom and Congo welcomed the progress toward meeting the Kimberly compliance requirements, which would open the way to lift the sanctions on Liberia's diamond exports.

China, Belgium, Ghana, Slovakia, Italy and the United Kingdom called for continued efforts to facilitate security sector reform, which was deemed crucial for the country's stability. In particular, Peru underscored the need to speed up the reintegration of ex-combatants. On border security, China, Indonesia, South Africa and the United Kingdom welcomed UNMIL's close cooperation with UNOCI as well as the neighbouring countries. Together with Indonesia, the Russian Federation voiced concern at the cross-border activities of Liberian ex-combatants, which could pose a threat to the region.

Belgium, echoed by Congo, deplored the impasse regarding the management of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which remained the government's preferred option to address the issues of transitional justice. He maintained that the stalemate should be broken quickly, as there was no other mechanism for this matter.

Along with France, China and Qatar, the United States supported the continuing presence of a robust PKO, with the expected drawdown as conditions permitted. Belgium, South Africa and Congo called for a one-year extension of the mandate, with a possible 6-month review. On the other hand, the United States and the Russian Federation preferred a 6-month extension so as to ensure the Council's effective oversight.

Many delegations underlined the need to facilitate the country's recovery and economic development, expressing deep concern about a high unemployment rate among youth and ex-combatants. Peru and Panama called for more labor-intensive projects so as to address the problem. Qatar called debtors to write off Liberia's debts.

Responding to questions, SRSB Doss clarified that there was no evidence of a fresh weapons supply to Liberia, and that the arms recently collected by UNMIL/UNDP were "old, used and sometimes dysfunctional weapons". He stressed that police reform was the core of the peacebuilding strategy. He reported that police training had been proceeding more or less on schedule, but added that deploying police forces nationwide remained a big challenge due to limited resources. Under the UNMIL's plan, he said, UN police observers would be deployed alongside the newly-stationed national police units in order to monitor the latter's activities. SRSB Doss blamed the current turmoil in the National Assembly on personal/political rivalries as well as the inexperience of the country with democratic procedures. He pointed



out that this was the first time for the Liberians to be in a situation where political powers did not rest in small groups of elites or "a single family", stressing the need to keep a careful eye on developments of the situation. He said that it was necessary to make sure that the legislature, which was to approve all senior appointments of the government, would start playing its role in the next 2 to 3 years.

SRSG Doss welcomed the inclusion of a female unit in UNMIL for the first time among UN PKOs. He said that such a unit was sometimes better equipped to deal with, for instance, a riot situation. On the army training, he admitted that while UNMIL was trying to meet the original benchmark, there might be some delay in completing it. He added that every police and army recruit had to go through a vetting process in order to make sure that a candidate had not committed human rights abuses in the past. On DDR, SRSG Doss hoped that the number of those waiting for the programme (currently 22,000) would be reduced in the weeks to come. On the border situation, SRSG Doss stressed the need to carefully monitor areas bordering on Côte d'Ivoire. He anticipated significant implications for Liberia, if the Zone of Confidence in Côte d'Ivoire "collapsed". He reported that the SRSGs in the region had been meeting every 3 months, i.e., under the chairmanship of SRSG Ould-Abdallah, while the force commanders of the UN PKOs had met every three weeks in order to coordinate their activities.

#### Other matters

**The Secretary-General's visit to Baghdad:** The Russian Federation circulated a draft press statement (Attachment 1), welcoming the Secretary-General's visit to Baghdad and supporting the UN's role in Iraq. It was agreed that the statement would be issued following the conclusion of the consultations.

**Georgia/Abkhazia:** The Russian Federation took issue with the refusal of the United States to issue a visa to the "Foreign Minister of Abkhazia" (Mr. Sergey Shamba), whom the Russian delegation had invited to attend an "Arria-formula" meeting in New York. Ambassador Churkin stated that he had no choice but to raise the issue because the US rejection had turned what was supposed to be a technical issue into a matter of principle, which could have "a very negative consequence" on the situation in Georgia.

Ambassador Churkin recalled that according to statements which had previously been made by the United States "and one other delegation" on the practices for "Arria-formula" meetings, a Council member could freely decide on formats for such meetings and the host country had the responsibility (to facilitate the convening of those meetings). He claimed that the US denial of a visa was "completely contrary" to



those practices as well as the principles of democracy, freedom of speech and free access to information. He added that this took place against the background of the recent campaign of the Georgian government vis-à-vis Abkhazia, which, he said, had created "all sorts of negative things". He maintained that Mr. Shamba was not listed on any sanctions list, nor was he barred from participating in international meetings, and thus would not pose any problem to the Council. Further, Abkhazia and Georgia had for many years been recognized as parties to the conflict. Ambassador Churkin hoped that his explanation would persuade the United States to reconsider its decision.

The United States argued that an "Arria-formula" meeting was not an official meeting of the Council and, therefore, the US Administration had no treaty obligation to issue a visa for "personal travel". Further, Ambassador Wolff drew attention to the ongoing investigation into recent rocket attacks in the Kodori valley, and stated that it would be prudent to allow that investigation to conclude before a "provocative" visit took place. Ambassador Wolff noted that with the exception of one, all members of the Friends of Georgia believed that the presence of Mr. Shamba would be counterproductive.

Taking the floor again, Ambassador Churkin stated that he was not persuaded by the US explanation. He reiterated that an "Arria-formula meeting" was a useful part of the Council's activities, and affirmed that the United States should reconsider its decision "in the spirit" of its host country obligations. He stressed that it was not the Friends of Georgia who would be deciding the upcoming resolution, but the Council. In addition, he saw no connection between Mr. Shamba's visit and the ongoing investigation of the "accident" in the Kodori valley, nor was there any implication that Mr. Shamba was involved in this "accident". Concluding, Ambassador Churkin warned that the US denial of a visa was doing much more in building up tensions as the Council approached considering the issue than the normal process of having a meeting and hearing the views of the Abkaz side could possibly have done.

#### **Working Group on conflict prevention and resolution in Africa:**

Ambassador Gayama (Congo) reported that the WG had recently adopted a programme of work. While the WG's focus was on Africa now, he emphasized that its work was not exclusive and would cover other parts of the world. As such, Ambassador Gayama said that the WG would expand its programme to all regions where conflicts existed. In this regard, he noted that next week the WG would hold a meeting with DPKO, DPA and DDA to discuss the cross-border movement of arms, which he believed was an important aspect of conflict prevention and resolution.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Gayama expressed concern about the previous UN practice that intervention took place only after conflicts had broken

out, stating that it was crucial to establish relevant mechanisms to prevent conflict from taking place. For that purpose, he expressed the hope that the WG would soon convene an "Arria-formula" meeting and a seminar to explore practical tools for conflict prevention.

**The DRC:** Noting that serious clashes had broken out in central Kinshasa that morning, Belgium circulated a draft press statement and called for its prompt adoption. Following a brief exchange of views, it was agreed that the President would read the statement to the press after the consultations (Attachment 2).

Meanwhile, Panama and Italy reminded the Council that there was a pending discussion regarding standards for the issuance of press statements. China requested that DPKO brief the Council on the situation later that afternoon.

**Afghanistan:** Italy circulated the text of the draft resolution to extend UNAMA's mandate, with amendments in OPs 19 and 20. He said that the text would be put into blue the same afternoon with a view to adopting it the following day (Attachment 3).

Kiyotaka Kawabata/Xiaoning Huang  
SCSB/SCAD/23 March 2007

Attachment 1**DRAFT PRESS-STATEMENT ON ATTACK IN BAGHDAD ON THE UNSG**

The members of the Security Council welcomed the Secretary General's visit to Baghdad.

They expressed their unwavering support for the efforts of the UN and its Secretary General to promote an inclusive and effective political process in Iraq aimed at reaching national reconciliation, preserving its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The members of the Security Council strongly condemned the abhorrent terrorist attack on the Iraqi Prime-Minister's office where the Secretary General participated in a joint press-conference.

The members of the Security Council condemned all terrorist attacks and reaffirmed the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and by all means, in accordance with international law.



Attachment 2**Draft press statement on the DRC – 22 March 2007**

The Members of the Security Council express their serious concern about the violent clashes that erupted today in the center of the capital of the DRC, Kinshasa.

The Members of the Security Council urged both parties to immediately cease the exchange of fire, act responsibly and resolve outstanding issues solely by peaceful means.

The Members of the Security Council are particularly concerned about the spill-over of the violence on the civilian population, including children.

The Members of the Security Council support the efforts of MONUC to help appease the situation and encourage MONUC to address this security challenge with a view to safeguarding the ongoing political process.

### Attachment 3

#### **DRAFT SCR ON AFGHANISTAN**

*The Security Council,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on Afghanistan, in particular its resolution 1662 (2006) extending through 23 March 2007 the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) as laid out in the report of the Secretary General of 7 March 2006 (S/2006/145), and its resolution 1659 (2006) endorsing the Afghanistan Compact, and *recalling also* the report of the Security Council mission to Afghanistan, 11 to 16 November 2006 (S/2006/935),

*Reaffirming* its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan,

*Reaffirming* its continued support for the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild their country, strengthen the foundations of sustainable peace and constitutional democracy and assume their rightful place in the community of nations,

*Reaffirming* in this context its support for the implementation, under the ownership of the Afghan people, of the Afghanistan Compact, of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and of the National Drugs Control Strategy, and *noting* that sustained efforts by all relevant actors are required to consolidate progress made towards their implementation and to overcome current challenges,

*Recalling* that the Afghanistan Compact is based on a partnership between the Afghan Government and the international community, with a central and impartial coordinating role for the United Nations,

*Recognizing* once again the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, *reaffirming* that sustainable progress on security, governance and development, as well as the cross-cutting issue of counter-narcotics is mutually reinforcing and *welcoming* the continuing efforts of the Afghan Government and the international community to address these challenges in a coherent manner through the comprehensive framework provided by the Afghanistan Compact,

*Noting*, in the context of a comprehensive approach, the synergies in the objectives of UNAMA and of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and *stressing* the need for continued cooperation and coordination, taking due account of their respective designated responsibilities,

*Reiterating* its concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the increased violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, illegally armed groups and those involved in the narcotics trade, and the links between terrorism activities and illicit drugs, resulting in threats to the local population, national security forces and international military and civilian personnel, and *stressing* the importance of the security and safety of the United Nations and associated personnel,

*Expressing* also its concern over the harmful consequences of the insurgency on the capacity of the Afghan Government to provide security and basic services to the Afghan people, and to ensure the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling* the importance of the Kabul Declaration of 22 December 2002 on Good-Neighbourly Relations (Kabul Declaration) (S/2002/1416), *welcoming* the New Delhi Declaration adopted at the Second Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan on 19 November 2006, *looking forward* to the Third Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2007, and *stressing* the crucial importance to all parties of advancing regional cooperation as an effective means to promote security, governance and development in Afghanistan,

*Recalling* its resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and its resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security,

*Stressing* the central and impartial role that the United Nations continues to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan by leading the efforts of the international community, including, jointly with the Government of Afghanistan, the coordination and monitoring of efforts in implementing the Afghanistan Compact, and *expressing* its appreciation and strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative for Afghanistan and the women and men of UNAMA,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of 15 March 2007 (S/2007/152);
2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the United Nations' long-term commitment to work with the Government and the people of Afghanistan;
3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of UNAMA, as established by resolution 1662 (2006), until 23 March 2008;
4. *Stresses* the role of UNAMA to promote a more coherent international engagement in support of Afghanistan, to extend its good offices through outreach in Afghanistan, to support regional cooperation in the context of the Afghanistan Compact, to promote humanitarian coordination and to continue to contribute to human rights protection and promotion, including monitoring of the situation of civilians in armed conflict;



5. *Welcomes* UNAMA's expanded presence in the provinces, through regional and provincial offices, which support efforts at the central level to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact and assist the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and its international partners in improving the delivery of services to Afghan citizens throughout the country, and *encourages* further progress in this regard, including in the southern and eastern provinces, security circumstances permitting;
6. *Reiterates* its call on the Afghan Government, and on all members of the international community and international organizations, to implement the Afghanistan Compact and its annexes in full;
7. *Emphasizes* the importance of meeting the benchmarks and timelines of the Compact for the progress on security, governance and development as well as the cross-cutting issue of counter-narcotics and of increasing the effectiveness and coordination of the assistance to Afghanistan;
8. *Acknowledges* the central role played by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Compact, *stresses* the role of the JCMB to support Afghanistan by, inter alia, coordinating international assistance and reconstruction programmes, *encourages* efforts to strengthen the JCMB Secretariat, *welcomes* the results of the JCMB meeting at senior officials level held in Berlin on 30 and 31 January 2007, and *encourages* further efforts to provide appropriate high level political guidance and promote a more coherent international engagement;
9. *Calls on* all Afghan parties and groups to engage constructively in an inclusive political dialogue, within the framework of the Afghan Constitution and Afghan-led reconciliation programmes, and in the social development of the country, and *stresses* the importance of these factors to enhance security and stability;
10. *Stresses* the need for further progress on security sector reform, inter alia in order to advance towards the goal of ethnically balanced Afghan security forces providing security and ensuring the rule of law throughout the country, *welcomes* in this regard the ongoing efforts to increase functionality, professionalism and accountability of the security sector, including the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, including the recent proposed contributions by the United States and other partners, and *calls for* proper monitoring of the deployment of the Auxiliary Police to ensure its accountability to central authorities;
11. *Welcomes* the decision by the European Union to establish a mission in the field of policing with linkages to the wider rule of law and counter narcotics, to assist and enhance current efforts in the area of police reform at central and provincial levels, and looks forward to the early launch of the mission;
12. *Welcomes* the successful conclusion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process started in October 2003, as well as the launch of the programme of disbandment of illegal armed groups (DIAG) and the commitments made in this regard at the Second Tokyo Conference on Consolidation of Peace in Afghanistan on 5 July 2006, *calls for* determined efforts by the Afghan Government to pursue at all levels the timely implementation of the programme throughout the country, including through the implementation of the newly adopted Action Plan, and *requests* the international community to extend further assistance to these efforts, taking fully into account the guidance by UNAMA;
13. *Stresses* the need for accelerated progress in the implementation of the 10 year strategy for justice reform in the framework of the Afghanistan Compact, including through definition of responsibilities and provision of adequate resources, *invites* the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to continue to work toward the establishment of a fair and transparent justice system, including the reconstruction and reform of the correctional system, in order to strengthen the rule of law throughout the country and eliminate impunity, and *takes note* with interest of the initiative to organize in Rome a Conference on Rule of Law in Afghanistan to enhance Afghan and international commitment to justice sector reform;
14. *Welcomes* the continued efforts by the Afghan authorities to promote legislative reform, and *stresses* the importance of international support for capacity building in such reform and its implementation;
15. *Welcomes* the establishment of the provincial councils in accordance with the Afghan Constitution, *encourages* all institutions to work in a spirit of cooperation, *calls on* the Afghan Government to pursue continued public administrative reform in order to ensure good governance, full representation and accountability at both national and local levels, and *stresses* the need for further international efforts to provide technical assistance in this regard, particularly at the local level;
16. *Calls upon* the Afghan Government, with support from the international community, to begin planning and preparation for Afghanistan's next election cycle, including the establishment of a permanent Civil Voter Registry (CVR) as called for in the Afghanistan Compact, the passage and implementation of an updated Election Law, and financial and political support for the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to ensure that it possesses the resources needed, and to ensure that Afghanistan is set on the path to the creation of affordable and sustainable systems that will contribute to free, fair and transparent elections;
17. *Notes with concern* the effects of widespread corruption on security, good governance and counter-narcotics efforts, and *calls on* the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to vigorously lead the fight against corruption and to sustain its efforts to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration, and *welcomes* recent steps by the Afghan Government in this regard;



18. *Calls for* full respect for human rights and international humanitarian law throughout Afghanistan; *requests* UNAMA, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to continue to assist in the full implementation of the human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution and international treaties to which Afghanistan is a state party, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women of their human rights; *commends* the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission for its courageous efforts to monitor respect for human rights in Afghanistan as well as to foster and protect these rights;
19. *Stresses* the importance of the ongoing process of national reconciliation undertaken by the Government of Afghanistan and *encourages* the full and timely implementation, with international support, of the Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation in accordance with the Afghanistan Compact, without prejudice to the implementation of measures introduced by the Security Council in its resolution 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999 and other relevant resolutions of the Security Council;
20. *Welcomes* the cooperation of the Afghan Government and UNAMA with the Security Council's Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) with the implementation of resolution 1735 (2006), and *encourages* the continuation of such cooperation;
21. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the ANDS, *stresses* the need for continued leadership by the Afghan Government in its implementation, and *encourages* the participants at the London Conference to continue to fulfil and consider increasing their pledges, including financial assistance for the implementation of the Strategy;
22. *Expresses* its concern at the serious harm that increasing opium cultivation, production and trafficking causes to the security, development and governance of Afghanistan as well as to the region and internationally; *calls on* the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to pursue effective implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy; and *encourages* additional international support for the four priorities identified in that Strategy, including through contributions to the Counter Narcotics Trust Fund and continued regional cooperation for the fight against the illicit trafficking in drugs and precursors and against money laundering linked to such trafficking;
23. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan organized by the Government of the Russian Federation in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime held in Moscow from 26 to 28 June 2006 (S/2006/598), within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative, and *calls upon* States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the illicit production and trafficking of drugs originated in Afghanistan;
24. *Calls upon* all Afghan and international parties to continue to cooperate with UNAMA in the implementation of its mandate and in efforts to promote the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel throughout the country;
25. *Calls upon* the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, including the International Security Assistance Force and Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, in accordance with their respective designated responsibilities as they evolve, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, other extremist groups and criminal activities, welcomes the completion of ISAF's expansion throughout Afghanistan and *calls upon* all parties to uphold international humanitarian and human rights law and to ensure the protection of civilian life;
26. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and its neighbouring and regional partners to foster trust and cooperation with each other, *stresses* the importance of increasing cooperation between Afghanistan and the partners against the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups, in promoting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and in fostering cooperation in the economic and development sectors as a means to achieve the full integration of Afghanistan into regional dynamics and the global economy, and further *welcomes* progress in this regard;
27. *Recognizes* the importance of voluntary, safe, orderly return and sustainable reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees for the stability of the country and the region, and *calls for* continued and enhanced international assistance in this regard;
28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council every six months on developments in Afghanistan;
29. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.