United Nations Nations Unies

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

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

DATE: 15 May 2008

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Horst Heitmann
DE: Director
Security Council Affairs Division
Department of Political Affairs

SUBJECT: **Security Council: Report on Activities**
OBJET:

Attached please find, for the attention of the Secretary-General, a note on the proceedings of the Security Council on Thursday, 15 May 2008 (p.m.).

cc: Mr. Pascoe
Mr. Menkerios (O/R)

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Thursday, 15 May 2008

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

Somalia

In previously unscheduled consultations, convened at the request of South Africa, Ambassador Kumalo appealed to Council members to make one last effort to further strengthen the draft resolution on Somalia. He pointed out that his delegation's vote in favour of resolution 1801 (2008) in February had been based on the understanding that upon receipt of the Secretary-General's report on Somalia, the Council would send a positive signal to the people of Somalia, and as recommended by SRSG Ould-Abdallah show that this was no longer business as usual. In addition, Ambassador Kumalo recalled that during the Arria-formula meeting hosted by the United Kingdom in March, one of the main messages, including from Somali civil society, had been the need for a paradigm shift in the approach to Somalia. On that basis, South Africa circulated a written amendment to OP8 of the draft (attachment). Ambassador Kumalo held that this text would signal that it was no longer business as usual by making clear that once political progress had been achieved and the security situation improved, the Council would consider taking action, which would have an impact on the lives of the Somali people. He added that without the amendment, the Council would appear to have failed the people of Somalia and AMISOM.

While expressing a preference to maintain the current text of the draft and raising concern that the proposal would reopen the lengthy and difficult discussion on this text, France stated that his delegation was open to the South African amendment. The Russian Federation reiterated his preference that the preambular reference to a decision by the Human Rights Council be deleted. At the same time, Minister Dolgov maintained that the Council should not predetermine its possible future decision on the establishment of what would be a huge and complex peacekeeping operation in Somalia. Meanwhile, he welcomed the cautious language proposed by South Africa. He stressed that the two conditions mentioned for future Council consideration of a peacekeeping presence were of utmost importance and must be fully respected. Noting his strong support for the South African proposal, Libya stated that this would send a positive signal to the Somali opposition that the Council was serious in its resolve to address the conflict, and it might serve as an incentive for the opposition to join the political process.

Following a few editorial amendments (highlighted in the attachment), members agreed to proceed to a vote on the draft immediately following the consultations (see below). At the request of the President, members agreed that the resolution would be presented as a presidential text.

FORMAL MEETING

The situation in Somalia

At its 5893rd meeting, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1814 (2008), inter alia, supporting the approach proposed by the Secretary-General in his latest report (S/2008/178) and requesting him to report back to the Council within 60 days.

Signe Jepsen
SCSB/SCAD/15 May 2008

Attachment

South Africa: amendment to the draft resolution contained in document S/2008/327

Opereative paragraph 8: Replace by the following "*Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his contingency planning for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia to succeed AMISOM, including of possible additional scenarios, in close contact with UNPOS, the United Nations country team and other United Nations stakeholders, taking account of all relevant conditions on the ground, and considering additional options for the size, configuration, responsibility and proposed area of operation of the mission depending on different conditions on the ground, and *requests* the Secretary-General to update on progress in his planning in the report referred to in paragraph 5 above; **and *expresses* its willingness to consider, at (the) appropriate time, a peacekeeping operation to take over AMISOM, subject to progress in the political process and improvement in the security situation on the ground"**

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