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SUBJECT: Security Council Meeting on Iraq

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On 13 June 2007 the Security Council met regarding the situation in Iraq and considered the 12th quarterly report of the Secretary-General pursuant to SCR 1546. Please find attached a note summarizing the proceedings of the meeting.

Best regards.

ANALYSIS OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON IRAQ

A. SYNOPSIS:

On 13 June the Security Council considered the 12th quarterly report of the Secretary-General pursuant to SCR 1546. Formal statements were made by SRSG Qazi, the Permanent Representative of the United States on behalf of the MNF-I, and the Foreign Minister of Iraq. Similar to previous Security Council debates on Iraq, nothing substantively new was raised during the meeting and the discussion focused on the major issues highlighted in the report. Most Council members expressed concern over the security situation, particularly the attack in Samarra on the same day of the meeting as well as the earlier attack on the parliament, the increasing number of Iraqi refugees and IDPs, and the impact of the violence on civilians. Most delegations stressed the need to promote a genuine political solution at a time when there was an emphasis on the outcome of the Baghdad Security Plan. The importance of the Constitutional review, the draft hydrocarbon law, the new Independent High Electoral Commission, and a review of the de-Baathification law was emphasized. Most delegations stressed the importance of regional countries and the international community for establishing stability in Iraq. In this context, they welcomed the Sharm El Sheikh meetings of 3-4 May, and emphasized the need for follow-up. While recognizing security challenges, most delegations also welcomed a potentially expanded role for the UN in Iraq, particularly UN programmes and agencies for the provision of humanitarian and development assistance.

B. MAIN POINTS OF THE DEBATE:

1. **Current Situation:** The US noted that the Government of Iraq continues to face considerable security challenges and that success will depend on progress in political and economic areas. The Constitutional Review Committee continues its work, the new Independent High Electoral Commission is in place, a Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration Committee has been formed, and work continues on other measures such as the law to reform the de-Baathification process. The US and Iraq noted that the recent security plan entered its fifth month of operation and was displaying some progress, while acknowledging it was too early to project results. Economically, the emphasis was on the launch and implementation of the International Compact with Iraq.

2. **Multinational Force:** The US, UK, and Iraq emphasized the increased hand over of security responsibilities to the Government of Iraq, particularly in Maysan in April, and Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, Dohuk on 30 May. Seven governorates are now under Iraqi control. The UK stated that three of the four governorates they held responsibility for have been handed over, with the fourth (Basra), scheduled for the end of 2007. Iraq noted that 350,000 Iraqi troops have been recruited. While Iraq emphasized the need for a continued MNF-I presence until Iraqi forces are sufficiently trained, Russia stated that discussion about deadlines for the withdrawal of foreign troops should commence, and

South Africa and Indonesia noted the need to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law is observed during all security operations.

3. **Strategies for improving the situation:** Most delegations underscored the importance of promoting national reconciliation. The importance of the Constitutional review was raised (**US, UK, Panama, China, Slovakia, Italy, Belgium**), as well as the need to revise the de-Baathification law (**US, Slovakia, Qatar, UK, Peru**) and to determine the fair distribution of the oil revenues through a hydrocarbon law (**US, France, UK, Peru, Slovakia**). The establishment of the new electoral commission was also welcomed (**US, Ghana, Panama, China**).

4. **Regional and International Support:** Most delegations expressed support for the launch of the International Compact with Iraq (e.g. **US, France, UK, China, Italy, Qatar, South Africa, Ghana, Panama**) and welcomed the expanded meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Iraq's neighbours (e.g., **Russia, China, Italy, UK, Slovakia, Indonesia**) held in Sharm El Sheikh in May. The importance of ensuring the implementation of the commitments and structures defined by these events was highlighted in this context, as was the important role that the international community plays in support of Iraq.

5. **Reconstruction, development and humanitarian issues:** The responsibility of the international community was also highlighted in the context of support for development and humanitarian assistance. In particular, numerous delegations stressed concern for the plight of Iraq's refugees and internally displaced persons while welcoming the April conference hosted by UNHCR (e.g., **France, Congo, Belgium, Slovakia, Italy**). The **UK** called for strengthened international coordination on the issue and urged the implementation of the UN Strategic Framework for Humanitarian Coordination. **Peru** highlighted the impact of daily violence in Iraq, particularly noting that primary school attendance in the country is down by 70 percent.

6. **UN Role:** Many delegations supported the Secretary-General's willingness to consider an expanded role and presence in Iraq where possible (**Italy, France, UK, US, China, Indonesia, South Africa, Slovakia**). The **UK, Italy** and **Belgium** stated that this was particularly necessary in political facilitation, while **Slovakia** and the **US** underscored the important role of the UN in reconstruction and humanitarian assistance. In this context, support for the construction of the UN Compound in Baghdad was also expressed (**UK, Qatar, Ghana**). The Council issued a statement at the conclusion of the meeting that confirmed the continuation of the MNF-I mandate, expressed appreciation to SRSG Qazi, encouraged "continued and robust UN assistance" to Iraq, and welcomed planning for the construction of a new UNAMI compound in Baghdad.