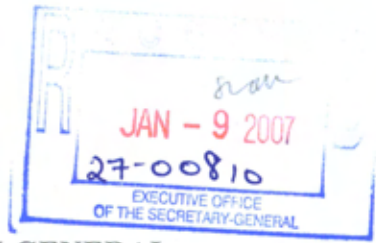


8932

Noted FL



Note to Mr. Nambiar

SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
8 JANUARY 2007

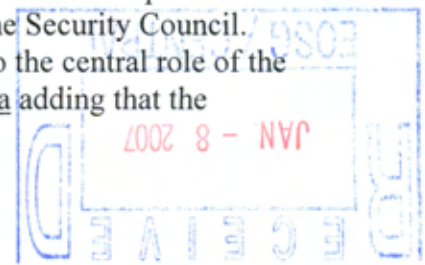
As you are aware, the Security Council held a debate this morning to welcome Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and to assess the challenges ahead for 2007. In addition to Council members, the Secretary-General also made a statement. At the end of the meeting, the President read out the text of a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2007/1) (attachment).

Taking the floor first, the Secretary-General assured Council members of his deep sense of mission, duty and dedication to his new office. Noting the seriousness of the challenges confronting the international community, the Secretary-General expressed his wish to work closely with the Council to ensure that the UN would be able to live up to the many expectations placed on the Organization by the international community.

Council members welcomed the newly appointed Secretary-General and expressed their appreciation for his predecessor. In addition, statements were made, welcoming the new five elected members of the Council. Furthermore, the United States and South Africa explicitly applauded the Secretary-General's appointment of Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro as Deputy Secretary-General. Most members agreed that the international community should take collective efforts to address the urgent threats to international peace and security, including the ongoing armed conflicts, terrorism, non-proliferation and human rights violations, with France urging all States to work together in unity with a shared vision.

Several Council members, including France, Qatar, the United Kingdom, the United States, Panama, China and South Africa, drew attention to the increasing complexity and transnational character of the crises on the Council's agenda. The United States noted that intra-state conflicts had become more prominent since events in a State could have effects beyond its border, as demonstrated by the Darfur crisis. China observed that since the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001, international affairs had experienced "profound changes" as both traditional and non-traditional threats had increased. South Africa said that poverty had been a root cause for most of the conflicts. Members thus called for enhanced cooperation between the Council, the Secretariat, regional organizations and other UN organs. In that regard, Ghana emphasized the importance of establishing comprehensive approaches to address issues such as terrorism and non-proliferation.

In addition, some members, such as Qatar, held that the three main UN goals, namely security, human rights and development, were highly interrelated and required cooperation among all UN agencies. At the same time, Panama and Indonesia expressed the view that not all potential threats to international peace and security today fell within the purview of the Security Council, but rather should be addressed through other UN organs with broader representation and relevant mandates. Moreover, South Africa warned that the linkages between security, development and human rights had often led the Council to encroach on the responsibilities of other UN organs, adding that issues of poverty and underdevelopment were too important to be left to an organ with such limited membership as the Security Council. Meanwhile, the Russian Federation said that there was no alternative to the central role of the Council in combating terrorism and proliferation of WMDs, with China adding that the authority of the Council must be upheld.



Most members stressed the importance of improving the Council's ability to **prevent the emergence of new conflicts**. In that regard, France, Italy, Slovakia, Congo, the United Kingdom and others called for an increase in the Secretariat's conflict prevention capabilities and urged the Secretary-General to submit reports to the Council, alerting the members of new potential conflict areas. The United Kingdom noted that resolution 1625 (2005) had been a landmark resolution, establishing a comprehensive policy for conflict prevention, adding that a stronger partnership between the Council and the Secretariat would be needed in that area. The United States emphasized the need for the Council to be able to identify threats to peace and security before they break out into open conflict with unacceptable human and material costs.

Some Council members, including France, Slovakia and Belgium underlined the significance of the **responsibility to protect**, with the United States and Peru recalling the Council's need to act in order to protect civilian populations, targeted by their own governments. In that regard, Belgium noted that more reflexion was needed on how to operationalize the responsibility to protect. Meanwhile, Congo emphasized the importance of seeking peaceful solutions through political dialogue, while China maintained that the Council should listen to non-Council members, particularly the countries concerned.

With regard to **peacekeeping** tasks, the United Kingdom underscored the importance of effective resource allocation through clearer, more focussed mandates, which would form part of a wider peace-building strategy so as to allow for a more comprehensive approach, addressing the underlying causes of conflict. To that end, Ambassador Jones Parry urged the Secretariat to submit clear proposals on the evolution of UN missions and on actions required for transition to self-sustaining peace. Noting the recent proliferation in peacekeeping operations, Belgium urged that the Council be prudent in applying criteria for establishment of such missions, while the United States called for enhanced management and oversight of peacekeeping operations in cooperation with other UN bodies. Troubled by recent reports of sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers, Ambassador Wolff urged the Secretary-General to have these reports fully investigated and to bring those responsible to justice. Other speakers, such as Italy, emphasized the importance of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in carrying out peacekeeping tasks, with Panama adding that such cooperation should be sought prior to invoking Chapter VII sanctions or use of force. South Africa and Indonesia underscored that Chapter VII should only be invoked as a last resort, adding that while the Council in some cases had been too quick to threaten or authorize enforcement actions in some cases, it had failed to act in others, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, where action was required.

Several delegations also emphasized the importance of **peace-building**, with Italy noting his expectations for an effective and authoritative Peace-Building Commission (PBC). In that regard, the United Kingdom, echoed by Slovakia and others, expressed the hope that the Council would use the advisory functions of the PBC. At the same time, Ghana stressed that in order to create a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach to peace-building, it would be necessary to strengthen cooperation between the PBC, regional organizations and other UN agencies. Specifically, the Russian Federation called for more interaction between the PBC, the Council and the General Assembly. The United States cautioned that the success of the PBC should be measured in concrete, visible results on the ground.

Some Council members also touched on the issue of **Security Council reform**. Referring to a "persistent need for comprehensive reform", Slovakia, echoed by Indonesia, stressed the need to increase the Council's membership and improve its working methods.

Similarly, Ghana held that the time had come to expand the Council's membership, with South Africa noting that the Council's present constitution limited its potential to deal with the threats of the 21st century.

Taking the floor again, the Secretary-General noted that Council members were united in stressing the need for a "holistic" and "comprehensive" approach to conflict prevention and resolution. To that end, he highlighted the importance of better cooperation between the Council and the Secretariat. The Secretary-General stated that the crisis in Darfur would be one of his top priorities, adding that the international community should also stay the course in other African countries, including the DRC. On the situation in the Middle East, the Secretary-General called upon members to "rededicate" themselves to the work of the Quartet, and to promote full independence and democracy in Lebanon. In addition, he held that the political and security challenges of Afghanistan and Iraq had to be continuously addressed. The Secretary-General also expressed the view that the final status talks on Kosovo should be concluded to avoid a potential threat to the regional stability in South-eastern Europe.

Recalling that current threats to international peace and security were multi-faceted and inter-connected, the Secretary-General emphasized that problems, such as terrorism and non-proliferation of WMDs, HIV/AIDS and other epidemic diseases, extreme poverty, and violations of human rights, required "urgent, sustained and comprehensive attention". In this regard, the Secretary-General commended the recent achievements by the UN in strengthening its three underlying pillars (i.e., security, development and human rights), particularly the establishment of the PBC and the Human Rights Council, as well as the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. At the same time, he urged an intensification of efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation. In closing, the Secretary-General said that he would work to restore trust between Member States and the Secretariat so as to enhance the Organization's capacity in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building. Specifically, he underlined the need to review, and strengthen, the structures of all UN Departments and Offices related to peace and security.



Ibrahim Gambari
8 January 2007

cc: Mr. Kalomoh
Ms. Kane

Attachment:

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/PRST/2007/1)

At the 5615th meeting of the Security Council, held on 8 January 2007, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the Secretary-General of the United Nations H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon. The Council commits itself to work closely and in a focused and action oriented manner with him in order to better address the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting our world within its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, as provided for by the Charter of the United Nations.

The Security Council pledges to uphold the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirms its commitment to the principles of sovereign equality, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States, underlines further the need for respect for human rights and the rule of law, including protection of civilians in armed conflict, and the importance of adhering to the principles of refraining, in international relations, from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations, and of peaceful settlement of international disputes.

The Security Council, recalling that the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ recognised that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, emphasises that the challenges and threats confronting the international community demand a resolute and coherent response, based on the collective security system of the Charter of the United Nations. The Council reaffirms its commitment to address the whole range of threats to international peace and security, including armed conflict, terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Security Council recognizes the essential role of the United Nations in the global effort to combat terrorism, which in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security. The Council therefore welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It stands ready to play its part in its implementation. The Council in keeping with its responsibility in the international community's efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, underlines its determination to intensify its efforts, including in translating the commitments made at the Security Council Summit meeting in the course of the 2005 World Summit meeting into practical results. It reiterates further that States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law, and humanitarian law.

The Security Council reaffirms its resolve to take appropriate and effective actions against any threat to international peace and security caused by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, in conformity with its primary responsibilities, as provided for in the United Nations Charter.

¹ Resolution 60/1.

The Security Council recognises the importance of more effective international efforts to prevent conflict, including intra-state conflicts, and encourages the Secretary-General, as already requested in SCR 1625 (2005), to provide the Council with more regular, analytical reporting on regions of potential armed conflict and stresses the importance of establishing comprehensive strategies on conflict prevention in order to avoid the high human and material costs of armed conflict.

The Security Council underlines the need for improved United Nations capacity to assess conflict situations and for the effective planning and management of UN peacekeeping operations and for quick and effective responses to any Security Council mandate. The Council also recognises the importance of a more strategic approach to the oversight and direction of peacekeeping, to maximise the prospects for successful transition in the countries concerned, and so as to make possible the most effective use of scarce peacekeeping resources. To this end, the Council requests the Secretary-General to focus in managing of and reporting on peacekeeping missions on the steps needed to achieve the objectives of the mission, both by the host government and by the international community, and to propose to the Council, as appropriate, initiatives to accelerate the transition process.

The Security Council emphasises the importance of post-conflict peacebuilding to assist countries emerging from conflict in laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development and, in this context, welcomes the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission that should play an important role to achieve the objective of improving United Nations capacity to coordinate with regional organisations, countries in the relevant regions, donors, troop contributors and recipient countries and to perform peacebuilding activities, in particular from the start of peacekeeping operations through stabilization, reconstruction and development. It appreciates the progress made thus far in the initial work of the Commission on Burundi and Sierra Leone. The Council underlines the importance of close interaction between the two bodies and will regularly address the work of the Commission in its own discussions and will take into account the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to working in partnership, with the Secretary-General and the Secretariat, other United Nations organs, regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organisations, with non-Council members, including those Member States that are parties to a conflict and with troop-contributing countries, financial and other stakeholders in pursuit of the common objective of maintenance of international peace and security."