

*Check against delivery*

**S t a t e m e n t**

**by H.E. Ambassador Mr. Andrey Denisov  
on behalf of the Security Council  
at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on Agenda item 9  
“Report of the Security Council”**

10 November 2005

Mr. President,

On behalf of all members on the Security Council I would like to offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Eliasson, on your election as President of the General Assembly at its 60th session. It is my sincere hope that during your tenure relations between the General Assembly and the Security Council will be further strengthened, as we work together to promote the purposes and principles of the United Nations, consistent with the Charter.

I have the privilege, in my capacity as President of the Security Council for November 2005, to introduce the annual report of the Security Council (A/60/2) to the General Assembly, covering the period from 1 August 2004 to 31 July 2005.

The report shows that the Security Council’s working agenda during the reporting period has been extremely packed and intense. 229 formal meetings have been held, 195 of which were public. The Council has adopted 61 resolutions and 58 presidential statements.

The range of issues considered by the Council has remained very wide, covering all the major aspects of the maintenance of international peace and security. The report gives a comprehensive description of the Council activities and I would like to highlight some of the key issues on which the Council has focused.

The issues related to the settlement of regional conflicts and to assurance of stability in Africa have remained high on the agenda of the Security Council. The Council responded to worsening situations in Cote d’Ivoire, Darfur (Sudan), the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while working to encourage and foster continuing progress in strengthening peace and stability to Sierra-Leone, Liberia, Burundi and Guinea-Bissau. The Security Council undertook a mission to Central Africa and focused on several issues affecting Africa, such as the cross-border issues in West Africa, Africa’s food crisis as a threat to peace and security, post-conflict peacebuilding, the threat of small arms, protection of civilians in armed conflict. And the Council oversaw the gradual winding down of UNAMSIL, at one point the largest UN peacekeeping force in the world, which is to be

replaced by an integrated UN Office in Sierra Leone. This is an innovation which should make the UN's contribution to peacebuilding even more effective and establish a model for other countries emerging from conflict.

On 18-19 November 2004, the Council held an extraordinary session in Nairobi, its fourth outside of the United Nations headquarters since the Council began meeting in New York, in an effort to re-energize Sudanese peace negotiations so as to put an end to one of the most protracted conflicts in Africa. Also in Nairobi the Security Council held a meeting, aimed on strengthening the institutional relationship with the African Union. In a presidential statement the Council members welcomed the progress made in the Somali national reconciliation process.

The Council has continued its support for the ongoing political transition in Iraq. In August 2004, the Council unanimously renewed the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) for another 12-month period. UNAMI's support was vital to the success of the January 2005 parliamentary elections, through which the Iraqi people elected the Transitional Government of Iraq. The Council has repeatedly stressed the importance of reconciliation, national unity and an inclusive political process.

Events in Lebanon during the period under review also called for close Security Council attention. The Council adopted resolution 1559 of 2 September 2004 reaffirming its call for the strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon and calling upon all remaining foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon. On 19 October 2004 the Council adopted a presidential statement, requesting that the Secretary-General report to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) every six months.

The Council has also acted to support the Lebanese investigation into the terrorist murder of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on 14 February 2005. Following the attack, the Council adopted a presidential statement strongly condemning the murder and requesting the Secretary-General to follow closely the situation in Lebanon. Following the report of the Secretary General's mission of inquiry into the attack, the Council on 7 April unanimously adopted resolution 1595 (2005) setting up an International Independent Investigation Commission to assist the Lebanese authorities in their investigation of all aspects of the assassination of the former Prime Minister.

The Council has paid close attention to other issues in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and the Balkan region. Closely monitoring the situation in Haiti, in order, *inter alia*, to ensure a secure and stable environment in which the electoral process can take place, the Security Council undertook mission to this country in conjunction with the ECOSOC Ad-hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

Within the reporting period due to the sustainable progress in the peace processes in Timor-Leste and Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, the Council closed the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) and United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville. Following the completion of the mandate of UNMISET on 20 May 2005, the Council established a one-year follow-on special political mission, the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste. By its resolution 1590 on 24 March 2005 the Council established a new peacekeeping operation – the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS).

In addition to addressing specific ongoing conflicts and crises, the Security Council continued to have thematic discussions related to the Council's work, which allowed for fruitful deliberations with the larger United Nations membership. The Council had open debates on children and armed conflict, on women and peace and security, on small arms, on the United Nations peacekeeping operations, on post-conflict peacebuilding, on protection of civilians in armed conflict, on justice and the rule of law and on civilian aspects of conflict management and peacebuilding.

The serious and continuing threat to international peace and security posed by terrorism remained a top priority for the Council, mainly through the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) and the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004), as well as the cooperation and coordination among them. During the period under review the Council began to have joint briefings of the Chairmen of these Committees.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee continued to work intensively to fulfill its mandate as set out in resolution 1373 (2001), including through visits to states and strengthened methodology for the identification of states' needs for technical assistance. It also continued to develop cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations. The Working Group established pursuant to resolution 1566 met to consider practical measures and procedures for tackling terrorists not on the Al-Qaida/Taliban list, as well additional means to support the victims of terrorist acts.

By resolution 1617, adopted on 29 July 2005, the Council improved the sanctions regime with respect to Al-Qaida and the Taliban, and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them.

The Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) continued its efforts in order to strengthen the international community's capacity to prevent weapons of mass destruction fall into the hands of non-State actors.

Last year witnessed a further increase in transparency in the work of the Security Council. The Council members took care to hold as many public meetings as possible and regularly organized

thematic debates and Arria-formula meetings in order to enhance our collective understanding of the key issues and to hear the views of non-Council members, independent experts and civil society. A proactive and responsible approach to transparency is very important for the Security Council, which is deeply interested in strengthening dialogue and interaction with all members of the United Nations. To this end, also, Security Council missions abroad made efforts to meet NGOs and civil society, as well as governments and other parties, in the countries visited.

The Security Council continued to develop cooperation among the Council, the Troop-Contributing Countries and the Secretariat. The work on the basis of resolution 1353 (2001) and note by the President of the Council dated 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56) was focused on important peacekeeping issues, including ways to improve the planning, conduct, support and management of peacekeeping operations, in-depth and interactive discussions about both the immediate and underlying problems facing specific UN peacekeeping operations.

Mr. President,

The Security Council in line with the World Summit outcome is continuing to adapt its working methods, in order to make the Council more effective, including by having a more open and productive relationship with non-Council members and others.

The Council recognises the crucial contribution of Troop-Contributing Countries to UN peacekeeping missions under its authority. The Council undertook, including through its Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, to involve, as appropriate, TCCs and other interested countries more effectively in consideration of issues relating to UN peacekeeping operations and will continue to do so.

The Council will also continue to adapt its consultations with non-Council members in other aspects of its activities. For example the Council's subsidiary bodies dealing with sanctions will continue their dialogue with interested countries, in particular neighbouring countries, to assess better both the effect of such measures and to work to ensure more effective enforcement of measures, such as arms embargoes.

In concluding, on behalf of all Council members, I would like to thank the Secretary-General and the members of the Secretariat for their professionalism and invaluable support, without which the Council could not complete its duties.