**Security Council**

Wrap up session - month of June/Presidency of Malaysia

30 June 2015

Talking points

Mr. President,

At the outset, we would like to congratulate the delegation of Malaysia for its presidency of the Security Council during the month of June.

We must acknowledge the heavy work load in the Council´s agenda which sometimes puts unbearable pressure on small delegations, as it is the case of our own.

This situation does not pertain specifically to the Malaysian Presidency. In fact, the heavy work load is a structural feature of the Security Council methods of work. Additionally, the Council is faced by increasing conflict situations around the world, imposing very heavy schedules on its work.

In the program of work for the month of June, African and the Middle Eastern issues were central in discussions and deliberations of the Security Council.

On African issues, we had the occasion to hold a dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary General for the Central African Region, Mr Abdulah Bathilly.

Candidly, Mr. Bathily pointed out the very worrying situation in the region, and above all the activities of the LRA, its criminal deeds and the actions being taken for its demise.

A ray of hope, portrayed by Mr. Bathily, is the situation prevailing in the Central African Republic, with the completion of the Bangui Forum, which for the first time, in many years, was joined by the country´s broad political spectrum.

The efforts by regional and international mediators has been instrumental in laying the ground for the gradual solution of the crisis, according to the SRSG; for its part, the Security Council is called to continue mobilizing the international community's efforts in support of reconciliation, development and the fulfillment of a fundamental benchmark: the holding of elections, in October this year.

Still in the Central African Region, the situation in Burundi became a source of great concern to the Council. The holding of elections and its consequences in and around Burundi, the stance adopted by regional stakeholders had a great impact in the proceedings of the Security Council during the month, with divisions surfacing among Council members, on how best to assist Burundi.

However, great concerns remain and the situation of Burundi will surely be in the center of the Council's Agenda for the next month, hopefully not for the worst reasons.

We pay tribute to the Special Representative Mr. Said Djinit, who tirelessly tried to mediate the conflict. We hope that his successor, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, can keep his good offices mission alive.

Tangible progress seems to be occurring in Cote d´Ivoire and Mali. It is our expectation that both countries are on the right track towards lasting peace. Darfur remains very problematic with little or no progress at all towards the establishment of a more peaceful environment.

During the month, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Darfur were object of extensive debates at the Security Council, for the renewal of mandates of the Peacekeeping operations in these countries.

In Cote d'Ivoire a virtuous situation seems to emerge, and the Security Council, adopted a resolution extending UNOCI's mandate, in preparation for the Mission's drawdown, hopefully if the elections to be held in October are successful and the security situation stabilized. The resolution translates some sense of optimism that things in Cote d'Ivoire might work out and the country may enter in a phase of sustained peace and stability.

However, the need arises of caution in reconfiguring UNOCI´s mandate, by putting it in line with developments on the ground and avoiding to repeat past errors.

Concerning Mali, the Council took stock of recent developments, with the signing, by all parties, of the peace agreement. The resolution adopted by the Council, extending MINUSMA mandate, entrusts the Mission with fundamental tasks, *inter alia,* to deploy efforts to ensure the implementation of the peace agreement, monitoring the cease fire, supporting the return of state authority to the north of the country.

Now, it´s high time to mobilize all efforts in order to make things succeed in Mali.

Darfur was a most complex and divisive issue during the work of the month. The adoption of a resolution extending the mandate of UNAMID was quite an achievement in such divisive atmosphere, specially taking into account the exit strategy established for the mission, as strongly requested by the Sudan authorities, and its linkage to a set of benchmarks to be met. Most likely Darfur will remain a fixation abscess in the Council´s work for some time, despite the avowed desire to end the Mission in Darfur.

The ad hoc Working Group on conflict prevention and resolution in Africa, chaired by Angola, held a session during the month of June, related to the electoral processes in various African countries during the biennium.

The session counted with the presence, via videoconference, of the SRSG in West and Central Africa who briefed the members on country specific situations related to electoral processes, and conflict situations that might arise from them, due to the noncompliance by main political actors of the constitutional rules and of the elections results, even though they are considered, by international observation teams as just and fair.

The African Union Permanent Observer, who also took part to the session, outlined the African Union position on the prevention of post-election related conflicts and called on the responsibility of every individual State to respect the African Union electoral framework and its constitutional order.

The Council considered extensively the situation in the Middle East, with particular emphasis on the conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Palestine.

However, contrary to the moderate optimism that we referred in some evolving situations in Africa, no solutions to these conflicts are in sight: on the contrary, the Middle East conflicts seem to lead to abyss.

The growing terrorist threat in the region constitutes an extremely dangerous development with evil contours that only a wise collective effort can contain and eradicate.

The Security Council, if acting united and really focused in the search for solutions to the most intractable conflicts, could represent this collective effort and embody the wisdom necessary to put an end to bloodshed and to the immense human suffering imposed upon the peoples of the region.

Some of the debates and briefings held during the month were important moments in the Council's work: the debate on Children and armed conflict, the briefings on peace keeping and peace building and the briefings of the subsidiary bodies were relevant contributions for deepening the thematic agenda of the Security Council.

The debate on Children and Armed Conflict, the central theme of the Malaysian Presidency, was a remarkable success, with the adoption of a resolution adding abduction within the framework of international law, and as a criteria for listing parties in the Secretary General annexes report. Additionally, the debate contributed for giving a new dimension to the Working Group efforts in keeping the issue outstanding in the Security Council's Agenda.

The briefings on peace keeping and peace building were important contributions to the debate taking place on the review of peace keeping and on the architecture of peace building. The briefings then provided to the Council were very useful contributions for the understanding the issues at stake.

Finally we would like to refer the semi-annual briefings by the chairs of the counter-terrorism related committees, in a time that the fight against terrorism became a real international emergency. Conscious of the danger terrorism represents, the issue meets the unanimous support by Council members, and the session translated such reality.

The International Criminal Justice was part of the monthly program with debates on the International Tribunals for Ruanda and former Yugoslavia. The Council was also briefed by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on the issue of Darfur and the case of President Bachir of Sudan, which reveals the need of a review on the issue of referrals by the Security Council to the ICC, since the present system contributes to undermine the prestige and authority of the Tribunal, by creating unsolvable problems with international stakeholders, as is the deferent between the African Union and the ICC.

Thank you, Mr. President.