

Africa

In 2015, the United Nations continued to support the pursuit of peace, security and stability in Africa by assisting its countries through nine peacekeeping operations and five political and peacebuilding missions.

The Security Council conducted a mission to the Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Burundi. In March, the ninth consultative meeting between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union (au) Peace and Security Council was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss peace and security issues in Africa within the context of partnership between the au and the United Nations. The provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of local disputes were reaffirmed at the meeting.

The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa mobilized global advocacy for Africa's development, in particular, by supporting the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (unoca) continued to address the threat and impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army. A strategic review recognized the need to maximize the potential of unoca to continue to serve as an important preventive diplomacy tool in Central Africa.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (drc), the political situation was marked by the electoral process with political tensions running high. M-23 ex-combatants still sojourned in camps in Rwanda and

out the country for the first time since the inception of the civil war in 1991. In May and July, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia until 7 August and 30 March 2016, respectively.

The cease-fire in Western Sahara between Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro continued to hold, but there was no progress towards a resolution of the status of the disputed territory.

Promotion of peace in Africa

Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, and that the mandate of the au Peace and Security Council was to promote peace and security in Africa, as provided in the au Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council. The meeting discussed the situation in the Great Lakes Region and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the car, Mali and the Sahel, Libya, Darfur, Somalia and South Sudan. It also reviewed issues related to the UN peace operations (see p. 000); women, peace and security; cooperation between the Security Council and the au Peace and Security Council; and combating the Boko Haram Terrorist Group.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 June [meeting 96], the General Assembly adopted

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the subregion; and strengthening capacity to advise the Secretary-General and UN entities in the region on significant peace and security developments in Central Africa.

Sixteen incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea were reported in the reporting period. Little progress was achieved in the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (eccas), the Economic Community of West African States (ecowas) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission at Yaoundé in June 2013, owing to the region's primary focus on addressing the Boko Haram threat and the lack of logistical and financial resources to implement the agreed road map.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 11 June [meeting 7461], following consultations among Security Council members, the President made statement **S/PRST/2015/12** on behalf of the Council.

Report of Secretary-General (November) T/d/10 Td(-) 9.EM

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his efforts to defuse election-related tensions by encouraging Gabonese political actors to engage in constructive dialogue; and travelled five times—before, during and after the constitutional referendum—to the Congo to meet with President Sassou Nguesso and other stakeholders, including leaders of the opposition.

Lra continued to pose a regional security threat, in particular in the eastern part of the car and the north-eastern part of the drc, and was responsible for 131 attacks, 19 deaths and 317 abductions. On 18 May, the au Peace and Security Council renewed the mandate of the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of Lra for another year, stressing the need for closer operational coordination between the au Regional Task Force and relevant UN peacekeeping operations. On 10 September, Pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court (icc) terminated proceedings against former Lra commander, Okot Odhiambo, following confirmation of his death. Mr. Odhiambo was reportedly killed in the car during a battle with the Uganda People's Defence Force.

In October, the President of the United States, Barack Obama, reauthorized for an additional year -5.8 On

while the continued presence of illegal armed groups, including the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (fdlr), the Allied Democratic Forces (adf), the Forces de résistance patriotiques de l'Ituri (frpi)

and without creating a precedent or any prejudice to the agreed principles of peacekeeping, its intervention brigade; and endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General to reduce the monusco force by 2,000 troops.

Appointments. In a 5 October letter [S/2015/766], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Maman Sambo Sidikou (Niger) as his Special Representative for the drc and Head of monusco, replacing Martin Kobler (Ge0-0.9 (0 (e)/(u(p)70-0.9 (052 52-13.9 (n K)623.627 (s)))2.1 (l

since the announcement on 25 April that President Nkurunziza would run for a third term, a position that many within his party, the political opposition and civil society considered constitutionally questionable. Against the backdrop of violent confrontations between the police and opponents of the incumbent's bid, a coup d'état was attempted on 13 May, increasing the level of political instability and violence. At least 40 people died, hundreds were injured and more than 90,000 sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

The Heads of State of the East African Community, at an emergency summit on 31 May, urged the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to continue the political dialogue and called for postponing the elections for a period of not less than one and a half months. Menuub would need to play an even more prominent and robust role in supporting credible elections and therefore its capacity needed to be strengthened, in particular between mid-June and mid-September. While menuub would manage its resources as flexibly as possible to meet the new requirements and various funding sources were being examined, the Secretary-

building Commission, Paul R. Seger, submitted to the Security Council the reports on his visit to Burundi from 31 March to 3 April [S/2015/268] and from 1 to 3 July [S/2015/537]. The new Chair, Jürg Lauber, submitted to the Council the report [S/2015/917] of his first visit to Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania from 9 to 14 November.

(For further information on the Peacebuilding Commission, see p. 000.)

MENUB

The United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (menub), started its operations on 1 January and ended operations on 31 December as mandated by Security Council resolution 2137(2014) [YUN 2014, p. 209]. Menub succeeded the United Nations Office in Burundi (bnub) whose mandate ended 31 December 2014. Menub was headed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Cassam Uteem (Mauritius), and the Deputy Head of menub, Issaka Souna (Niger).

Article 55 of the status-of-mission agreement between the United Nations and the Government stipulated that the liquidation of menub had to be completed (with) in 109 weeks of the conclusion of the electoral observation tasks and no later than 31 December 2015. Menub commenced its liquidation on 1 October. At the time of its liquidation, menub had 129 personnel (90 international staff, 11 United Nations Volunteers and 28 national staff).

Financing

In February [A/69/363/Add.6], the Secretary-General submitted E.02.4 (i)3.-24.4 i21 (r)26.1e te

operational and security needs arising from the implementation of the urgent temporary measures and the reopening of prisons outside Bangui.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 22 January [meeting 7366], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2196(2015)**. e draft [S/2015/43]

the right of refugees to vote in the elections; the importance of respecting the ineligibility clause of the Transitional Charter; and the imperative to respect the electoral calendar.

Notable progress had been made in preparing for the referendum and the elections, with the estab-

As follow-up to the Bangui Forum, the United Nations Development Programme (undp), in collaboration with minusca and other United Nations and international partners, supported efforts by the Transitional Authority to implement its national reconciliation strategy as outlined in the Republican Pact for peace, national reconciliation and reconstruction. As at the end of October, there were about 450,000 internally displaced persons in the car, with more than 58,000 living in 32 sites in Bangui. Attacks against national and international ngos, most notably in the capital, continued to hamper humanitarian operations. In early November, unhcr reported that there were nearly 470,000 Central African refugees living in neighbouring countries. The immediate priority of minusca was to support activities that would conclude the political transition (phase III) and lead to long-term support for stabilization activities (phase IV). As at 15 November, minusca had deployed 9,556 military personnel of its authorized strength of 10,750 troops.

The Mission had also deployed 331 police officers out of the authorized strength of 400; and 1,506 police unit personnel, which included 99 women.

The Secretary-General observed that the unprecedented rego0.8 (t)-18.4 se7.4 (r)-10.5 (a)0-18.4 se8.3 (i)5.4 (

During the year, no implementation reports were received from Member States in pursuance of resolutions 2127(2013) and 2134(2014) [YUN 2014, p. 213].

The Committee sent 84 communications, of which 62 were transmitted to Member States and 22 to the United Nations, international and regional bodies, with reference to the implementation of the sanctions' measures. The Committee listed five individuals and one entity subject to the measures imposed by paragraph 4 (travel ban) and paragraph 7 (assets freeze) of resolution 2196(2015) (see p. 000). As at the end of the reporting period, there were seven individuals and one entity on the Committee's sanctions list.

Panel of experts

The Panel of Experts on the car was established by the Security Council in resolution 2127(2013)

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Security Council President that he had visited Bangui from 2 to 5 May and had held discussions with representatives of civil society and the international community based in Bangui, as well as with the transitional authorities, to seek their views on the priority aspects for the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission in the country.

(For further information on the Peacebuilding Commission, see p. 000.)

Children and armed conflict

Report of Secretary-General. In response to Security Council resolution 2068(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 724], the Secretary-General submitted a June report on children and armed conflict [A/69/926-S/2015/409], which included developments concerning the situation in the CAR in 2014.

The situation of children worsened as fighting between armed groups, including anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka, and armed forces continued in the CAR. The situation of children in the CAR remained dire, with 12.6 per cent of children under the age of 15 affected by armed conflict in 2014. The situation of children in the CAR remained dire, with 12.6 per cent of children under the age of 15 affected by armed conflict in 2014.

\$11,200. The Assembly also considered the proposed budget of minusca for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 [A/69/805], amounting to \$843,608,300 gross (\$832,328,900 net).

Acabq, in April [A/69/839/Add.12], recommended that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of \$59,152,900 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 10 April 2014 to 30 June 2014; credit to Member States the unencumbered balance of \$399,100 with respect to the period from 10 April 2014 to 30 June 2014, as well as interest income in the amount of \$11,200 for the period ended 30 June 2014; and appropriate an amount of \$828,941,200 for the maintenance of minusca for the 12-month period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Mission.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 June [meeting 97], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/684/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/257 B (Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic)** without vote [agenda item 151].

The General Assembly, by **decision 70/554** of 23 December, decided that the agenda item on minusca financing would remain for consideration during its resumed seventieth (2016) session.

Central African Republic and Chad

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the swiftest periods of socioeconomic progress in its history. Economic development had been rapid and

preparing for a presidential election on 28 February 2016. In Ghana, the opposition New Patriotic Party submitted a petition to the Electoral Commission calling for a revision of the voters' list, alleging that the register included a significant number of foreign nationals. To address that concern, the Commission held a forum from 29 to 30 October during which political parties and civil society groups presented various position papers on the issue.

In Sierra Leone, following the dismissal of former Vice-President Sam-Sumana by President Ernest Bai Koroma earlier in 2015, the Supreme Court issued a verdict on 9 September confirming the constitutionality of the dismissal.

In the Gambia, the National Assembly adopted on 7 July an amendment to the electoral bill, which substantially increased registration fees for political parties and nomination deposits for contesting candidates. One of the main opposition parties, the United Democratic Party, described it as a deliberate attempt to thwart the democratic process.

In Mauritania, consultations aimed at an inclusive national political dialogue started on 7 September, following the indefinite postponement of the senatorial elections initially scheduled for March. The National Forum for Democracy (7.0-2128i1 (m))-3.2nDem-1.06 Tdh]

political missions listed in the table 6 of the Secretary-General's report [A/69/363/Corr.2], including unowa, totalling \$480,262,600.

In October 2015 [A/70/348/Add.3], the Secretary-General submitted requirements for unowa for 2016 totalling \$9,651,400, which acabq endorsed in November [A/70/7/Add.1]. In section XX of **resolution 70/248** of 23 December (see p. 000), the Assembly enu

and Reintegration announced that, as at 1 May, 50,121 former combatants, including 3,780 women, had been disarmed and demobilized and had received reinsertion support. A revised total number of 64,000 former combatants would complete the process by 30 June.

The economy continued its upward trend, with a growth rate of 9.1 per cent in 2014, up from 8.1 per cent in 2013. As at 31 March, 38,121 Ivorian refugees had been registered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (unhcr) in Liberia, while 19,433 remained in other countries in West Africa. As at 1 May an estimated 300,000 civilians remained displaced within Cote d'Ivoire.

Meanwhile, the unoci military component stood at 5,644 personnel of an authorized strength of 7,137 personnel, with women representing 1.5 per cent of the force, and more than half of the unoci force deployed in the west; the unoci

security situation in Liberia remained generally stable. A series of violent incidents, however, demonstrated the continuing potential for destabilization arising from growing social tensions relating to an increase in layoffs and concessions, land disputes, limited access to livelihood opportunities and porous borders. While the security situation in the border areas remained calm, sporadic violence and incidents of illegal farming bordering Côte d'Ivoire continued to occur.

Critical reforms, including the amendment of the Constitution, land reform and decentralization, advanced at a slow pace. On 15 September, President Johnson-Sirleaf issued a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; the previous such report had been issued in January 2011. In the 15 September report, of a total 207 recommendations, 142 had been or were being implemented, while 18 did not lend themselves to practical implementation.

On 3 September, following an outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Margibi County detected on 29 June, Liberia was declared Ebola-free for the second time. A new outbreak, however, was detected in Montserrado County on 19 November. The Ebola virus disease and the drop in global commodity prices had a negative impact on economic recovery and growth in Liberia. Revenue from taxes on income and profit from international trade fell from \$41.0 million in the first quarter of 2014/15 fiscal year to \$39.7 million in the same quarter of 2015/16 fiscal year.

Regarding the drawdown of unmil, of the ten specific security tasks performed by unmil when the Government's plan was endorsed by the National Security Council on 6 March, six tasks, including air field maintenance, security escort for cash transfers, armed security at the two national prisons and static guard duty at three key national installations, had already been handed over to the Government. Progress was being made towards the handover of the remaining four tasks (security for important persons, inspection of Government-owned weapons, maritime patrolling and explosive ordnance disposal).

(For more information on the Ebola virus outbreak, see p. 000.)

Sanctions

Security Council Committee. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521(2003) [YUN 2003, p. 208] monitored implementation of the sanctions imposed on Liberia by that

leadership of the Chair of the Commission, had con-

human rights, socioeconomic and humanitarian developments in Guinea-Bissau since his previous

of sanctions in Guinea-Bissau. These could include,

ber [A/70/7/Add.13]. On 23 December, in section XX of **resolution 70/248** (see p. 000), the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of acabq and approved budgets for the 36 special political missions, including uniogbis, totalling \$567,252,400.

Mali

In 2015, Mali negotiated a long and difficult road with considerable successes, culminating in the signing of the peace agreement and the rapprochement between the signatory armed groups.

The Government took steps to advance political and institutional reforms, decentralization and the cantonment and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes. It also participated, together with the Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (cma) and the Platform coalition of armed groups, in the deliberations of the Agreement Monitoring Committee, though actual progress in the implementation of the peace agreement remained limited. The international conference for the economic recovery and development of Mali, hosted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris in October, generated pledges of approximately 3.2 billion euros for the period 2015–2017, of which 700 million euros had been earmarked for the northern regions.

Northern Mali remained an extremely difficult environment in which to operate, and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (minusma) was likely to continue to face significant security challenges posed by actors

on 15 May by Mali and the Platform (see below), it was transmitting a copy of the Agreement bearing the signature of Sidi Ibrahim Ould Sidatti in his capacity as the cma representative.

ported on progress in the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and on the efforts of minusma to support it.

Between June and September, the political process in Mali had made noticeable progress, in particular with the signing of the Peace Agreement by cma on 20 June.

Following the signing of the peace agreement by cma, efforts to establish the implementation framework foreseen by the Agreement, namely the Comité de suivi de l'accord and its technical bodies, were initiated, with Algeria officially launching the Comité on 20 June. Following the takeover of a cma-controlled town by the Platform on 17 August, cma announced the suspension of its participation in the technical work of the Comité until the Platform withdrew from the town. Minusma engaged the leadership of both parties to de-escalate tensions and took preventive military measures, including by establish-

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expenditure projections, minus the costs from within its existing resources and was therefore seeking additional funding of \$80,336,300. He requested the General Assembly to appropriate the amount of \$80,336,300 for the maintenance and operation of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, in addition to the amount of \$830,701,700 already appropriated for the same period for the maintenance of the Mission under the terms of Assembly resolution 68/259 B [YUN 2014, p. 295]; and to assess \$80,336,300, in addition to the amount of \$830,701,700 already assessed for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

In May [A/69/889], the Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly authorize the Mission for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

services and discussed challenges pertaining to the Boko Haram-related violence; he also met with the Director of the Nigeria Foundation for the Support of Victims of Terrorism to enhance cooperation.

On 25 September, the World Health Organization announced that polio had been eradicated from Nigeria.

Guinea

In October, the presidential election in Guinea was held and the incumbent President, Alpha Condé, was declared the winner. The election, which saw a high turnout of voters, marked an important milestone in the country's democratic consolidation and was observed by more than 500 international and 13,000 national observers. Though there were significant

The Secretary-General also updated the Council on the three challenges that were impeding the effective discharge of the unamid mandate. Concerning the cooperation and partnership of the Government in mandate implementation, over the course of 2014, the time taken to clear contingent-owned equipment and issue visas improved somewhat, and measures were taken to address denials of access. The overall situation, however, remained a cause for concern. Regarding major shortfalls in several troop- and police-

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situation and the progress made towards implementing the strategic priorities of unamid and in addressing the main challenges identified by that review, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council consider extending the mandate of the Operation for 12 months, until 30 June 2016, without modification.

Concerning the transfer of mandated tasks to the UN country team, unamid would continue to support efforts to achieve a comprehensive solution to the Darfur conflict through the mediation led by the au High-Level Implementation Panel and the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace; the country team would continue to, in close collaboration with unamid, support the reintegration aspect of

made to ensure the participation of opposition parties and holdout stakeholders. During their meeting with the au High-level Implementation Panel in Addis Ababa on 22 August, however, representatives of the Sudanese armed and political opposition reiterated their refusal to participate in the national dialogue and called for a new approach through the possible strengthening of the Panel by the Security Council and the au Peace and Security Council. Between 19 and 23 August, the au Peace and Security Council visited the Sudan, including Darfur, and on 25 August, issued a communiqué requesting the Government of the Sudan to desist from any actions that would undermine the holding of a credible and all-inclusive national dialogue, and reiterated its call for an urgent pre-national dialogue meeting to be held in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the au High-level Implementation Panel.

In his December report [S/2015/1027], the Secretary-General noted that in September, the main opposition groups, including the coalition known as the Sudan Call and the Sudan Revolutionary Front, had decided to reject the government-led national dialogue and demanded a pre-dialogue meeting in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the au High-level Implementation Panel to agree on the modalities of the dialogue, while at the same time offering a six-month cessation of hostilities. Despite the lack of consensus, President Bashir proceeded with preparations for the national dialogue, and issued two decrees on 22 September, one to declare a two-month cease fire in several conflict areas, including Darfur, and another to offer amnesty to members of the rebel groups choosing to participate in the national dialogue. President Bashir further announced, on 19 October, that a referendum to determine the administrative status of Darfur would be held in April 2016, as per the terms of the Doha Document for Peace [YUN 2011, p. 220].

On 19 November, the au High-level Implementation Panel convened talks between the Government, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (splm)-North, and the Darfur armed movements in Addis Ababa on the cessation of hostilities in Darfur and Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States ("the Two Areas"). The talks on the cessation of hostilities in Darfur were attended by sla/mm and jem/Gibril factions, but sla/aw did not participate. On 23 November, the talks ended without an agreement on either front, since the parties could not resolve some of the contentious issues, such as the sequencing of the cease fire and political dialogue. The pre-dialogue meeting demanded by the armed movements as a prerequisite for the national dialogue, also scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa on 7 and 8 December under the auspices of the Panel, did not materialize either.

By the end of year, the verified number of new internally displaced persons for 2015 remained at about 100,000, while humanitarian partners were

noted that in connection with the financing for the 12-month period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, the General Assembly needed appropriate the amount of \$1,133,268,800 for the maintenance of unamid if the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the Operation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 25 June [meeting 97], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/69/687/Add.1], adopted **resolution 69/261B (Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur)** without vote [agenda item 166].

The General Assembly, by **decision 70/554** of 23 December, decided that the agenda item on unamid financing remained for consideration during its resumed seventieth (2016) session.

Abyei Area

Report of Secretary-General. (January).-

and on the deployment and operations of unisfa. The security situation in the Abyei Area remained relatively calm, despite tensions emanating from the unauthorized presence of security elements from both the Sudan and South Sudan, and the recurrent influx of small and medium-sized arms. The Sudan continued to maintain from 120 to 150 oil police personnel inside the Dira oil complex in northern Abyei, in violation of the Agreement of 20 June 2011 and multiple Security Council resolutions. Unisfa also reported incursions and the presence of small numbers of armed personnel of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (spla) in southern Abyei, in contravention of the same Agreement and Council resolutions. Several armed attacks, which resulted in loss of life, abductions and the theft of livestock, undermined the security of the civilian population and increased intercommunal tensions during the reporting period. On 2 March, Marial Achak, located 35 km east of Abyei town, was attacked by approximately 100 armed individuals from the Misseriya community, which resulted in the loss of three lives, the abduction of two boys and two girls and the destruction of 24 houses. Unisfa responded swiftly and apprehended eight of the armed individuals, one of whom was a logistics officer from a local militia group, Tora Bora, and one who identified himself as an saf intelligence officer; the Government of the Sudan denied that an saf officer had participated in the attack. From 2 January to 31 March, the United Nations Mine Action Service (unmas) teams cleared 84 km of routes within the Abyei Area and verified the safety of an additional 125 km. The new Head of Mission, Haile Tilahun Gebremariam, assumed his duties on 16 February. He pressed the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan for a rapid resumption of the meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee.

Following the meeting of the au Peace and Security

mittee in March was a positive development and called upon both the Sudan and South Sudan to support the convening of the meeting of traditional leaders, which was originally scheduled to be held in April. He requested the Security Council to extend the mandate of unisfa

gross (\$252,547,700 net) against an apportionment of \$329,108,600 gross (\$327,025,900 net). The Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of \$73,745,600 and of other income and adjustments amounting to \$8,721,600.

The Assembly also had before it a February report of the Secretary-General [A/69/740] on the unisfa budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, which amounted to \$279,920,400 gross (\$277,582,400 net). The budget provided for the deployment of 225 military observers, 5,101 military contingent personnel, 50 United Nations police officers, 168 international staff, 98 national staff and 32 United Nations Volunteers, including temporary positions.

In April [A/69/839/Add.16], the Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of \$271,400,100 (f)-2.83(3)-7.5 (c)-24.40[()0.5d fo()0.5e th()0.5m

gotiations, primarily the formula for power-sharing during a transitional period leading to elections, the timing of the integration of armed forces, and the timing of the consideration of federalism.

South Sudan concluded that executive power during the transition should remain with the President and the Vice-President, offering splm/a in Opposition the position of Prime Minister without executive power. Splm/a in Opposition concluded that an executive Prime Minister from splm/a in Opposition should lead the transitional Government, with a ceremonial head of state; that the Government and splm/a in Opposition should maintain separate armies throughout the transitional period until the holding of elections; and that South Sudan should be immediately reorganized as a federation of 21 States.

ii. On 12 January 2015, during a visit to Sudan, the Foreign Minister of China hosted a meeting in Khartoum with the SPLM/A in Opposition leadership. The meeting was held in Khartoum, Sudan, on 12 January 2015. The meeting was held in Khartoum, Sudan, on 12 January 2015. The meeting was held in Khartoum, Sudan, on 12 January 2015.

factions (the Government, splm/a in Opposition and the former detainees) to address leadership and political issues in the party.

During the reporting period, the igad special en-

unmiss mandate since his previous report in August (see p. 000).

Following the signing in Addis Ababa on 17 August of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan by the leaders of splm/a in Opposition and the former detainees, international and regional partners intensified efforts to persuade President Kiir to sign the peace agreement within the 15-day period granted for additional consultations. During a ceremony on 26 August in Juba, the President signed the agreement and the Government distributed detailed reservations concerning sixteen provisions of the agreement. Subsequently, within the 72-hour deadline, the President and the former vice-president, Mr. Machar, each decreed a

Assembly and adopted the following resolutions:

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age holding facilities within unmiss protection sites, as would have government-provided justice personnel to support national criminal investigations and prosecutions. To support additional tasks and to enable

continue to examine those transfers, including their sources and the tracking networks behind them, together with their impact on the war and their role in violations of human rights and international human-

More than 1.1 million Somalis, the majority of whom were women and children, remained displaced. Some 730,000 Somalis, of whom 76 per cent were displaced people living in urban areas, were unable to me (e)-1.3 (i)-13.4r12 (o)9.4 (m)-11 (a.4 (m n)-12.2 o)8.47g

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Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group to another UN entity more suitably placed to provide such support; strengthening decision-making

over representation by members of the Ogaden clan led to the declaration of a breakaway “Upper Bakool” administration. It also deepened tensions between Puntland and the Interim South-West Administration, including over the model for the 2016 electoral process.

In “Somaliland”, the President

caused by pirates based in Somalia continued to fall, from 20 in 2013 to 12 during the reporting period, according to the International Maritime Organization (imo). It represented a significant decrease from the 78 incidents reported in 2007, when Somalia-based piracy was prevalent and the 237 ships targeted by Somali pirates in 2011. The total number of seafarers from large commercial vessels who were being held hostage by Somali pirates stood at 26, compared to 37 in October 2014. The positive trend notwithstanding, credible reports suggested that commercial ships remained a target of Somali pirates.

Smaller vessels remained vulnerable. Figures for 2014 from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (unodc) reported 18 pirate attacks on fishing vessels. In addition, in early 2015, 37 Iranian fishermen aboard two fishing vessels were seized by pirates after allegations of illegal fishing activities. Though one fishing vessel subsequently escaped with its crew, 19 hostages continued to be held.

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia held its seventeenth plenary session (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 28 October 2014) and its eighteenth plenary session (New York, 8 July). It endorsed the offer of Seychelles to chair the Contact Group during 2016. The Board of the Trust Fund to Support the Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, at its sixteenth meeting (Dubai, 28 October 2014), approved three projects submitted by fao and unodc, which amounted to \$900,000. As at 30 June, the total balance of the Trust Fund stood at \$1.8 million.

The Secretary-General observed that the multinational forces’ combined threat assessments suggested that—provided the collective response mechanisms were maintained—piracy would continue to be suppressed successfully off the coast of Somalia, even if the intent or capability were never entirely eliminated. He remained concerned, however, that without the continued support provided by the international naval presence and the self-protection measures adopted by the shipping industry, large-scale piracy could return.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 10 November [meeting 7554], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2246(2015)**. The draft [S/2015/850] was submitted by France, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Sanctions

By resolution 733(1992) [YUN 1992, p. 199], the Security Council imposed a general and complete arms embargo on Somalia, and by resolution 751(1992) [ibid., p. 202], the Council established a Committee to oversee the embargo, expanding its mandate by resolution 1907(2009) [YUN 2009, p. 299]. Subsequently, the

Report of Emergency Relief Coordinator (September). On 18 September [S/2015/731], the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009) transmitted to the Council the report of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator on the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Somalia, in accordance with resolution 2182(2014) [YUN 2014, p. 367]. The report, which covered the period from September 2014 to September 2015, focused primarily on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected people under the control or influence of Al-Shabaab. Approximately 3.1 million people needed life-saving and livelihood support. The report also outlined constraints to humanitarian access and operational implications, as well as mitigation measures put in place to address the politicization, misuse and misappropriation of humanitarian assistance.

In the first seven months of 2015, more than 80 security incidents affected humanitarian organizations. Some critical indicators, such as the number of aid workers killed and injured, had not improved from 2014, with 10 humanitarian workers killed and 17 injured during the first seven months of 2015. Delivering aid remained extremely difficult in Somalia, especially in areas under the control of Al-Shabaab. Assistance continued to be delivered through local partners in those areas, as agencies were not able to operate directly. Territorial gains through military action by Somali and

VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2244(2015):

In favour: Angola, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Against: None.

Abstained: Venezuela.

Appointments. On 20 November [S/2015/898], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council President that, following the adoption of resolution 2244(2015) (see p. 000), he had appointed eight experts to serve on the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009).

Security Council Committee. On 31 December [S/2015/968], the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751(1992) and 1907(2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea transmitted to the Council a report on its 2015 activities. The Committee met five times in informal consultations on 13 February, 8 April, 1 May, 18 September and 9 October. At the end of the reporting period, there were thirteen individuals and one entity on the Committee's sanctions list pertaining to Somalia and no names on the Committee's sanctions list pertaining to Eritrea.

Children and armed conflict

In response to Security Council resolution 2068(2012) [YUN 2012, p. 724], the Secretary-General submitted a June report on children and armed conflict [A/69/926-S/2015/409], which included developments concerning the situation in Somalia from January to December 2014.

The United Nations documented the recruitment and use of 819 children (779 boys, 40 girls) by Al-Shabaab (437), the national army and allied militia (197), Ahl Al-Sunna wal-Jama'a (109) and other armed elements (76). The detention of children in Somalia remained a concern, with 286 children (277 boys, 9 girls) detained by the national army, Al-Shabaab and other armed groups. Of concern was the situation of children held at the Serendi rehabilitation centre in Moedi. *UN Doc. S/2015/409, paras. 17.5-17.7.*

lution 1863(2009) would remain for consideration during its resumed seventieth (2016) session.

Eritrea

Eritrea achieved independence from Ethiopia in

to the Council to immediately and unconditionally lift the sanctions and terminate the mandate of the Group regarding Eritrea.

North Africa

Libya

The signing of the Libyan Political Agreement in December 2015 was an important step forward in the Libyan political dialogue aimed at bringing an end to the institutional crisis and military conflict in Libya. The Agreement established a nine-member Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord, headed by the Prime Minister-designate, Fayiz al-Sarraj. At the same time, the institutional crisis resulting from competing claims of legislative legitimacy from the General National Congress and the House of Representatives continued to undermine progress in the political process.

The military conflict continued unabated in different parts of the country, and hundreds of thousands of ordinary Libyans continued to bear the consequences of the humanitarian crisis. Close to half-a-million people had been displaced by 2015, and many were enduring a pattern of repeated displacement. A suicide car bomb attack on 7 January in Zliten, the deadliest attack since the 2011 revolution, demonstrated the growing threat from the increased presence and influence of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) affiliates and other terrorist groups.

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) noted that the Libyan authorities needed to heed the Security Council's calls for cooperation and comply with the request to immediately surrender Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi to the Court.

In March, by resolution 2213(2015), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)

In his recommendations on UN configuration, the Secretary-General noted that it would be critical for the future UN presence to focus on a clear and limited list of tasks based on the four priorities. The change of focus would entail a considerable reduction in the size of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (unsmil).

The full return of the United Nations to Libya was not recommended. The presence and mobility of UN staff in Libya, however, would be reviewed regularly through the existing security coordination mechanism. In that regard, the best option for a re8o5 Tc 0.007 Tw 0 -1

Communication. In a 2 April [S/2015/232] note verbale to the Security Council President, the League of Arab States (las) transmitted five resolutions adopted by the Council of las. Resolution 624 dealt with dangerous developments in Libya.3 1 Tfh0.002 Tc -0.25 n

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guard, including 434 women and 70 children. Some 3,700 persons were reported dead or missing in the Mediterranean Sea.

ICC activities

Briefings by ICC Prosecutor. The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (icc), Fatou Bensouda, briefed the Security Council on 12 May [S/PV.7441] and 5 November [S/PV.7549] on the activities undertaken by her Office with regard to Libya. In her November briefing, the Prosecutor stated that the national dialogue, facilitated by the United Nations, aimed at the establishment of a Libyan Government of national accord, represented hope for a transition to national unity and durable peace, and carried important promise for Libya's efforts in the promotion of the rule of law, the protection of civilians and the ending of impunity for atrocity crimes. In another development, UNSMIL facilitated successful

On 17 November [S/2015/888], Venezuela transmitted to the Security Council President a 16 November letter from the representative of Frente Polisario to the United Nations.

Year-end developments. In a later report [S/2016/355], the Secretary-General provided information on developments in Western Sahara since his April report (see p. 000). On 4 September 2015, municipal and, for the first time, regional elections were held in Morocco and in Western Sahara. Insofar as minurso could ascertain, the elections were conducted without incident. King Mohammed VI, while visiting Laayoune on 6 November, delivered his annual speech on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the “Green March” [YUN 1975, p. 175]. He stated that the autonomy initiative was the most Morocco could offer and that its implementation hinged on achieving a final political settlement within the framework of the United Nations.

The Secretary-General of Frente Polisario, Mohammed Abdelaziz, expressed concern at the content of the King’s speech. Subsequently, Mr. Abdelaziz stated that Frente Polisario would not exclude resuming the armed struggle, since the referende, dnnn(i)5 (u8ob (e)-10.5 (e)-9.6 (n)6.

2015 to 30 June 2016 in the amount of \$53,257,200 gross (\$51,006,000 net), exclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind in the amount of \$2,071,700. The budget provided for the deployment of 218 military observers, 27 military contingent personnel, 12 United Nations police officers, 89 international staff, 168 national staff, 16 United Nations Volunteers and 10 Government-provided personnel.

In April [A/69/839/Add.3], acabq recommended that the unencumbered balance of \$2,584,900 for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, as well as other income/adjustments in the amount of \$901,000 for the period ended 30 June 2014, be credited to Member States. Regarding the 2015–2016 budget, acabq recommended that -12.9 (s)02c5-6.-0.20.5 52 Tw 01 (at