



COUNCIL
24th extraordinary session
Agenda item 12(a)

C/ES.24/12(a)/2/Add.1
13 November 2007
Original: ENGLISH

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(a) Relations with the United Nations and the specialized agencies

Piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: Since the issue of document C/ES.24/12(a)/2, the Secretary-General has received a response from the Secretary-General of the United Nations who has also issued his latest quarterly report on the situation in Somalia. This document attaches a copy of the aforesaid response and relevant extracts from that quarterly report.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 5

Related document: C/ES.24/12(a)/2

Background

1 In paragraph 9 of document C/ES.24/12(a)/2, it is reported that, on 5 July 2007, the Secretary-General, pursuant to the decision of C 98, wrote to the Secretary-General of the United Nations requesting him, *inter alia*, to bring to the attention of the Security Council the issue of piracy and armed robbery against ships sailing in waters off the coast of Somalia.

Response from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

2 Following the response received from the UN Secretary-General on 20 August 2007 (see paragraph 13 of document C/ES.24/12(a)/2), on 18 September 2007, the Secretary-General, in view of the continued acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia, wrote to the UN Secretary-General seeking advice on actions being taken.

3 On 13 November 2007, the Secretary-General received a letter, dated 9 November 2007, from the UN Secretary-General, a copy of which is set out in annex 1:

- .1 reporting, *inter alia*, that the Secretary-General's letters of 5 July and 18 September 2007 and the accompanying document in relation to the decisions of C 98 had been transmitted to the President of the Security Council for onwards submission to the Council; and

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

- .2 requesting the Organization to send a delegation to Nairobi and Somalia to discuss the specific requirements of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia in order to enhance its capacity to combat piracy.

Related developments

- 4 The UN Secretary-General, on 7 November 2007, issued his latest quarterly report to the Security Council on the situation in Somalia, related extracts of which are set out in annex 2.

Action requested of the Council

- 5 The Council is invited to note the information contained in this document when considering the action requested in paragraph 20.2 of document C/ES.24/12(a)/2.



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

ANNEX 1

9 November 2007

Dear Mr. Mitropoulos,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 18 September 2007 on the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia.

In my letter of 20 August 2007, I indicated that before inviting the Security Council to request the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia to take action on this issue, I had directed my then Special Representative for Somalia, Mr. François Fall, to raise the issue with the TFG directly. I further specified that Mr. Fall would engage with the Government to identify more precisely what bilateral arrangements already existed, what the specific needs or requirements of the Government were, and what technical capacity was required.

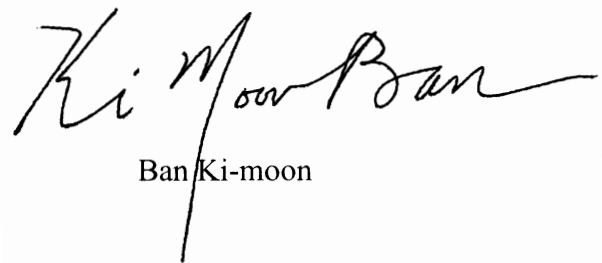
In this regard, Mr. Fall reported that the TFG underscored that it did not have the capacity to combat the piracy problem, was not currently engaged in any bilateral arrangements, but welcomed international assistance to address the problem. Since then, I have raised the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia in my reports to the Council, which has itself referred to the issue in its most recent resolution 1772 (2007). Further to your request, I have transmitted your letters and accompanying documents to the President of the Security Council with a request to bring them to the attention of the members of the Council.

Furthermore, I would like to suggest that you send a delegation of the International Maritime Organization to Nairobi and Somalia to discuss the specific requirements of the TFG in order to enhance its capacity to combat piracy. My Special Representative, Mr. Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, stands ready to facilitate such a mission.

Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
London

In closing, kindly convey to the IMO Council my continuing concern over this important issue and my readiness to further support any attempts to resolve it or mitigate its effects.

Yours sincerely,



Ban Ki-moon

ANNEX 2

United Nations

S/2007/658



Security Council

Distr.: General

7 November 2007

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the statement of the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30), in which the Council requested me to submit quarterly reports on the situation in Somalia. The report covers developments since my previous report, of 25 June (S/2007/381), including the progress and outcome of the National Reconciliation Congress, as well as efforts to promote an all-inclusive political process in Somalia pursuant to the request of the Security Council in its resolution 1772 (2007). It also includes an update on the security and human rights situation and on the humanitarian and development activities of the United Nations agencies and programmes for Somalia.

II. Main developments in Somalia

.....

Security situation

15. During the reporting period, there was no significant improvement in the security situation in Somalia. The situation in Mogadishu remained volatile, with daily attacks mostly by insurgents targeting Transitional Federal Government forces and Ethiopian military personnel. The United Nations security phases in effect in Somalia are indicative of the security situation. Mogadishu and the district of Badhadwe are in phase five (evacuation of all United Nations staff), and the remainder of Somalia is in phase four (emergency operations only), except for the western part of "Somaliland", which is in phase three. Somalia presents one of the most challenging security environments, with considerable restrictions on United Nations operations, particularly in the capital city.

.....

07-57546 (E) 091107□
0757546

S/2007/658

18. Most checkpoints are now being manned by militias loyal to the Transitional Federal Government, many of which appear to lack a proper command structure and training. The Transitional Federal Government has difficulties in maintaining security in the absence of professional police and military forces, although it has recently taken steps to rectify this concern. While the United Nations does not so far appear to be a primary target of any attack, recent developments and information received through multiple open sources are beginning to generate more concern. The arrest and subsequent release of national staff of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the World Food Programme (WFP) is a case in point.

.....

21. Elsewhere, lawlessness and interclan violence continued in large areas of central and southern Somalia. Tensions remained high in the Lower Juba region, particularly in and around the strategic port city of Kismaayo, which is witnessing a continued power struggle between the leading Darod clans — the Marehan and the Majerteen — for control of the city. The Hiraan and Galguduud regions also saw interclan tensions and confrontations during the reporting period.

22. Piracy incidents, which had diminished significantly throughout most of 2006, are on the rise again. Pirate attacks continue to threaten the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The work of humanitarian agencies has been considerably affected by the insecurity of recent months both on land and at sea. Nearly 80 per cent of assistance to Somalia by the World Food Programme (WFP) is shipped by sea, but the availability of vessels willing to carry food to the country has been cut by half because of piracy. According to the International Maritime Organization, 15 hijackings of ships took place in the first half of 2007, with 2 of the attacks involving WFP-chartered ships.

23. On 25 September, the President of France announced that his country would be prepared to send warships to protect humanitarian supplies, especially assistance provided by WFP, for a period of two months. He also invited other members of the international community to join this initiative. My Special Representative issued a statement welcoming the contribution from France.

IV. African Union Mission in Somalia

.....

Contingency planning

33. Under the prevailing political and security situation, I believe that the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation cannot be considered a realistic and viable option. Furthermore, it has not been feasible, for security reasons, to send a technical assessment mission to Somalia. Nevertheless, a strategic assessment of United Nations interventions in Somalia has been initiated, with a view to providing an integrated approach and framework for

United Nations engagement in Somalia. In addition, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continues to review and update the existing contingency planning for a possible peacekeeping operation and, as noted above, to assist the African Union in supporting AMISOM.

VIII. Observations

81. As I mentioned in my letter to the Security Council of 20 September 2007 (S/2007/566), the United Nations is elaborating a two-track approach for Somalia based on: (a) a political track to encourage dialogue within the Transitional Federal Government itself and with all opposition groups both inside and outside Somalia, in the hope of bringing about a cessation of hostilities and the establishment of broad-based and inclusive transitional institutions; and (b) a security track that would necessitate the strengthening of AMISOM to a level that would allow for the withdrawal of foreign forces and create the necessary conditions for stability. In addition, I also recommended the strengthening of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia by providing it with the necessary resources to implement the two-pronged approach.

82. In pursuit of the two-pronged approach, the United Nations system, including the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the United Nations country team, has also embarked on developing a coherent peacebuilding strategy for Somalia. In support of these efforts, an interdepartmental and inter-agency integrated task force on Somalia is being established.

.....

93. I remain concerned by the continuing piracy off the coast of Somalia and its adverse impact on the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance and commercial shipping. Given the lack of capacity of the Transitional Federal Government to combat piracy, I reiterate the call to Member States of the United Nations with naval and military assets in the region to take action, in consultation with the Transitional Federal Government, to protect merchant shipping, with a particular focus on vessels transporting humanitarian aid.

.....