ITALY
IN THE
SECURITY COUNCIL
January 2007—December 2008
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Italy’s most recent biennium on the Security Council (2007-2008) took place during a period of great change in the world and new challenges to the United Nations. Just a few years ago economists were singing the praises of globalization, which promised to benefit both the industrialized and the developing worlds, and even solve long-entrenched development issues through the “invisible hand” of the free market. As the ongoing economic downturn has made all too clear, however, increased interdependency also means that a breakdown in one area can quickly affect the entire global system. The United Nations used to be prompted to action when a conflict risked “spilling over” to neighboring countries. Nowadays the International Community is calling on the Organization to address even more complex issues, such as a food crisis afflicting entire regions and a financial crisis threatening to unravel the global economy.
In this scenario the role of the United Nations is more crucial than ever, and the Security Council, as its executive arm, has a full agenda to consider. The situations in Darfur, Lebanon, Kosovo, Georgia, and Afghanistan are just a few of the items the Council has been called upon to address. While they might at first appear to be classic cases of conflict resolution, in truth the face of peacekeeping has changed. The international community has learned the lessons of the past, and before embarking on a peace mission the Council now raises the tough questions of how to rebuild a country and its institutions once the peace has been won.

It is in this context that I am quite proud to introduce the present volume, which gathers a selection of the many statements Italy delivered during its two years on the Security Council. On the whole these texts articulate my Country’s consistent and unwavering support of the bedrock principles of the United Nations. The Italian delegation, in pursuit of its commitment to all Member States as an elected member of the Council, reiterated the profound humanitarian and social values enshrined in the Charter.
During our term we contributed to many achievements of which it can be proud. On thematic and cross-cutting issues, respect for fundamental human rights and humanitarian protection are areas in which Italy’s action has been especially prominent. Also thanks to Italy’s efforts, Council peace-keeping mandates now contain previsions to protect the civilian population in armed conflict, especially women and children. Together with France and Belgium, we have established a Security Council Working Group for the implementation of these provisions. We insisted, with the support of many non-governmental organizations, on full respect for Resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security”. We helped mobilize support for Resolution 1820, against sexual violence in armed conflicts.

Regional crisis in Africa in particular have been an issue during the two years in the Council. Italy believes that it is the Council's special responsibility to address situation in Africa comprehensively ( e. g., Chad, Sudan/Darfur, Somalia, Ethiopia-Eritrea, the Great Lakes), promoting stability not only in individual countries but also at the regional level. Within the political framework of the Council, we have promoted enhanced cooperation
between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) in AU-managed complex peace operations, hybrid operations, and UN-led missions, upholding the principles of African ownership.

We have been on the front line on issues like Afghanistan, where our key role helped the Council to unanimously approve Resolution 1833 and is well captured by the picture of fifteen Ambassadors standing by the UN flags in Kabul and Herat during the mission Italy organized and led in November 2008. On Kosovo, Italian diplomatic and military efforts on the ground – where an Italian diplomat, USG Lamberto Zannier, has been appointed as the Secretary General’s Special Representative – greatly contributed to reconciling differences within the Council, leading to the agreement on the deployment of the EULEX Mission. We also lead the United Nations mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with the Italian Major-General Claudio Graziano - Force Commander - and we contribute to the Mission through the largest contingent of peacekeepers.

These are just some of the many areas in which Italy, within an evolving Security Council, has approved its
commitment to effectively carrying out its global responsibilities while fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it by the 192 countries. It did so with the conviction that all Council members, need to speak on behalf of the entire UN membership, and not just on the basis of national interests. And it did so also advancing the European dimension in every way possible and giving priority to our long-standing intent to bring Europe’s voice to the Security Council through improved interaction among the 27 members on issues discussed in the Security Council.

Nor has this commitment lessened now that Italy in no longer a member of the Council: our longstanding contribution to the ongoing debate and intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform is aimed to strengthening the Council and make it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient.

Italy has thus demonstrated its dedication to international peace and security both in and outside the Security Council. A strong multilateralism is an essential component of our foreign policy. When the call comes, whether it be for emergency relief, development assistance, technical expertise, or peacekeepers on the
ground, Italy is ready to do its part. As it shall continue to do, having decided to run again for a non permanent seat for the biennium 2017-1018, ready to advocate for the same principles, on behalf of the entire membership.
On 31 December 2008, Italy completed its sixth two-year term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in New York. Since entering the United Nations Italy has been elected to the Security Council more than any other European Union country.

This recent experience on the ground allows us to identify a few trends that had not emerged during our previous term on the Security Council (1995-1996) and that help us better imagine the future profile of the Council.

First of all the central role of the Security Council in multilateral diplomacy – not only because of the statutory obligation that every Member State has to implement the Council’s resolutions, but also because of
the breadth and importance of the issues the Council discusses both in its “consultations room” and in the Chamber.

During the past two years the works of the Council have shown that more and more Member States, regional organizations and groups of countries are turning to the Council and its power of initiative to negotiate solutions, facilitate mediation, and manage complex situations. And although the Council cannot provide Member States with responses to all the challenges they face, it is still the primary forum for multilateral diplomacy in peace and security.

This does not mean that some criticism of the UN and the Security Council is groundless. There are two criticisms that have some validity: namely, that the Council does not address all the various crises effectively, and that it is not adequately representative of a membership that has grown by as many as 75 countries since its last enlargement in 1965.

In 2007 and 2008 the Council has indeed discussed and decided on diplomatic initiatives as well as a number of peace-keeping operations. Some items had a concrete
outcome, such as the stabilization of Southern Lebanon or the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia. Others were rather inconclusive, leading to either no result or worse allowing a deterioration of the crisis. The Council has been criticized for its alleged “paralysis” in dealing with the humanitarian emergency in Darfur, the collapse of the Somali State, the repression of democracy and human rights in Zimbabwe, and the violation of Georgia’s territorial integrity. Nevertheless the Council has been active in all these cases as a forum for at times heated debate between its Members. In the case of the cease-fire resolution for Gaza, for example, it has provided a focus for diplomatic activities that would have been impossible without the legal framework and institutional integrity that the world community attributes to the UN Charter.

We have yet to arrive at what someone called the “Imperial Security Council”, but in the current decade, particularly in the past two years, the Security Council has interpreted its competences stemming from Art. 24 of the UN Charter in a way which may be considered as widening the previous practice and approach. As explained by some experts this trend is consistent with the attempts to consolidate a larger concept of peace and
Historically, this is how “the responsibility to protect” affirmed by the 2005 World Summit has become a duty. As was very effectively put in studies on this subject, just as the protection of the rights of the individuals has gained support within the international public opinion, the concept of state sovereignty has ceased to be an insurmountable barrier between victims of human rights violations and an effective response from the international community.

It was not later than last January that, in his report to the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General provided three clear guidelines on the matter: 1) responsible sovereignty of States in protecting their people; 2) need to provide international assistance for capacity building, especially in the rule of law area; 3) timely response of the international community, both through pacific means and a restraint of veto powers when action by the Security Council is needed.

Right after September 11th, the Council’s proceedings have been catalyzed by the fight against terrorism. This is shown by: strong appeals made by the
Security Council to UN Member States to implement the recommendations of the Financial Action Group; initiatives undertaken to strengthen cooperation between the Sanctions Committee and Interpol; and more in general, the strengthening of the sanctions system.

The most significant developments, however, have been in peacekeeping operations. Through mandates of both a political and operational nature, the Security Council has paid increasing attention to all of the stages that have transformed traditional peace-keeping into peace-enforcing operations: from the absence of reference to human rights and the building of the rule of law up until the ‘90s to the growing importance these issues have acquired in resolutions and statements of the Council.

Going back to the experience of our biennium the different ways the Security Council has widened its range of action as the supreme multilateral body (and the only one with executive powers) established to maintain peace and security have emerged repeatedly. If altogether the 121 resolutions, 98 presidential statements, and 94 press releases issued by 445 Security Council sessions cannot but reflect the crises the world has gone through, a significant portion of Council “acts” confirms the trend
toward extending its scope of action on cross-cutting issues affecting every crisis under debate.

Together with the “traditional” threats to international peace and security (from Afghanistan to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Kosovo, Georgia, the Sudan, Somalia, and Zimbabwe) there has been a considerable increase in the number of decisions made on cross-cutting issues. The Security Council goes beyond the management of single crises, anticipating a new direction and a new potential on issues close to those dealt with by the General Assembly. This was the case with the two new resolutions adopted in 2008 on “Women, Peace, and Security,” “Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Organizations,” and the Council’s initiative to dedicate one of its thematic debates to Climate Change.

In this “evolutionary” process of the Security Council, several controversial issues have emerged during our two-year term. At the end of January, a seminar for the five outgoing Council members was held focusing specifically on these issues. It was organized by the Director of the Security Council Report, Ambassador Colin Keating, as an opportunity to have a direct exchange
on the common experiences and lessons learned. It allowed us together with the Permanent Representatives of South Africa, Belgium, Indonesia and Panama to openly discuss those critical issues that, looking at the internal daily workings of the Council, seem to hinder the path toward a more legitimate, authoritative, and effective Security Council. The majority of discussions were focused on difficulties stemming from the very nature of the Council, from its being made up of members that are equal but “genetically different” and “differently accountable” towards the entire membership. Another issue is the need for greater transparency in the way the Security Council conducts its activities, what is known as the issue of working methods. Transparency, for example, on the choice of format for Council meetings, which should be made on the basis of shared purposes among the fifteen members. While closed consultations are sometimes necessary, open discussions offer a high added value, also in terms of the outside perception of the Council’s work. Although this matter may seem procedural, Italy has always focused on it as Council member and still is today in the framework of the debate on Security Council reform. It actually underpins the democratic nature of the Council and its representation of
the entire membership. Last August the Security Council dedicated an “open debate” to this matter giving a number of Member States a chance to stress the need for substantial change.

As for specific issues, our overall engagement and proactive role in all the different areas of Council’s activities clearly emerge from the selection of statements and speeches listed in this volume. As Foreign Minister Franco Frattini put in his preface, Africa had a special place among our priorities during the two years in the Council. It may seem a natural consequence, given the significant resources the UN reserves for the continent and the fact that the Security Council spends more than half of its time on African crises. Italy’s motivation stems from specific political, security, and humanitarian objectives. In my Minister’s words Italy acted in the Council in the strong belief that “is the Council's special responsibility to address situation in Africa comprehensively, promoting stability not only in individual countries but also at the regional level”. In our term we have worked for a greater and more effective cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU); upheld the principles of African ownership and the UN’s partnership
with regional organizations; supported the heightened commitment of the AU in Darfur and Somalia as well as, from a political perspective, the contribution of the AU and its sub-regional entities to settling the crises in Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Zimbabwe and on the borders of Eritrea and Djibouti. Efforts to strengthen this cooperation led, in April 2008, to the first joint meeting of the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, approval of Resolution 1809, and the creation of a UN-AU panel defining international community measures for more effective support of the AU’s peacekeeping efforts.

Through the positions it has taken in the Council, Italy has also encouraged the regional organizations to which it belongs to support these African initiatives, such as the EUFOR operation in Chad and the Central African Republic and the activities to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia, conducted first by NATO then by the European Union.

Bringing Europe’s voice to the Security Council was also one of the key priorities in our day to day activity in the Council and in particular our initiatives to improve coordination and exchange of information between European partners. In Brussels, before entering the
Council, we had already made preparation together with the other four EU countries who would seat on the Council the next two years: France, United Kingdom, Belgium, and Slovakia. In New York we became a “contact point” for the Missions of the other EU countries, in daily contact with the Presidency, other EU Members, the Commission and the Secretariat of the Council. Although we have yet to open the delegations of European members of the Security Council to representatives of the rotating EU Presidency, true progress has been made toward turning the idea of a European seat into a reality.

Along the same lines and with the same spirit showed while seating on the Security Council in the last two years, Italy has been advocating for a reform of the same Council in the last fifteen years. We remain consistently engaged in the process of the present negotiations, with a forward looking approach: the recognition of the regional dimension of international relationships, the fundamental role of the EU and many other organizations in the maintenance of peace and security is one of Italy’s most innovative ideas. Our goal is to make sure that the reformed Council, through this and other proposals that we are endorsing, fully recognizes a reality that is already acknowledged in
international balances. To put it simply, we want to bring a credible, representative and effective Security Council from the XX into the XXI century.
Hon. Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, briefs the international media on the maintenance of international peace and security, mediation and the settlement of disputes (September 23, 2008)
Hon. Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, addresses a Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question (September 26, 2008)

UN Secretary-General H.E. Ban Ki-moon meets with Hon. Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, during the opening ceremonies of the 63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (September 25, 2008)
Hon. Franco Fratini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, addresses a high-level meeting of the Security Council on the maintenance of international peace and security, mediation and the settlement of disputes (September 23, 2008)

Mr. Vincenzo Scotti, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, addresses a Security Council meeting on women, peace, and security (June 19, 2008)
The Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Amb. Giulio Terzi addresses a Security Council meeting on the situation in Afghanistan. (December 4, 2008)

The Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Amb. Giulio Terzi during a press conference on the occasion of the Security Council visit in Afghanistan (November 27, 2008)

The Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Amb. Giulio Terzi during the Security Council visit in Afghanistan (November 27, 2008)

Hon. Massimo D’Alema Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy presides over Security Council meeting on the situation in Somalia (December 19, 2007)

Press Conference by the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations and President of the Security Council during the month of December 2007, Amb. Marcello Spatafora (December 4, 2007)
Hon. Romano Prodi, Prime Minister of Italy, addresses a High-Level Meeting of the Security Council on Peace and Security in Africa (September 25, 2007).

Mr. Vittorio Craxi, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy addresses the Security Council open-debate on the relationship between energy, security and climate (April 17, 2007)
Hon. Massimo D'Alema, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy addresses the Security Council meeting on Afghanistan (March 20, 2007)
I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting and to thank the Secretary-General for the important statement he made.

My country is extremely concerned about the situation in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing military operations, as well as about the uninterrupted launching of rockets deep into Israeli territory. In deploring the heavy loss of life and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, we have to stress that the six month truce between Israel and Hamas ended with the firing of Qassam rockets from the Gaza Strip, which we condemn without reservation. We call for the immediate cessation of those attacks against unarmed Israelis.

We also urge the Israeli Government, in the exercise of its right to self-defence, to guarantee the utmost restraint and moderation in its military operations. It is deplorable that, in a heavily populated area, innocent civilians were
involved and that attacks caused the loss of civilian lives. It is important that violence end on all sides. We must urge all parties to agree to a ceasefire. Consequences at the regional level could be extremely dangerous. It is essential that unity among the Palestinians be restored. Mediation between Palestinian factions is crucial and should not be abandoned, despite the current difficult situation.

There is an urgent need to re-launch the political process that was started in Annapolis one year ago; resolution 1850 (2008) sends a key message in that regard. There is no going back. The Arab Peace initiative continues also to be a main point of reference for the peace process. The most urgent objective that the international community must set out to achieve is an immediate ceasefire. This should be flanked, just as urgently, by immediate humanitarian aid to the Palestinian civilians living in the Gaza Strip. We take positive note of the efforts mentioned by the Secretary-General, by which the Israeli authorities, in cooperation with the United Nations, have today allowed 84 trucks with essential deliveries to enter the Strip. But more needs to be done. We commend the work and dedication of United Nations humanitarian agencies and personnel, especially the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

It is my Government’s belief that the Security Council should again address this situation, taking into full account the position expressed by the European Union foreign ministers yesterday in Paris. The following elements should, in particular, be considered. First is the call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire based on an unconditional halt to rocket attacks by Hamas on Israel and an end to Israeli military action. Secondly, there must be an immediate resumption of humanitarian aid through the reopening of all crossing
points and their lasting and normal operation, as provided for by the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. On this, consideration could also be given to an international observation mechanism to guarantee the cessation of hostilities and unhindered access for humanitarian aid.

Thirdly, the Security Council should also urge the parties to intensify their efforts to advance the peace process, as demanded by resolution 1850 (2008). And fourthly, Palestinian reconciliation and reunification, under the legitimate Palestinian Authority, will remain a key element.
We wish to welcome the presence here with us today of the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, His Excellency Mr. Thambwe Mwamba, and we acknowledge the participation in our work of the Foreign Minister of Belgium, His Excellency Mr. De Gucht, as well as of the Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Ambassador Nsengimana.

By authorizing a temporary increase in the capacities of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), by clarifying its priorities and by strengthening its operational autonomy, the Security Council has shouldered its responsibilities as regards the Government and the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the larger Great Lakes region. We are fully aware of the remaining constraints, and we call for rapid deployment of the additional troops envisaged in
resolution 1843 (2008), as well as for a swift handover of MONUC’s civilian tasks to other international agencies. Nevertheless, we are confident that MONUC is now placed in the best condition to ensure the protection of civilians, to support the creation of viable security institutions and to facilitate the disarmament and reintegration of combatants.

Chances are that the new MONUC will have to deal with a less tense situation, thanks to the positive dynamic catalyzed by regional and international mediation efforts under the leadership of Special Envoy Obasanjo and of the regional mediator, Mr. Mkapa.

The developments of the political process ignited by the Nairobi summit proved once more that political will is the only real ingredient for the stabilization of the eastern Congo and that there is no military solution to this conflict. Only by cutting all forms of solidarity — political, economic and ideological — with the violence of armed groups and by granting justice to the victims of violence, whoever the authors may be, will we pave the way for sustainable peace in the Great Lakes. No peacekeeping force, no matter how robust, will or should be a substitute for political inertia, in Congo or anywhere else.

That being said, the United Nations has a moral and political duty to protect civilians from extreme violence and humanitarian suffering, despite the absence of peace and political stability. In the twenty-first century, the world expects no less than this of the United Nations. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo the Security Council has shown itself able to respond to this expectation, but the positive impact of that response, in terms of the credibility and relevance of the Organization, will not be sustained if the Council does not apply the same conditions for all the victims of warfare and institutional failure in the eastern Congo as in any other
critical situation on the verge of unprecedented humanitarian disaster and chaos — for instance, Somalia.
Thank you Mr. President. While we thank the Secretary-General for being with us today, we also wish to acknowledge the presence in the Council of your Excellency Prime Minister Sanader of Croatia, of the Secretary of State of the USA, dr. Rice, of the Foreign Secretary of the U. K., Miliband, of the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Lavrov, of the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of China and also, with particular satisfaction, of the Foreign Minister of the TFG of Somalia and his delegation.

Italy has traditionally followed with deep concern the very difficult developments of the national reconciliation process in Somalia and the dire consequences of the crisis both in the humanitarian and security fields. Therefore we fully appreciate this opportunity to discuss the situation in Somalia, which more and more urgently deserves the attention of the International Community. Italy is strongly
committed to support peace efforts led by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General as well as by IGAD, aiming at finding an inclusive, negotiated solution, within that very sensitive regional context. In particular, Italy supports the political process opened by the Djibouti Agreement between the Transitional Federal Government and the opposition represented by the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia, which however, to be pursued, requires an effective security framework. The announced withdrawal of the Ethiopian troops needs to be accompanied by immediate and strong support to AMISOM, so as to avoid a dangerous security vacuum, and therefore to contribute to the implementation of the Djibouti Agreement. Italy supports the idea of a UN re-hatting of AMISOM as the only feasible option for a really concrete involvement of the United Nations on the ground, sustaining and integrating the already significant effort made by the African Union. We couldn’t agree more with the remarks made by Secretary of State Rice on the need for the international community and the UN to assume direct responsibility in the Somali crisis. Italy strongly supports all international efforts to counter piracy, which certainly poses a major threat to the delivery of the humanitarian aid, to the freedom of international navigation as well as to the safety of commercial maritime routes. In this respect, we are strongly committed to all multinational initiatives against piracy within the European Union, NATO, IMO and all the other relevant multilateral fora. We consider that the NATO naval mission, in which we are presently taking part, has represented a major step forward in the fight against piracy and that the newly established EU naval operation “Atalanta” will further strengthen our common endeavour. Piracy off the Somali coasts is clearly the result of the general political and security crisis in the country. For that reason, and once more, Italy is
convinced that naval action against piracy should be complemented by a stabilization process on the ground, both from a political and from a security viewpoint. Only through timely and concrete support to such process, the United Nations could meet their political and moral responsibilities in front of what should no longer be considered as a forgotten crisis”.
Thank you, Sir.
Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this Ministerial meeting of the Security Council. And I wish to thank Secretary General Ban for his introductory remarks as well as acknowledge the presence of Madam the Deputy Secretary General with us today. At the outset I wish to express my Government’s support for the draft Resolution prepared by the United States and the Russian Federation. The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are now entering a delicate phase. We respect the will of both sides to keep them confidential and we support their resolve, as shown during their meeting with the Quartet in Sharm el Sheikh, to continue responsibly despite the existing difficulties. It is absolutely essential that a comprehensive agreement be reached in the form of a peace treaty to be implemented without further negotiation. We are aware that there are still considerable gaps between the parties’ positions on a number of core issues,
but we believe that now more than ever the Israelis and the Palestinians need clear specific solutions, not vague principles that can lead to future disputes. The Road Map and the Annapolis Conference have given us the means to continue along the path we have taken, and we are convinced that the ongoing political process must become irreversible.

It is essential for the Quartet to play a more incisive role in monitoring the implementation of the parties' commitments on the ground.

Against this background, Italy remains convinced that the European Union – in reiterating the need to leave the primary responsibility for the conduct of the negotiations to the parties – will not hesitate to offer its support for the implementation of a final peace agreement at the appropriate time.

At the same time, we believe it is fundamental to continue to contribute to the strengthening of the Palestinian institutions and building their capacities, through the promotion of economic development and institutional and security sector reform.

Israel’s security and a just conclusion of the Peace Process based on a two-state solution can only be assured by a future Palestinian State with sound institutions that operate according to the rule of law and good governance. We believe that the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a high priority in the fragile regional framework. But it is equally important to support and promote a constructive approach by all the States of the Region to every track of the Peace Process.

We welcome and encourage the involvement of the Arab League and of its members in support of the Palestinian Authority and of President Abbas, both economically and politically.

In this context, the Arab League’s Peace Initiative has great potential that should be exploited and developed in
coordination with all the stakeholders.
We are concerned by the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing violence in the areas bordering with Israel. It is urgent that calm be restored and maintained and that the border crossings be reopened to allow the people to have access to goods and services.
The acceleration in the building of settlements and the episodes of settler violence against Israeli officers and Palestinian civilians in recent days are cause for further concern. We welcome the courageous decisions of the Israeli Authorities to prevent further violence and evacuate the illegal settlements. We encourage Israel to continue along this path in the shared awareness that the expansion of settlements, particularly in East Jerusalem, does not facilitate dialogue but instead undermines the credibility of Palestinian negotiators in the eyes of their public opinion.
Mr. President,
Chairing the 1591 Sanctions Committee on Sudan has been a challenge.
While all members of the Committee share a common objective – to bring peace and stability to Darfur – their understanding of the role of sanctions in ending the conflict, and of the conflict itself, is different. This is evident in the fact that, after almost four years in existence, the Committee has yet to designate any individual as subject to the travel ban and the assets freeze. The Council designated the four individuals that are currently subject to the targeted sanctions.
In addition, experience with sanctions has shown that it is difficult to monitor - and therefore to enforce - an arms embargo covering only part of the territory of a country, as in the case of Darfur.
Notwithstanding these constraints, the Committee has
been able to discharge its mandate, which is to monitor and not enforce the measures imposed by Resolutions 1556 and 1591. The Committee has regularly reported to the Council on the lack of compliance with the existing measures by all parties to the conflict. It has provided a forum to discuss the implementation of these measures and has assessed the reports of the Panel of Experts, as mandated by resolution 1591.

The direction which both my predecessor and I have given to the work of the Committee in order to achieve these limited yet important results has been based on a constant drive for consensus as the best way to keep the Committee united on key tasks.

Our work, however, has not been as effective as we would have liked. In particular, many Panel’s recommendations have not been given the desired follow-up because of lack of consensus. I wish the new Chairman a more productive biennium in this regard.

On this point, I have registered with interest a remark made by some delegations during my last briefing to the Council encouraging a review of the decision making procedures of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council in order to make their work more aligned with the direction given to them by the principal organ.

Mr. President, I wish to thank the members of the Committee for their active contribution. I also wish to thank present and past members of the Panel of Experts for having been the Committee’s “eyes and ears” on the ground, often under difficult conditions. My thanks also go to the Secretariat staff for their sound advice and accurate drafting. My recommendations for the future are the following:

- to reach out to other sources of information on Darfur particularly within international and non-governmental organizations. I wish to add here that last Friday, for the
first time since its establishment, the Committee heard a briefing by an NGO about information it had gathered concerning ongoing violations of resolutions 1556 and 1591. I hope that such practice could continue; - to promote a dialogue with the countries in the region and explore further the opportunities offered by the mandate of the Committee in this regard; - to ensure liaison with the mediation of the political process and with UNAMID. I wish to note here that, while the Council gave UNAMID a mandate to monitor the arms embargo, the mission does not yet have the resources to effectively carry out this task. The rationale behind my three suggestions is that the Committee does not operate in a vacuum and cannot remain self-referential. On the contrary, it needs to be in tune with the other components of the Security Council’s strategy for Darfur, whose common aim is to bring peace and stability to all Darfurians.

As I mentioned before, despite the differing views on the role of sanctions, all members of the Committee share strongly this objective. Building on this common ground will be the key to the success of the Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.
Mr. President,
I wish to join the other delegations in thanking President Robinson and President Byron as well as Prosecutor Brammertz and Prosecutor Jallow for their presentations to the Council. I wish to congratulate President Robinson on his recent election and wish him all the best success for his future endeavour. Let me also take this opportunity to commend the work of Professor Fausto Pocar as President of the ICTY over the last three years. Under his leadership the ICTY was able to reach very high standards of efficiency, always in full respect of the principle of fair trial.

Mr. President,
Italy welcomes the tangible progress made in pursuing the completion strategy through the strong commitment of the Tribunals, their Judges, their Prosecutors, and their entire staff. However, we are somehow concerned with the fact...
that the completion strategy will be delayed. Of course, this has been largely due to objective factors: the inability to ensure the prompt arrest and surrender of the defendants; obstacles in the judicial cooperation as well as other reasons. We believe that rather than discussing the past, it is now time to look ahead and try to ensure the smooth conclusion of judicial activities in keeping with the best standards of fair trial and due process. At the same time, the Council should underline that cooperation is essential for a truly successful completion. In this regard, cooperation with the Tribunals has largely improved in recent times; still it is a bit frustrating to see that after so many years there are remaining difficulties. Cooperation must become a firm practice.

Mr. President,

Under the Presidency of Judge Byron the ICTR has endeavoured to improve its ability to respect the schedule for completion and has ambitious plans for completing trials within 2009, but further delays seem regrettably unavoidable at this stage. Nonetheless, we are confident that the Tribunal will continue to do its best to keep them to a minimum and we will carefully consider the proposals made today by President Byron.

Mr. President,

I am confident that both Tribunals will make every effort to finalize the pending cases and facilitate the judicial activities on Appeal. At this juncture, it is important to make appropriate plans to ensure that the Appeals Chamber be granted the necessary staff and resources. It is also essential to strengthen capacity-building in the countries most directly concerned both in terms of the judiciary as well as outreach. Support from the international community would be more than welcome, including by strengthening States’ judicial capacity to conduct criminal trials for international crimes. In this regard, Italy commends the assistance given to the ICTY
by the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the OSCE, as mentioned in the ICTY President’s Report.

Mr. President,

Lastly, we would like to note that the Tribunals’ legacy must remain under the consideration of the Council: in numerous meetings of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals, chaired by Belgium, to whom we are grateful, delicate issues have been discussed on the aftermath of the completion strategy. In this regard, we believe that the obligation to try the fugitives should remain a clear duty for the entire international community. With the active contribution of the Council, important decisions should be timely adopted to reaffirm the purpose for which the Tribunals were established: bringing to justice those responsible for the most heinous international crimes in the territories of the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda. Thank you, Mr. President.
Mr. President,
Allow me to express the sincere appreciation of my government for this initiative and for the honor of having your Excellency presiding this Council. The tragic events in Mumbai – for which I would like to renew the condolences and the grief of Italy for so many innocent victims – prove once again that terrorism represents a fundamental threat to international peace and security. Effective counter-terrorism policies cannot be put together only in the heated aftermath of terrorist attacks; they require, instead, patient and tenacious work on which to build and strengthen cooperation and mutual trust among countries. Italy endorses the statement by the EU Presidency.
The threat of terrorism is intense and, unfortunately, will remain as such for the foreseeable future. Globalization and new technologies favor its spreading across borders,
broaden the risk of convergence between terrorist organizations and illegal trafficking, the illicit use of financial circuits, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The threat is diversified, complex and continuously changing. It requires long-term political will, a global vision, and the ability to modulate responses to various scenarios.

The United Nations remains the best-suited framework for improving and better defining international counter-terrorism policies. Initially intended to better regulate this matter, these policies have progressively been enhanced with new instruments and updated structures. The role of the UN is all the more crucial, as the need is stronger for all Member States to give their support in implementing the necessary interventions.

For all these reasons, today’s debate is important. In the fight against terrorism, we are not in a primeval era of cooperation among states and peoples. A strategy agreed on by the entire membership exists: a Global Strategy that we must follow, speeding up the pace of implementation of its four pillars.

The Strategy should be implemented today, drawing from the efforts of the entire UN system, the three UNSC subsidiary bodies, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

The ratification of all 16 Counter-Terrorism Conventions is a priority. They translate into binding commitments the primacy of cooperation over individual sovereignties, at a time when we acknowledge the indivisibility of peace and security in a globalized world.

Full implementation of Security Council resolutions on this issue is not only our obligation, but a need for all of us.

The promotion and protection of human rights and the priority of the rule of law are integral part of any effective counter-terrorism strategy.
There must be neither safe havens nor impunity for terrorists. Technical assistance should be made available to countries that need it. Justice for victims should be assured: a way to translate compassion into solidarity. Rescuing failing states is also crucial for the achievement of the United Nations human rights and security agenda. Prevention and early detection of extremism and radicalization, to which the younger generation is particularly susceptible, are needed – as well as more effective mechanisms of exchange of information, coordination of law enforcement agencies and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. The European Union has a set of instruments of judicial cooperation among European States, already proved effective in many cases. After the terrorist attacks in Madrid and London, direct collaboration between European judges led, for example, to the arrest in Italy and immediate delivery to Spain and the United Kingdom of some of the perpetrators. Mr. President,

The challenge we are faced with can be won. To reach this goal, all countries need to make a long-term and consistent effort. We need resolute international cooperation, based on clear strategies and mutual trust. We must stop heinous crimes from building walls of hostility and mistrust among countries and peoples. Italy fully supports the proposal for a Presidential Statement and the call on solidarity it contains, reiterating the determination of the Security Council to combat all forms of terrorism.
Mr. President,
First of all, let me welcome the High Representative, Ambassador Lajcak, and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Spiric. Let me also thank the High Representative for his detailed Report on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and commend his tireless and skilful efforts in a quite complex situation. Italy fully aligns itself with the statement of the Permanent Representative of France on behalf of the European Union. I would like to just add a few remarks drawing on our national experience.
Ambassador Lajcak’s Report gives us a good picture, I believe, of the overall situation in the country. It emphasizes, in fact, encouraging signs but at the same time reveals critical aspects that invite the ongoing commitment of the international community to Bosnia-Herzegovina.
The signature of the Stabilization and Association Agreement in June is a landmark achievement. It demonstrates that the local political leadership can act constructively and reach compromises. The solution of the police reform was particularly welcome. Not long ago such a result seemed unreachable. The EU perspective is the tool through which the High Representative was able to broker a solution. We must take stock of that success in view of our upcoming challenges. The Odzak agreement reached by the three major Bosnian parties provides yet another reason for us to hope that a virtuous cycle of the political process may set in.

Nevertheless the report also notes that, “Nationalist, anti-Dayton rhetoric challenging the sovereignty, territorial integrity and constitutional order of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as the authority of the High Representative and the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board, have continued to dominate politics in Bosnia-Herzegovina.”

Mr. President,

Much remains to be done to achieve lasting democratic stabilization in the country. In order to stimulate more progress, we should move beyond the status quo and uphold the principle of ownership. To achieve the transition from the Office of the High Representative to the EU Special Representative stage, we should equip the EU Representative adequately to allow him to perform his duties effectively.

High Representative Solana and EU Commissioner Rehn have indicated the need to address the issue of transition. On the 20th of November the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board welcomed the EU’s readiness to assume a greater role in Bosnia-Herzegovina following the transition from the OHR to the EUSR.

We must as well promote progress on the implementation of the five objectives and the two conditions. We trust that the political forces in the country will find adequate
solutions on the two objectives that remain to be settled. High Representative Lajcak could, once again, have a contribution to make toward achieving this result.

Italy calls on the Bosnian leadership to focus its efforts in this direction and to refrain from statements and acts challenging the structures of the State as defined by the Dayton agreement. The people of Bosnia-Herzegovina have demonstrated their strong and undisputed wish to live in a peaceful, stable and prosperous multiethnic environment. The Bosnian leaders must act accordingly. They should not indulge in confrontational practices that have reaped so much damage in their Country.

The developments are achieved, Bosnia-Herzegovina could significantly advance along the path of democratic stabilization and in the direction of the EU.

Mr. President,

Italy remains committed to Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are present in the country with a large contingent in EUFOR-ALTHEA. The international military presence is now under Italian command. We confirm this policy also for the future and we look forward to working together with the Bosnian leadership and with all the international organizations operating in the country on addressing the challenges I have outlined in a coordinated manner.
Mr. President,

the Security Council traveled to Afghanistan from 21 to 28 November, guided by the agreed terms of reference that were recently circulated as an official document of the Council. I believe that the Mission achieved its main goal of developing a first hand assessment of the situation in the country, at a critical juncture. I am convinced that, following this visit, future Council deliberations on Afghanistan will indeed be better informed.

Mr. President,

I wish to thanks all colleagues who participated to the mission for their outstanding contribution to our discussions in Afghanistan. I also wish to thank the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, Ambassador Zahir Tanin, for his kindness in accompanying the Mission and his effectiveness in facilitating the meetings with the Afghan Authorities. Obviously, it would have
been impossible to undertake this visit, under challenging conditions, without the flawless organization by the UN Secretariat and UNAMA, as well as the highly professional logistical and security support provided by ISAF. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Pakistan, Ambassador Haroon, of the United Arab Emirates, Ambassador Al-Jarman, of Kuwait, Ambassador Al-Murad, and of Qatar, Ambassador Al-Nasser, for the assistance provided for our travel by their respective Authorities. The Mission met with President Karzai and a number of his Ministers; Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Chairmen of Parliamentary Committees and other members of Parliament; the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Independent Electoral Commission; the Secretary-General of NATO, its Senior Civilian Representative in Kabul and representatives of the ISAF; members of the diplomatic community, including the European Union troika and the Head of EUPOL; civil society organizations; national and international NGOs; UNAMA senior staff and the United Nations Country Team. The Mission was followed with attention by the Afghan media and public opinion. The Mission also visited Herat, where it met with the UNAMA regional office, the Provincial Governor and other Afghan officials, and the Provincial Reconstruction Team. In Herat, the Mission noted that the activities of the PRT were well-received by provincial leaders. The Governor and members of the Provincial Council underlined the importance of the quick-impact assistance projects implemented by the Herat PRT.

Mr. President,

while the mission report is being prepared, I would like to anticipate a few findings based on the messages that we emphasized during the final press conference. First, we borrowed from Foreign Minister Spanta the expression
that Afghanistan is facing a difficult security situation, but not a security crisis. This qualification is based on the acknowledgment that the insurgency is concentrated in specific regions and does not offer any alternative model of Government, despite the illusion it creates of being omnipresent. At the same time, it is obvious that Afghanistan is faced with daunting and multi-faceted challenges. In addressing these problems, it is important to avoid any inclination to frustration, or worse, inconclusive discussions between Afghanistan and its friends within the international community. We should rather redouble our joint efforts in a spirit of partnership.

Mr. President,

there are important points of progress that invite a sense of cautious optimism for the future: the improvement in relations with Pakistan, that was emphasized by President Karzai and Minister Spanta; the recent Cabinet appointments, which seem to have brought increased energy, for example in the fight against corruption; the significant reduction in the area of opium cultivation - 19 percent - reported by UNODC; the commitment to improve sub-national governance, including the launch of the Afghanistan Social Outreach Programme; and the registration of nearly two million Afghans in the first two phases of the voter registration project without major security incident. These gains must be built upon, especially in the year to come.

Mr. President,

the “Afghanization” of the security sector and the operational improvement of the Afghan Security Forces are crucial components of the stabilization process. The international actors reiterated their commitment to meeting Afghan requests to accelerate this progress. Thanks to the increased capacity of the Afghan National Army (ANA), ISAF-only operations are now rather an exception. On police reform, the new Minister of the
Interior, Mr. Hanif Atmar, called for an increase in the number of mentors and trainers, including at the district level. An enhanced contribution is in particular expected from the EU police mission, EUPOL. Minister Atmar expressed his acknowledgement that the Government needed to create a change in the public perception of the police and improve its accountability.

Mr. President, the impact of the conflict on civilians is of particular concern and was the subject of in-depth discussions during the visit. The vast majority of civilian casualties are caused by the insurgents, who deliberately target civilians as part of their strategy. We were reassured by the close attention ISAF pays to avoiding civilian casualties and by recent steps to reduce casualties and provide redress when they do occur.

Mr. President, free, fair and inclusive elections in 2009 are necessary to renew the legitimacy of the Afghan Authorities and to win back the full confidence of the people. The Independent Electoral Commission appeared fully committed to achieving this goal, in accordance with the Afghan Constitution. President Karzai stressed the importance of elections taking place in all parts of the country. On national reconciliation, we noted an increasing consensus among Afghan interlocutors on the concept that any dialogue with anti-government elements must be conducted by the Afghan authorities from a position of strength, and that the renunciation of violence and respect for the Afghan Constitution must constitute the red lines of any negotiation. Negotiations are therefore a complement to the fight against terrorism, not an alternative. The process must lead to democratization, and not to an increased influence of the Taliban obscurantism on the Afghan society. While many Afghans, including President Karzai, called for discussions to end the
violence, none of the Mission’s interlocutors wanted to see the Taliban return to power.

Mr. President,

the significant improvement of Afghanistan’s relationships with its neighbours was welcomed by the Mission. The Security Council has consistently supported an approach that helps to bring security through a regional approach that also supports regional economic development. The Mission also welcomed cooperation between the Afghan Government and its neighbours on specific issues that promote improved border control, such as counter-narcotics and refugees. It is to be hoped that current regional developments will not affect such positive dynamics. Afghan interlocutors welcomed planned international initiatives to foster cooperation in the region.

Mr. President,

in the area of development assistance, the Mission was informed of perceived inefficiencies in the delivery of aid. The international community is expected to show more transparency and better coordinate its efforts, in accordance with the Paris Declaration. On humanitarian assistance, the Mission was briefed on measures being adopted to ensure food security during the winter season. At the same time, concerns were expressed that funding was not in place to provide food aid after March. Donors are encouraged to channel their contributions through the Afghan Government or the World Food Programme.

Mr. President,

given recent trends to intimidate human rights defenders and recent reversals in impunity and freedom of expression, we encouraged the Afghan Authorities to reinvigorate their efforts to uphold human rights, in particular those of women and children.

Finally, Mr. President,

I would like to put a special emphasis on the expressions of strong support for UNAMA’s coordination role that we
heard throughout our meetings with both international actors and Afghan Authorities. President Karzai expressed complete satisfaction with the cooperation of Special Representative Kai Eide. The SRSG enjoys the full trust and respect of his partners in Kabul. Consequently, many interlocutors expressed the view that UNAMA should be properly empowered to tap its potential. UN Member States are therefore urged to provide UNAMA with the financial and human resources needed to live up to its enhanced mandate defined by Resolution 1806. Thank you, Mr. President.
I too would like, on behalf of my delegation and on my own account, to thank Mr. Moreno-Ocampo, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, for his important briefing. I reiterate Italy’s full support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and for the work of the Prosecutor. Italy appreciates the difficult circumstances in which the Prosecutor is conducting this investigation and wishes to renew its strong confidence in him and in the Court. Italy believes that full support for him by the Security Council should emerge from today’s debate.

More than three years have passed since the adoption of resolution 1593 (2005). On that occasion the Council decided to send a strong signal that peace and justice must be pursued hand in hand. Today we are being told once again that appalling crimes against civilians, including heinous violence against women, continue to be committed in Darfur in a climate of impunity. And we are
being told that Sudanese institutions are still not cooperating with the International Criminal Court, while worrisome allegations are increasingly being made concerning the continuing involvement of the Sudanese Government in facilitating the activities of the Janjaweed militias.

The need for a more effective approach to the conflict in Darfur, encompassing the humanitarian, security, political and rule-of-law dimensions, is today more urgent than ever in order to restore and maintain a lasting peace. There is no doubt that bringing to justice those responsible for serious and continued violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law cannot be avoided, in order to contribute to peace in Darfur and throughout the country.

Italy welcomes the action undertaken by the Prosecutor with regard to the attacks against the African Union peacekeeping mission at Haskanita in 2007. The Rome Statute is clear in qualifying that type of crime as a war crime. At the same time, we strongly condemn all attacks against the civilian population, non-governmental organizations and humanitarian organizations, as described in the Prosecutor’s report.

Resolution 1593 (2005) must be fully implemented. I should like to recall that in its paragraph 2 it requires that “the Government of Sudan and all other parties to the conflict in Darfur, shall cooperate fully with and provide any necessary assistance to the Court and the Prosecutor pursuant to this resolution”.

We are concerned by the reports of continued lack of cooperation, to which I have referred, and by the fact that the two arrest warrants that have been issued have not yet been executed. The European Union has issued many clear statements calling on the Government of the Sudan to cooperate unconditionally with the ICC and to surrender the two individuals for whom it has issued arrest
warrants. It may also be appropriate to recall that the Government of the Sudan and all other parties to the conflict in Darfur are under a specific obligation to comply with Security Council resolutions. In that regard, we believe that the Security Council should carefully and promptly consider the issue of the possible adoption of individual sanctions with respect to those against whom arrest warrants have been issued.

Italy encourages the ongoing dialogue and diplomatic efforts deployed to date by the ICC, the African Union and the League of Arab States, as cited in the report. Fighting impunity is an important priority for the international community; but that principle, which is at the core of the Rome Statute of the ICC, has yet to be translated into consistent practice. The Court is entitled to intervene only when national authorities are unwilling or unable to genuinely prosecute. All States are under the primary obligation to prevent or to punish offences committed in their territories.

It is still possible for the Government of the Sudan, in the context of Darfur, to prove that it can prosecute and punish those who have committed crimes, at all levels, in its national courts. Justice, however, can no longer be postponed.
Mr. President,
Allow me to express our warmest welcome to the Foreign Minister of Serbia, H.E. Vuk Jeremic, and to the Foreign Minister of Kosovo, H.E. Skender Hyseni. I also welcome the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Lamberto Zannier, to whom goes our deepest appreciation for his efforts and good offices with all parties and key stakeholders at this very delicate juncture. Mr. President, In these four months we have been facing considerable challenges. A major reconfiguration effort has been carried out in view of UNMIK’s downsizing, while the EU will be taking on unprecedented responsibilities, through its largest ever ESDP mission. Through EULEX, the EU will assist the Kosovo authorities in forming a multi-ethnic State. At the same time, it will contribute to guaranteeing EU standards in Rule of Law for Kosovars, and offer a clear signal of a EU perspective for this young
country. The Secretary-General’s Report signals the growing difficulties that the Special Representative is facing in exercising his mandate after Kosovo’s Declaration of Independence and the entering into force of its Constitution. The time has come, therefore, for us to strengthen the EU’s presence on the ground. Significantly the Secretary-General has stated: “I expect EULEX to move forward with its deployment in the coming period and assume responsibilities in policing, justice and customs, under the overall authority of the U.N., within the United Nations umbrella headed by my Special Representative, and in accordance with Resolution 1244”. UNMIK and EULEX are already working well and closely together so that the EU mission may begin deployment, ensuring that the reconfiguration is carried out effectively and according to plan. We are also particularly pleased to note that dialogue with Belgrade and consultations with Pristina have brought about a framework agreement on the Six Points outlined in the Secretary-General’s 12 June Report. Through this agreement the SRSG Zannier has produced a blueprint for Serb majority areas in key sectors, such as police, justice and customs, in which EULEX will concentrate its activities. We take note of Pristina’s concerns over the Six Points and, at the same time, we commend its commitment to favouring the prompt deployment of EULEX, with which it is willing to work. We are confident that Belgrade will also cooperate with EULEX. We trust that the work done in the run up to this Security Council meeting will contribute to creating a constructive climate allowing EULEX to perform its duties throughout Kosovo, including the North. EULEX must be perceived by all local populations as a fundamental element for building a multi-ethnic society, in which people can live and prosper by standards of democracy and rule of law in line with those of the EU.
Mr. President,
Italy fully supports the way forward outlined in the Secretary-General’s Report, particularly with regard to EULEX. It believes that carrying out what he suggested will be to the benefit of stability in Serbia, Kosovo and the region on the whole. Mr. President,
Italy is one of the main contributors to KFOR, as it will also be for EULEX, and favours an enhanced role for the OSCE. NATO must remain a key player in contributing to a safe and secure environment and in performing duties in connection with institution building in Kosovo. Its present structure should, therefore, not be changed. Italy remains committed to contributing to the efforts of the international community in Kosovo, to regional democratic stability and to the European future for all countries of the Western Balkans, including Serbia, and we look forward to a prompt entry into force of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with Belgrade.
Thank you, Mister President. Mister President, at the outset, I wish to express deepest appreciation for your presence today to the Costa Rica Delegation and for convening this debate on strengthening collective security through general regulation and reduction of armaments. I have been asked by my government to convey to your Excellency a sincere welcome, underlining the high significance of you chairing this Council today. I would also like to express appreciation to the vice-president and foreign minister of Panama, his Excellency, Samuel Lewis Navarro, and to thank the High Representative of the Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, Ambassador Duarte, for his intervention. Italy aligns itself with the statement that the French Presidency will deliver on behalf of the European Union. Mister President, today’s debate gives us the opportunity to examine the relationship between disarmament and peace and security,
and to reaffirm our commitment to an effective multilateral system centred on the United Nations as the best framework for co-ordinated action in this field. The link between peace and security, development and human rights is clear and undisputed. We are all committed to pursuing these goals together, knowing that there can be no peace and security without fulfilment of basic needs, and no economic development without the rule of law and respect for human rights. This connection between security, development and human rights means that gains in one area translate into positive consequences for the other two. Disarmament can indeed free resources for development, while an effective collective security system can reduce the need for military expenditures by individual States. Member States should feel that their security concerns are better addressed in a multilateral framework than in an arms race. Strengthening collective security arrangements at both the global and regional levels can generate the confidence needed to promote disarmament. The Security Council has a special role to play. To be credible, it must be able to address crises at an early stage, prevent them from degenerating into open conflicts, and find solutions when they do. Close cooperation with regional organisations and arrangements is often crucial. The Council has often debated the role of regional organisations and favoured their role in managing the crises that concern them directly. A new security consensus to effectively face today’s multifaceted threats should be based on a close relationship between the United Nations Security Council and regional organisations. In 1993 the UN Disarmament Commission adopted guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament. Regional and global approaches to disarmament are complementary and should be pursued simultaneously. The toolbox of arms control and confidence-building measures developed in Europe,
for example, could make a useful contribution to the
global efforts of the United Nations. In addition to the
Security Council’s primary responsibility for the
maintenance of peace and security, we would like to
highlight the efforts of other UN bodies, namely the
General Assembly, its two subsidiary bodies – the First
Committee and the Disarmament Commission – and the
Conference on Disarmament. The UN Office for
Disarmament Affairs and its regional centres also play a
role. The First Committee’s role in setting the global
disarmament agenda cannot be overstated. Nor can the
UNDC guidelines, which provide the relevant standards
for the establishment of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones.
Italy has always supported the fundamental norm-setting
activities of the Conference on Disarmament and is
committed to the immediate start and early conclusion of
negotiations of a non-discriminatory universally-
applicable Treaty banning the production of fissile
material for nuclear weapons. Therefore we fully support
efforts to make these UN bodies more effective. Their
broad membership makes them an expression of the entire
international community. This is crucial, because UN
efforts in the field of disarmament and international
security cannot succeed unless they enjoy the broadest
political support. Thank you, Mr. President
Mr. President,
I also would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Staffan de Mistura, for his very informative briefing today, and I would also like to commend his efforts for the significant results that UNAMI is achieving in supporting the Government of Iraq as he has described. Please also pass to all UNAMI staff our congratulations and our wishes for continuing the important job in the Country. The UNAMI Mission, as underlined by the Special Representative, has an essential role in addressing a significant number of very complex questions. Therefore ensuring the safety of the UN staff in Iraq remains a very high priority for the Security Council. I would like to thank Ambassador Khalilzad for his briefing on behalf of the Multinational Force Iraq (MNF-I) and Ambassador Al Bayati for his statement. Let me also associate myself with the statement of
Ambassador Ripert on behalf of the European Union. We share the Secretary-General’s assessment of the situation in Iraq in his last report. The Government of Iraq has made substantial progress in the security situation. The increasing autonomy of the Iraqi security forces is also a positive development. In this regard, I would like to note that Italy remains committed to help Iraq building its security capacities through the NATO Training Mission.

At the same time, I agree with the Secretary-General that this progress will remain fragile unless it is backed up by the national reconciliation process. All the Iraqi political forces should be encouraged to continue a political dialogue in order to solve outstanding issues and reach agreed solutions on the fundamental questions such as the structure of the Iraqi institutions and the sharing of power and resources. The ongoing constitutional review is of the utmost importance.

The political situations seems to move in the right direction. I refer in particular to the adoption of a new provincial electoral law, a major step forward that shows once again the commitment of the Iraqi political forces to democracy and dialogue.

We look forward to the holding of provincial elections, another step in building a democratic Iraq, that will empower representative local leaders and give a chance to all Iraqi political forces to remain engaged. These elections must take place in a fair and transparent manner, free of interference or intimidation from armed groups.

Mr. President,

I would like to welcome in particular the adoption of the law that provides for reserved seats for Iraqi minorities. The representation of minorities is a key element, especially in a Country like Iraq as diverse and as rich in cultures and communities. The affirmation of such a principle is of great importance.
Another top priority is the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons. Their safe and voluntary return home must be a priority. The international community should support Iraqi Government’s action as well as that of the host countries in this endeavour. There are encouraging signs – with some refugees and IDPs starting to voluntarily return – that must be consolidated.

Mr. President,
My Government organized a few days ago a conference on the issue of militias attended by representatives of all the major Iraqi political forces. The message from that meeting was clear: there is no place for militias and armed group in a democratic society. The disbandment of armed groups still existing in Iraq out of the State control and the integration of their members into Iraq’s legitimate security forces and into civilian life are therefore essential to the stabilization of the Country.

The development of a viable private sector is not only an economic priority but also a political one. It would diversify the economy and provide the alternative revenue sources needed to break the State budget’s dependency on fluctuations in the oil market. The approval of a hydrocarbons law is thus a clear priority. A vital private sector is a central element in a democratic system. In this regard, Italy reaffirms is committed to cooperate with Iraq within the framework of the International Compact and of the bilateral Friendship and Cooperation Agreement signed in 2007.

Mr. President,
My Country has been at the side of the Iraqi people and institutions in their efforts to build a democratic State that is at peace with itself and with its neighbors. Allow me to conclude by reaffirming this commitment. Thank you Mr. President.
First of all, let me express our gratitude to you, Mr. President, as well as to the other Chairs of the Security Council subsidiary bodies, Ambassador Grauls and Ambassador Jurica, for today’s briefings and for their ongoing contribution to common action against international terrorism. Italy aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union and will confine its remarks to the following points. With regard to the 1267 Committee, limited sanctions which we should design as temporary measures supplied by the Security Council are still effective and politically important. In our view, the consolidated list is a living document that should be constantly updated to address the ever-present threat of Al-Qaida and the Taliban. Resolution 1822 (2008) is an important step in the evolution of targeted sanctions into a more transparent system based on clear and fair
procedures. The Committee is now working on implementation guidelines that should reflect those principles and better reconcile the demands for security with respect for human rights. Otherwise, the longterm credibility and sustainability of the entire system will be jeopardized.

Bearing that in mind, in the upcoming weeks, the 1267 Committee will be called upon to confirm the commitment to openness, effectiveness and speed it has demonstrated so far. In that endeavour, the Committee can rely on the professionalism of the Monitoring Team, to which we should express our utmost gratitude for its significant contribution to our work.

Regarding the Counter-Terrorism Committee’s activities, the Security Council’s renewal of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) mandate, confirming its main tasks and responsibilities while endorsing an organizational plan, lays the groundwork for more efficient action. To that end, Italy appreciates the efforts made by Executive Director Smith to improve dialogue with Member States. The preliminary implementation assessments and the global survey of implementation are new tools to enhance that dialogue and to make it more consistent and productive. We encourage the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the CTED to continue working with regional and external organizations, such as the Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the Group of Eight (G8). Italy confirms its commitment to strengthening that cooperation during its G8 presidency next year. The recent biannual report on the Committee’s activities clearly show that, while important progress has been made, further efforts are required to fully implement resolution 1540 (2004), in particular in the areas of biotechnology, illicit brokering and the financing of proliferation. Consistent with the new approach envisaged in resolution 1810 (2008), we
welcome the Committee’s recent work in outreach and international assistance to promote compliance with the resolution 1540 (2004). In that context, I wish to recall the seminar organized in Rome in October by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Istituto Affari Internazionali on coordinating regional and global efforts to combat the terrorist of weapons of mass destruction. Italy also supports sharing relevant experience and lessons learned with the membership and enhancing cooperation between the 1540, Al-Qaida and Counter-Terrorism Committees. We look forward to the adoption of the 1540 Committee’s programme of work and to the comprehensive review of the implementation status of resolution 1540 (2004) due 31 January 2009.

Let me conclude with a few words about the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted in September. Member States have the responsibility to continue on that track to achieve progress in all areas of that broad plan of action. We welcome the Task Force’s efforts thus far to achieve specific goals in many important areas, and we appreciate the contribution that both the Monitoring Team and the CTED have provided. Italy believes that these joint efforts should continue in order to take every opportunity to strengthen this cooperation.
Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important meeting on the implementation of the landmark Resolution 1325. Let me also thank Special Advisor Mayanja, Executive Director Alberdi, Under Secretary General Le Roy and Ms. Taylor for their statements. Italy aligns itself with the position expressed by France on behalf of the European Union. Mr. President, The adoption of Resolution 1820 last June was a milestone in the Security Council’s efforts to protect women and a major step forward in the implementation of Resolution 1325. Last June Resolution clearly states that sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, when used as a war tactic, is a matter of peace and security, and therefore a responsibility of the Security Council. And this aspect has been well underlined by Executive Director Alberdi. Women cannot participate effectively in the decision-making process unless their security is guaranteed, abuses
are prosecuted, and blanket amnesties are off the table. Tragically, sexual violence continues to be used as a weapon of war to destroy the very fabric of society. The Secretary-General’s report foreseen by next June is therefore crucial. We believe that it should include detailed information on sexual violence in conflict situations which are on the Council’s agenda, particularly on perpetrators and, more in general, on emerging patterns. Mr. President, While Resolution 1820 was a major step in implementing the protection pillar of Resolution 1325, action is needed also on other pillars. We thus welcome the President’s initiative to focus today’s debate on women’s participation. As the Secretary-General indicated in his Report, “In most conflict and post conflict societies women remain excluded from conflict prevention and gender-based early warning indicators are largely ignored.” Far too often, women are excluded from negotiating tables in peace processes, and that happens because of lack of political will and of adequate resources. The participation of women to all phases of conflict resolution and peacebuilding has a clear, vast potential. I think, for example, of the participation of Somali women as a “sixth clan” in the National Reconciliation Conference; of the key contribution assured by Burundi’s women to the Arusha process. As this example shows, their participation in the peace process since its inception was a main factor in encouraging a relevant segment of Burundi’s civil society to develop remarkable leadership skills, to become a more effective political actor, and to be perceived as a legitimate participant in national recovery efforts. This is not just a question of how many women are included in a political or decision-making process. It is about enabling them to champion issues that are also vital to their empowerment. This is only possible through the full engagement of civil society and women’s organization;
we should at the same time consider their need of resources, such as training and capacity-building programmes. In this field, the United Nations can contribute to further progress by, for instance, considering how participation of women can be better reflected in peace-keeping missions’ mandates and by providing those missions with needed expertise and resources. Other practical steps could be equally considered: - appointment of more women as Special Representatives of the Secretary General and Special Envoys; - inclusion of a gender component in all UN peace-keeping and political missions; - establishment of structured gender expertise in the Department for Political Affairs’ mediation capacities. In the same light, creating a strengthened and consolidated UN entity for women seems to be of critical importance.

Mr. President, The Peace Building Commission has proved that it can make a difference in redressing inequalities and creating the conditions for sustainable development on solid, non-discriminatory foundations. It does so through the inclusion of gender perspectives in its Integrated Peace Building Strategies. The Commission must continue to engage women’s organizations in every phase of its work, ensuring their full involvement in the planning, elaboration and monitoring of its integrated strategies.

Mr. President, Women are key social, political and economic actors in the success of stabilization and rebuilding efforts. At the same time, they are the stakeholders that, more than others, can face discrimination. My Government, in its firm commitment to women’s rights, would like to confirm on this occasion its engagement to promote the full implementation of Resolution 1325 in all U.N. forums.
I wish to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti, and to his delegation and to thank him for providing the Council with updated information and views on the situation around the border with Eritrea. What His Excellency Ismail Omar Guelleh has just said about Somalia is fully and vigorously shared by my country. The tragedy affecting the Somali people and the wider regional impact the Somali crisis is having requires an adequate and urgent response by the international community and by this Council. I would also like to reiterate my Government’s appreciation for the efforts made by the President of the Republic of Djibouti in the reconciliation process in Somalia. I also wish to thank the Permanent Representative of Eritrea, Ambassador Desta, for taking part in today’s debate and conveying his Government’s perspective.
Italy shares the concerns expressed by President Guelleh on the ongoing militarization of the area of Ras Doumeira, which could become another source of instability in a region already strained by heavy security and by humanitarian and development challenges.

Italy commends the Government of Djibouti for the restraint exercised since the outbreak of this situation, as well as for having withdrawn its troops, as requested of both parties by the Security Council presidential statement of 12 June (S/PRST/2008/20). In the face of its repeated offers to engage, Djibouti’s sense of frustration is understandable and deserves our full solidarity.

Conversely, my country regrets the lack of engagement of Eritrea with regional and United Nations efforts to facilitate a bilateral settlement, in particular the fact that the Eritrean forces have not responded to international calls for withdrawal and the lack of cooperation with the United Nations factfinding mission. I hope that the presence of Ambassador Desta among us today and his contribution to the debate may be a sign of renewed will to take part constructively in a solution to the present situation.

The United Nations fact-finding mission has produced a balanced and informative report (S/2008/602) that provides a number of useful proposals. Reactivating dialogue and returning to the status quo ante are immediate priorities that need to be accompanied by long-term sustainable solutions. My Government shares the view contained in the report that the final settlement of the border between Djibouti and Eritrea would be a real contribution to resolving the current crisis. We encourage both parties to agree on a framework to address this issue from a legal perspective. Like France, Italy is ready to place at the disposal of the parties its historical and
technical knowledge of the process leading to the current border situation. We see the need for a consistent approach to all border disputes in the subregion. The dispute between Yemen and Eritrea was resolved by a decision of the International Court of Justice. The border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea was entrusted by the parties to the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, whose decisions need to be applied on the ground. We do not see why a similar model cannot be found by Djibouti and Eritrea to settle the border issue in Ras Doumeira.

Finally, I would like to like to stress the importance of the facilitating role of regional organizations, namely the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the League of Arab States, whose efforts must be fully sustained by the Security Council. A close collaboration between those efforts and initiatives of the Security Council is the key to a successful conflict prevention strategy. At the same time, we should make sure that the present crisis does not disappear from the radar screen of the Council and that progress is closely monitored in order that we can adjust our action accordingly.
Mr. President, I would like first of all to congratulate you for currying the Presidency of the Security Council and to express my appreciation to Ambassador Kafando and his team for the excellent work done during his Presidency last month.

Mr. President, I would like to join other members in welcoming the adoption of this resolution, which calls for urgent action against piracy off the coast of Somalia.

My Government is confident that this resolution will contribute to a more effective and coordinated international action against piracy off the coast of Somalia, to the benefit of Somalia, the region and the broader maritime community.

The European Union – as underlined by Ambassador Ripert - is receptive of this call and is working exactly in this direction.
I wish to thank France for having spared no efforts in building consensus. Today’s unanimous adoption demonstrates that the Council is able to take effective multilateral action to meet the legitimate expectations of the international community.

Mr. President, this resolution addresses one aspect, I would say, one consequence, of the situation in Somalia. I cannot but add my voice to that of Ambassador Kumalo and stress the need for the Council to effectively address the Somali crisis in all its dimensions, political, humanitarian and security.

The victims and the wounded among the humanitarian operators show how serious the situation is and are a clear evidence of the need to act.

Thank you Mr. President
We should discuss, as we are doing, the many complex elements of the situation in the Middle East. We all, I am sure, want to work towards reaching a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region. On the peace process, I think we must safeguard the momentum of the negotiations and keep encouraging the parties to proceed with negotiations. It is important indeed that these last months of negotiations before the end of the year show some concrete achievements. Unfortunately, I think the clock is ticking against peace.

Italy will continue, together with other European States, its determined efforts to build on the Annapolis process. We consider the security of the State of Israel as non-negotiable. We feel that Israeli security can only be truly guaranteed if the Palestinian State has solid institutions founded on the rule of law and good governance. In that regard, I would like to sincerely commend President
Abbas for his constant engagement and determination. It is, nevertheless, important that the Arab countries also continue to provide robust public, political and economic support for the efforts of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The current Israeli settlement policies do not seem to facilitate the fundamental understanding that is needed on both sides to be able to continue the process that was launched in Annapolis with the agreement of both sides. That is why Italy firmly believes that moderation is crucial to the peace process. We understand the delicate nature of this issue for Israelis. However, with the frankness that characterizes a true friendship, we must exhort Israeli leaders to thoroughly reflect on the issue, to come to a more satisfactory solution, to restore international legality and, I would say, to avoid undermining the credibility of Palestinian negotiators before public opinion.

At the same time, the Palestinian Authority must be encouraged in its endeavours to consolidate security, particularly the control and repression of terrorism. The situation in the Gaza Strip, a territory that has suffered for too long, cannot be forgotten. The further worsening of the humanitarian situation and the progressive deterioration of respect for human rights is cause for great concern. In particular, the permanent threat posed by Hamas to Israel is not acceptable. We must also achieve soon the liberation of Mr. Shalit. In that perspective, intra-Palestinian reconciliation remains fundamental. We welcome once again the commitment of President Abbas, and we support the efforts of the Arab League and Egypt for the full restoration of constitutional legality and the reopening of old crossing points. Israel will be called upon to make difficult but indispensable decisions in this process. It is, I have to say, to the merit of former Prime Minister Olmert and Foreign Minister Livni that they have
publicly recognized that it is in the best interest of Israel to have a solid and democratic Palestinian State on its borders. Our final goal is peace between Israelis and Palestinians, but also between Israel and all the Arab countries.

In the delicate transitional period, the leadership of the Quartet will be crucial. I am confident of the political commitment of all its members — and I stress, all its members.

I would also like to say a brief word on Lebanon. I welcome the Doha agreement and the important political achievements of recent months. I am seriously concerned, and Italy is concerned, about the resurgence of violence with the assassination of Mr. Aridi, which we strongly condemn. We believe in the determination of the Lebanese population to reject any form of provocation and in its will to progress towards reconciliation. We hope that commitments undertaken by Syria on the occasion of President Sleiman’s visit to Damascus will be promptly implemented.

We also believe that the negotiations between Syria and Israel will contribute to the comprehensive stabilization of the area. We hope that Syria will become a leading and positive actor for peace and stabilization.

Finally, we reaffirm our support for the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon, and we will continue to play our role in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, an important factor for the country’s stabilization.

In conclusion, when we talk about security in the Middle East, our top priority is and should be to face the very serious threat posed every day by Iran’s nuclear activities. We should not forget this.
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON “MEDIATION AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES” - STATEMENT BY THE HON. FRANCO FRATTINI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

I wish to thank the Presidency, Burkina Faso, for organizing this high-level meeting. The mediation and settlement of disputes lies at the heart of the Organization’s action: namely, its duty to assure peace and security in the world.

Italy confirms its full support for the action that all the United Nations bodies take to prevent conflicts, within their respective areas of expertise.

The Security Council must strengthen and improve its mechanisms for interacting with the Secretary-General and his representatives and envoys engaged in the various Chapter VI actions to settle international disputes. At the same time parameters and modalities have to be identified to enable mediation to start at an early stage, to prevent disputes from degenerating into open conflicts.

The close relationship between peace and security, on the one hand, and development, human rights, and rule of
law, on the other, signifies that the other UN bodies also perform mediation activities in a broader sense. In this framework, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have a contribution to make, especially in the definition of general principles. But other bodies, such as the Peace-Building Commission and the Human Rights Council, also have a role to play. Peacebuilding often requires the inclusion of important aspects of mediation in a political stabilization process, namely in the implementation phase of a peace agreement. The special procedures of the Human Rights Council (rapporteurs, independent experts, etc.) can also be employed to define aspects – such as respect for human rights and free and fair elections – that are often vital to the success of mediation efforts.

The Secretary-General has a leading role in this field. This is why we support the initiatives to strengthen the Secretariat’s mediation capacity, in particular through the expansion of the Department of Political Affairs and the creation of the Mediation Support Unit within the Department. In addition to streamlining existing instruments, this upgrading exercise requires adequate resources. In the perspective of an early-alert system, we welcome a more effective and better coordinated United Nations presence in the field, through the local offices of the DPA, political and peace missions, United Nations Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies in the framework of System Wide Coherence.

The capacity of regional organizations should be strengthened by favouring the conclusion of agreements between them and the United Nations. We would support having the Security Council invite the mediators appointed by regional organizations to report on their activities in this forum on a more frequent basis. The European Union has been one of the first Organizations to
work toward assuring effective cooperation with the United Nations.

One particularly effective modality is the appointment of joint mediators, holding a mandate from both the relevant regional organization and the United Nations. The advantage of such a figure is twofold: he or she will be more knowledgeable of a local reality and thus better able to influence the negotiating process; at the same time, by placing the mediation under the UN aegis it comes to represent the international community as a whole and thus gain in universal legitimization and political support.

On the basis of the experience that Italy has gained since the early 1990s through our action in Mozambique, we believe that one of the keys to successful mediation is the active role of civil society. Non-governmental organizations can – when strongly rooted in the territory or interacting effectively with the parties to the conflict – make a unique contribution. Forms of concrete interaction with these stakeholders, also on the part of the Security Council, can be reinvigorated in view of already consolidated experiences. In the framework of civil society’s contribution, close attention should be paid to the role of women, which the Security Council has often acknowledged (pursuant to resolution 1325/2000 on women, peace, and security).

Finally, Mr. President, Italy’s experience teaches us that mediation does not stop at the negotiation of a peace agreement. It then has to be implemented. We could call this activity micro-mediation with the interested parties, and it is pertinent to the action, for example, of peacekeeping contingents, which interact on a daily basis in the field with the parties concerned. In this case it is a question of settling a wide variety of problems, ranging from humanitarian assistance to the organization of elections or the protection of minorities, but that often
closely affect the issues or interests at the root of the conflict.
In conclusion, I wish to assure the strong support of Italy for the Declaration that we are about to adopt.
Mr. President,
I would like to thank Ambassador Grauls for his comprehensive briefing and for his efficient leadership of the Committee established by Resolution 1737.
Consistent with the position of the European Union, Italy remains committed to solving the Iranian nuclear issue through a dual track approach, based on political dialogue and a full implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1737, 1747 and 1803.
In this regard, I wish to recall that on 7 August 2008 the EU Council adopted Common Position 2008/652/CFSP, aimed at implementing Resolution 1803(2008). This Common Position contains inter alia concrete measures to exercise vigilance, as required by Resolution 1803, on relevant financial activities, which are inspired by the work of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), expressly mentioned in Resolution 1803.
In a broader perspective, I wish to underline that combating proliferation financing is a Italy’s priority and an integral part of the global efforts against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Therefore, the Bank of Italy has issued several warnings and are outreaching to the banking system on the need to combat WMD proliferation as well as on the risks involved in maintaining business relations, even if unknowingly, with proliferating entities. An outreach effort is underway to raise the private sector’s awareness of measures adopted pursuant to UN Resolutions. A seminar on this issue will be held in Rome on September 25th, organized by the Ministry of Finance together with the United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

Thank you, Mr. President.
Let me first of all welcome to the Security Council the Permanent Representative of Georgia, Ambassador Alasania. Let me also thank the members of the Secretariat for their briefings on the most recent developments in Georgia. Russia’s decision to recognize the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia has made an alarming crisis even more complex. The Russian Government’s decision has no basis in international law, and Italy has already expressed a clear position in that regard. The territorial integrity of Georgia is an uncontestable principle, as numerous United Nations resolutions have underlined. During this phase, the immediate goal is to achieve a peaceful solution to the crisis and the complete implementation of the six-point platform that the French presidency of the European Union (EU) agreed upon with the parties. The priority is to implement the international
monitoring system, which represents an essential element of the platform. It is important for the Security Council to continue working towards a consensus resolution that incorporates the six points and the appropriate clarifications needed: six points whose full validity Russia does indeed recognize. At the same time, negotiations should continue within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to finalize a new ministerial decision, required to deploy additional observers and to define their duties. My country is part of OSCE efforts to send a monitoring mission, and we intend to contribute to that mission. We should seek a solution to the crisis in all relevant international forums. The role of the European Union is crucial, as underlined in recent European Union declarations, to which my country fully subscribes. From the start, my Government has supported the French presidency in its efforts, efforts which led to the approval of the six points. We expect the European Council, at next Monday’s meeting, to express a firm position and to reiterate at the highest political level the need to fully implement what has already been agreed and to reaffirm the will of the EU to contribute to the implementation of the agreement, particularly as far as the international monitoring system is concerned.

In the next few days, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs will travel to Tbilisi and Moscow — right after the meeting of the European Council. My country, at this difficult juncture for Georgia, is close to that country and intends to contribute actively to international efforts to improve the difficult humanitarian situation. In addition to sending humanitarian flights, we have allocated funds for the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme. We would like to echo what our French colleague just said and to draw attention in particular to the need to ensure freedom of access for all
humanitarian organizations and entities operating in the region.
We appreciate the efforts made by the Secretary-General; it is up to the United Nations to take every appropriate measure to support the people affected by the conflict. It is in the international community’s interest to prevent the current crisis from jeopardizing global stability at a moment when what is needed is the greatest possible solidarity among States in addressing the major challenges we are facing: the fight against terrorism and nuclear proliferation, and the great regional crises, first and foremost those in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Mr. President,
let me first of all join my colleagues in welcoming the Secretary General. His presence at this Debate is yet one more confirmation of the personal engagement of the Secretary General in the very important issue the Security Council is discussing today.

Mr. President,
I wish to thank you for convening this Open Debate and for the excellent concept paper that you have circulated. The concept paper is an effective and enlightening instrument for our work, enabling us to better understand what has been achieved so far two years after the issuance of Presidential Note S/2006/507, and what remains to be done. Today’s Debate is of the utmost importance. Too much time has passed since the last Open Debate of the Security Council on the issue of its working methods. Opening the Council to the general
membership for this Debate is a concrete development that we fully supported during the Consultations of recent weeks.

A reform of the Council’s working methods represents, for Italy, a priority objective in the United Nations reform process. Maintaining a direct and focused dialogue with the membership, particularly on the issue of working methods has always been a fundamental point of reference for Italy. Our goal is to fulfill the expectations of the general membership and to counter the risk of inertia within the Council. This in order to foster a sense of ownership of the Council among the general membership and, conversely, to prevent the Council from being perceived as isolated from the rest of the UN system.

Italy’s action has long been characterized by its constructive attitude toward Security Council reform in all its aspects. We have actively participated in the work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. We remain committed to a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects. Working methods have also a clear priority, in order to improve the imbalance in the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council. The desire for a constructive dialogue with the rest of the membership, also on working methods, has always been a characteristic of the Uniting for Consensus Movement and it remains a goal to which we are committed.

For Italy, transparency, openness, efficiency and interaction with the rest of the membership are crucial to a substantial improvement in the Council’s working methods. Many ideas for improvements have been voiced: fuller access to the Security Council, also through better and more regular communications by the Council to the general membership; more thematic debates in the General Assembly; improved and more
detailed annual reports to the GA; renewed impetus for public meetings; an effective system to prevent overlap and assure transparency in the subsidiary bodies. We also consider of the most crucial importance the close and effective cooperation between the Secretariat and the Council. As for a better use of the existing format of private meetings, Mr. President, among the many possible improvements, we believe that a mechanism has to be established in order to allow interested member States to be heard confidentially, upon their request, in what we could call private consultations in the Chamber. In particular circumstances, all member States should have the opportunity to explain, in a formal setting, their position, within a direct dialogue with members of the Security Council.

These and other tasks, Mr. President, have to be completed through an adequate redefinition of the rules that govern the working methods. It is a goal that Council members should strive for on a daily basis. In this regard, I wish to praise the decision by the Vietnamese Presidency in July to inform non-Council members of the preparation of the “Annual Report on the Work of the Security Council.”

On the interaction with the membership, allow me to bring up the issues of involving regional organizations in the Council’s activities and of the contribution they can make to its actions. A great deal has been achieved in this area in recent years. I think, for example, of the development of regular contacts and meetings between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Security Council with regard to conflict prevention, crisis situations, and the deployment of peace-keeping missions on the African continent.

To a growing extent regional organizations interact with the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council and contribute, for example, to the effectiveness of the global
action in the fight against terrorism and the application of sanctions regimes. Also, in this regard, the European Union plays a fundamental role. The EU has formed a partnership with the UN to cooperate in the area of crisis management and peacekeeping operations. From the Balkans to the Middle East, from Africa to Asia, the EU and the UN are working together on the ground even under very difficult circumstances.

Mr. President, regional organizations are the great new realities of today's international relations. Let me restate how crucial has become to take into consideration this trend of our time and let it be adequately reflected in this Council.

I thank you Mr. President.
I wish first of all to reconfirm our full confidence in the impartiality and objectivity of the Secretariat and to express our thanks to Under-Secretary-General Pascoe and Assistant Secretary-General Mulet for their valuable briefings.

While we have clarified our position in all the previous open meetings and consultations of the Security Council, three or four times already, I would like again to add our voice to support the unconditional restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, as a first step. I would like also to call for the immediate cessation of hostilities and the restoration of the situation prevailing prior to 6 August. I would thus like to call for an immediate end to all ground, air and sea operations in the area.

From that perspective, we wish to express support for the joint mediation efforts of the European Union and the
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and for the specific ideas outlined by the French presidency of the European Union. We believe that the extension of the hostilities to Abkhazia is a further source of deep concern and that all parties must immediately comply with resolution 1808 (2008) in all its aspects. We welcome the opening of a humanitarian area to protect civilians from the consequences of these events and to ease suffering in this very difficult situation. Finally, we believe that the gravity of the situation requires immediate action by the Security Council.
Mr. President,
Italy fully aligns itself with the statement to be pronounced by the Permanent Representative of France on behalf of the European Union. I wish to make only a few comments on the challenges that we are facing at this juncture.
At the outset, I wish to warmly thank Mr. Eide and Mr. Holmes for their clear and comprehensive briefings on the situation in Afghanistan. We are pleased to note that the new leadership of UNAMA is living up to the high expectations placed on it by this Council and the international community at large.
Unfortunately, the report of the Secretary-General describes a difficult situation on the ground, with increasing terrorist activities relying on asymmetric tactics which result in high levels of civilian casualties, as illustrated by Mr. Holmes and by the heinous suicide
attack against the Indian Embassy in Kabul of two days ago. In this regard, we express our most sincere condolences to the people and the Governments of Afghanistan and India. The continued use of civilians as human shields and of other similar indiscriminate, maybe instrumental, and captious techniques by the insurgents is well documented and raises the utmost concern, as opposed to the clear commitment and efforts of the Afghan and international military forces to avoid any collateral damages in their operations.

Mr. President, against this challenging background, it is undeniable that the Paris Conference has generated a new, positive momentum for the mutual efforts of the Afghan Government and the international community, in a spirit of strengthened partnership. The generous pledges made in support of the Afghan National Development Strategy were matched by a renewed Afghan commitment to pursue political and economic reform and to fight corruption. We can not defeat the enemies of Afghanistan without mutual trust and understanding. From its side, Italy is stepping up further its long-standing commitment through new financial pledges as well as additional assets and enhanced flexibility for its troops.

Mr. President, as indicated in the Secretary-General’s report, the Paris Conference was much more than a pledging event. For instance, the Compact Review presented by the JCMB Co-Chairs served as an excellent tool to analyze in depth the Afghanistan Compact implementation without jeopardizing the authority and integrity of the document. Furthermore, the Paris Declaration contains a number of key elements that coincide almost perfectly with the priorities identified by the Security Council in Resolution 1806. This broad identity of views is the best recipe for
success: now it is time to translate our best intentions into tangible actions.

In this regard, let me recall the key areas, within UNAMA’s mandate, which are highlighted in Resolution 1806: enhanced coordination of - and leadership on - international efforts, strengthened cooperation with ISAF, political outreach, national reconciliation, governance, humanitarian assistance, promotion of human rights, elections, regional cooperation. This list covers a range of daunting challenges for the mission, which now needs to be provided with substantial additional resources. On this key point, we fully share Mr. Eide’s views. We can not afford to assign such ambitious tasks to a UN Mission without empowering it accordingly.

In this context, the role of the Security Council must be one of full support for the recommendations contained in the report before us and eloquently illustrated this afternoon by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. In this spirit, we propose to clearly express such support through a Presidential Statement, whose draft we will discuss very soon with the other Security Council members with a view to an early adoption.

Mr. President,
on the specific issue of regional cooperation, I will add our voice to the expressions of support for the efforts already put in place by the Special Representative. We strongly encourage him to make further progress in this crucial area with the support of all relevant players. From their side, the Foreign Ministers of the G8 expressed their intention to work closely with UNAMA and the interested Governments in order to further develop the G8 Afghanistan-Pakistan initiative that was launched last year. Under this respect we welcome the constructive dialogue pursued this morning by the FM of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mr. President,
I will conclude by reiterating once again the basic idea that we can not ask the United Nations to do more in terms of coordination without a genuine commitment by every single international actor to comply with the UN coordination role. We are fully aware of the need to develop a culture of coordination. At the same time, the essential role of the United Nations must continue to go hand in hand with the continuous reinforcement of Afghan ownership and leadership in all sectors, ranging from security to the provision of services to the population.

Thank you, Mr. President.
I thank Mr. Honwana for his briefing. I join others in extending a very warm welcome to Prime Minister Dileita and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Djibouti. We strongly appreciate that they have come from Djibouti to give us first-hand accounts. I wish to thank Prime Minister Dileita and the Permanent Representative of Eritrea, Ambassador Desta, for their decision to take part, together around this table, in this important and extremely timely meeting, in order to convey their national perspectives to this Council and to clarify their respective positions.

As we have heard, there are conflicting perceptions and positions, but it is important that those conflicting positions be expressed around a table, not on the ground. I thank the Permanent Observer of the, League of Arab States, Mr. Mahmassani, and the representative of the African Union because their role, as has been stated already, will be crucial in the future. I mentioned the
importance of the dialogue around the table. In fact, Italy’s expectation is that this meeting — and this is important — will serve as the beginning of a renewed engagement by both parties to exercise restraint and resolve their differences through dialogue, international law and diplomacy, thereby demonstrating their attachment to peace and security in the wider region. To the extent that we will be able to catalyse and sustain that positive dynamic, fully and promptly placing the United Nations political machinery at the disposal of the parties, as expressed in our presidential statement of 12 June, we will have paid a significant service to our common cause of advancing the role of the Security Council as an instrument of conflict prevention, as mandated by Article 34 of the United Nations Charter. In addition, as recalled by Article 33 of the Charter and shown by the African experience on a number of occasions, the key to conflict prevention ultimately lies in the hands of interested Member States, as has already been stated by others.

Adopting a bottom-up approach, looking at events from the ground and lending the strongest possible support to the good offices or mediation offices offered by the African Union and the Arab League should be retained as essential elements of our involvement. Cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and Governments will be particularly crucial in the coming weeks, as we will need to acquire a more accurate and detailed picture of the situation. The first account of events, as we have heard, confirms the seriousness of current tensions between the two countries. The crisis indeed has the potential to become a threat to regional stability. However, a number of elements will need to be further investigated and brought to light. That is why we strongly support the urgent launch of a fact-finding mission by the Secretariat, which would provide essential elements for this Council
to develop its position and approach to the issue. We feel that it is equally important that the Security Council President bring to the attention of the international media the perceptions, assessments and concerns that have been expressed by members of the Council. Here, we fully recognize our position in the language that has been proposed to the presidency by the French delegation, which we thank. We fully recognize ourselves in those elements.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate our thanks to the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Djibouti and express once more Italy’s trust in their Government, as well as in Government of Eritrea, and in the governing will and capacity to agree on a way out of this crisis using the tools of diplomacy and cooperation.
Let me first express our warmest welcome to President Tadić and President Sejdiu and thank them for their statements. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, to whom goes our deepest and most sincere appreciation for his efforts and good offices with the parties and the key stakeholders at a politically very delicate juncture. Italy fully supports the realistic, wise, balanced and forward-looking way forward that the Secretary-General has outlined in his so important and meaningful report (S/2008/354). The uncertainty of recent months is to no one’s benefit, least of all that of the ethnic minorities we are trying to protect, who need, more than ever, a stable environment. Kosovo has considerably advanced on the path of stabilization and in building up its democratic institutions. Nevertheless, shortcomings still exist, and the objective of harmonious multi-ethnic coexistence has not
yet been reached. An extra effort — an extra mile — to reach this goal must be made. As the Secretary-General rightly stated in his report, “the process of full reconciliation and integration of Kosovo communities will be a long-term one” (*S/2008/354*, *para. 2*). The international community must remain engaged in Kosovo as long as necessary and must provide strong support in that regard. It is encouraging to read in the report of the Secretary-General that both Pristina and Belgrade recognize the need to find a solution to continue the international civil presence in Kosovo. Additionally, Council members have confirmed their interest in adjusting the operational role of the United Nations in the light of the evolving circumstances. Italy fully shares the Secretary-General’s assessment that “the objectives of the United Nations would be best obtained through an enhanced operational role for the European Union in the area of the rule of law under the umbrella of the United Nations, headed by my Special Representative”. (*S/2008/354*, *para. 13*) The European Union is ready to play that role in Kosovo. It will complement the work of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and make available its resources and longstanding expertise in the Balkans. Significantly, just today, the European Council concluded as follows — I will quote just a few excerpts: “[T]he European Union remains committed to playing a leading role in ensuring the stability of Kosovo … . The European Union welcomes the [United Nations Secretary-General’s] report on UNMIK [the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo] and … his intention to reconfigure the international civil presence in Kosovo. This would facilitate the deployment of EULEX Kosovo [the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo] throughout Kosovo”.

With the European Union enabled to play an enhanced
role in Kosovo through the EULEX mission, within the framework of resolution 1244 (1999), it will be possible to achieve major progress in the field of minority rights with specific regard to the Serb minority in Kosovo, including protection of its religious and cultural heritage. The European Union must develop its role in areas of the police, justice and customs. At the same time, the United Nations should redesign its role while preserving certain fundamental functions, such as that of facilitating the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, so that solutions may be found to pending issues.

Italy reaffirms its commitment to contributing to the international effort in Kosovo and to regional stability. We will continue to work with the United Nations to be one of the main contributors to the Kosovo Force, and we favour an enhanced role for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In addition, we will be one of the main participants in EULEX since we firmly believe that a stronger European Union role in Kosovo will pave the way towards the future integration of this country within the EU.

I would like to conclude by quoting Voltaire: “Success is the child of audacity”. Let all of us around this table be audacious, supporting the way forward as outlined by the Secretary-General, in order to safeguard and consolidate peace and stability and to give Kosovo, Serbia and the whole region a chance to move forward towards a more stable and prosperous future in the European Union.
DEBATE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY - STATEMENT
BY MR. VINCENZO SCOTTI, STATE MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY

JUNE 19, 2008

Madam President, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,
Allow me, first all, to fully align myself with the statement that will be delivered by Slovenia in its capacity as President of the European Union.
The issue that we are addressing today – women, peace and security – deserves the international community’s utmost attention and unequivocal support. The international community can harbour no doubts or show any hesitation. I would therefore like to begin by stressing Italy’s commitment to the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, whose approval in 2000 we consider a milestone in every respect: the prevention of conflicts; the protection and empowerment of women and the fostering of their full participation in every level of society; and the promotion of gender-mainstreaming in all U.N. activities.
Resolution 1325 provides a comprehensive framework to address every aspect of the relationship between women, peace and security. It recognizes a key concept that should guide all of our actions in this field: women cannot be protected unless their participation at decision-making levels in all peace and reconciliation processes is assured. At the same time, the protection of women from the violence of war is a necessary step towards empowering them to participate in the rebuilding of their societies. Consequently protection and participation are two aspects that cannot be addressed separately.

Our success in implementing 1325 has to be judged by the situation on the ground, on the improvements that we have actually secured for women. In our opinion, only one conclusion can be drawn: not enough has been done. Hence our conviction that the time has come to shift gears in implementing 1325, to find new ways and strategies to translate its concepts into reality. Identifying achievable, specific goals, without losing sight of the general picture, might indeed be the way forward.

In this perspective, countering the unspeakable horrors of sexual violence as a weapon of war is a clear priority. I am therefore particularly grateful to the Government of the United States of America and to you, Madam President, for organizing today’s open debate and for tabling the draft Resolution that will be adopted later and that Italy is honoured to co-sponsor.

The situation before us is appalling: according to UNIFEM, seventy percent of the casualties in recent conflicts have been civilians or non-combatants – most of them women and children. Women’s bodies have been increasingly targeted during conflicts. Evidence shows that in many cases this represents a deliberate method of warfare, and sadly a particularly devastating
one. Rape and sexual violence are used to achieve political and military aims, to dominate, terrify and humiliate opponents, to uproot communities and ethnic groups, and thus contribute to the collapse of entire societies for generations to come.

Concrete information and precise evidence is unfortunately hard to come by, since the victims are often too traumatised, and also unreasonably and unacceptably stigmatised, to come forward and denounce the violence to which they have been subjected. Nevertheless what we do know is truly appalling: millions of women and girls have been raped, gang-raped, sexually tortured and abused, often in particularly atrocious ways. When they are not killed as a consequence of this violence, they often suffer long-term physical and psychological damage, such as HIV-AIDS infection, irreparable fistulas and other forms of permanent mutilation.

From this perspective, the link between sexual violence and the maintenance of peace and security becomes evident: it demands immediate action by the international community and is therefore very much the business of this Council. A holistic approach to the question should be envisaged. All mandates for U.N. missions should incorporate a specific mandate to protect women and prevent occurrences of sexual violence. Whenever and wherever the United Nations is in the field – be it in peace-keeping or humanitarian operations – its staff should be trained to prevent, recognize and respond to sexual violence. At the same time, every operation should be organized in a way that is consistent with the responsibility to protect civilians from sexual violence. A collection and analysis of existing best practices could be an important exercise, hopefully leading to the formulation of a U.N. doctrine.
that sets training standards for all military and police personnel deployed by the U.N.

The Council’s demand in today’s Resolution is clear: all parties to armed conflict must immediately cease all acts of sexual violence and take special measures to protect women and girls. The Council will have to follow-up its demands by monitoring the parties’ implementation of these obligations. Accountability is a key element. We have to identify the parties that will continue to use sexual violence as a tactic of war, and we have to build on the example of Resolution 1807.

We thus need an efficient system to gather accurate information both on armed conflicts in which sexual violence against women has been systematically employed as a method of warfare, and on the progress made to tackle the problem. We hope that the Report requested in the Resolution will meet this need.

The international community also needs to fight impunity, because a significant part of the problem lies in the barrier of silence and fear that surrounds the victims of rape. Rape is defined as a crime against humanity and a war crime by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The international community has recognized the need to find and bring to justice the perpetrators of these horrific acts, but it also needs to devote more time and resources to strengthening the activities of international and national tribunals, including in post-conflict situations. Impunity seriously undermines transitional processes in societies that have been affected by sexual violence as a method of warfare. It is therefore crucial to build a gender-sensitive transitional justice and gender-sensitive security-sector. In this second regard, I am very pleased to announce that Italy is in the process of disbursing a specific contribution of one million euros to fund a
UNIFEM programme on Resolution 1325 in Liberia, in addition to several other initiatives that it has financed in recent years. Finally, let me repeat that no holistic approach to rape in situations of armed conflict can be considered effective unless it involves the participation of women at decision-making levels in every peace and reconciliation process. Although resolution 1325 calls for women’s equal participation in the maintenance of peace and security, a much greater effort is needed to ensure that this goal is achieved. It is the responsibility of the international community to provide the necessary instruments to do so.

Madam President, distinguished colleagues,

These are only the most visible aspects of an approach that should guide the international community’s response to this issue. The Security Council must be able to take action today. This is why Italy has co-sponsored the resolution that the United States has tabled before this body, since it combines all the elements needed to formulate an effective response. It will be a major step forward, much like resolution 1325 was eight years ago. The Security Council bears the moral and legal responsibility to send a clear message to the international community that it is determined to put an end to this scourge; to the perpetrators of crimes against women, that they will no longer go unpunished; to women, that they will no longer be the victims of armed conflict, but rather the main agents of life and peace in their societies.
Through you, Sir, may I offer a very sincere welcome and express my strong appreciation to Mr. Miliband for his presence here. I must say that his presence here is intended to flag the fact that today is not business as usual. This is a very special debate, and we are grateful to the United Kingdom Government for the political vision that is behind it. Listening to the statements that have been made so far, I would say that, at the end of the day, what is at stake here is how to make the Council, and through it the Organization and the other stakeholders in the private sector and civil society, more relevant on the ground so as to make a difference and offer a concrete horizon of hope to people who have suffered and are suffering, as recalled by you, Sir. What we want to have today is, I think, a wake-up call, as was said so eloquently by Minister Bangura.

We have also heard a very strong wake-up call from Mr.
Brahimi — a distillate of operational and political wisdom, a backdrop that we have to keep in mind in our decisions. I would go further and say that, if we do not have the caveats that were so eloquently highlighted by Mr. Brahimi clear in our minds and in our behaviour on the ground, we will certainly be heading towards failure or, at best, ineffectiveness and irrelevance.

Italy fully associates itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Slovenia on behalf of the European Union, so allow me to make just a few additional remarks. In the crucial phase immediately after the cessation of a conflict and before the deployment of a peacekeeping mission, there is still no established intervention mechanism that can lay the foundations for reconstruction and assistance to national authorities. Italy is a firm supporter of developing greater rapid-deployment civilian capacities at the United Nations. We support a strong rule of law standing capacity, consisting of experts in areas crucial to the success of a stabilization action, especially juries, judges, administrators and political advisers.

However, with respect to that issue, we must of course keep clearly in mind what Mr. Brahimi has told us and the caveats that he has put forward, which I will not repeat. Such a capacity could be modelled on the standing police capacity, which would benefit from an increase in staff.

We believe that the international community should collaborate on the formation of a nucleus of rapidly deployable civilian peacekeepers, who would partner with local authorities — who would be at the core of the effort — to draft a civil and economic reconstruction strategy in every area and lay the foundations for the work of the peacekeeping operation. Interested Member States could contribute by establishing inter-ministerial teams of peacebuilding specialists, including non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society.
At the same time, we need to strengthen the civilian component of peacekeeping missions and better integrate the military and civilian instruments. To that end, it is essential to adequately structure and update professional training, on which Italy has focused in the framework of the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units and through its hosting of various United Nations and national institutes dedicated to the training of peacekeeping and peacebuilding professionals. Italy supports the United Nations central role in peacebuilding. We thus hope that the development of the international community’s intervention capacities will be accompanied by a more incisive United Nations role, particularly through the strengthening of the functions of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, as has been said by others. The goal is to foster greater coordination among the various United Nations system bodies and other stakeholders — such as donors, international financial institutions, regional organizations, the private sector and civil society — in such a way as to address post-conflict needs, starting on day one after the cessation of hostilities. A good start would be to launch, for example, a database and to create a network between organizations that are already active in the area. Allow me to make a final consideration. Populations tormented by conflicts need concrete and immediate dividends on the ground that can provide relief for suffering and foster the gradual return of a secure, socially organized life governed by the rule of law and sustained by economic prospects. In most cases, at least one year goes by between the end of hostilities and the beginning of appropriation from the trust fund created for the reconstruction of a country, apart from the most urgent humanitarian interventions. That is too much time, considering the urgency of the needs and the broad array of actions needed. More rapid and flexible financing mechanisms are required to address that crucial initial
phase. I will not repeat what has been said by Mr. Brahimi, the Deputy Minister of Belgium and others on that issue. The obvious choice would be to strengthen and give greater centrality to an existing instrument — the Peacebuilding Fund — rather than to create new mechanisms that risk making intervention even more complex. Here, I fully endorse what was said in particular by the Minister of Defence of South Africa, as well as by my colleague from Costa Rica. In the months to come, we will have to review the Peacebuilding Fund’s terms of reference in the light of past experience. It is our hope that the review will be conducive to making the Fund more effective and more consonant with the need for immediate intervention implicit in the original conception, and above all to strengthening the catalysing function of intervention financed by other donors, so that resources are not distributed haphazardly and indiscriminately.
I wish to begin by thanking President Mbeki for this initiative. Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations, particularly the African Union, is a critical issue that I care about deeply. This initiative thus has our full support.

We have already travelled a long way down the road of cooperation between international and regional organizations. There are positive examples throughout the world: in Europe the United Nations, the European Union and NATO have played and continue to play a vital role in stabilising the Balkans; in the Mediterranean we have an initiative in Lebanon, which is a UN initiative with a large European component; in Africa there are numerous partnerships between the United Nations and the African Union, such as in Darfur; in Asia, the “comprehensive approach” to Afghanistan is grounded in the need for complementarity between the United Nations and other
We have all come to agree on one basic principle: the closer the cooperation between the international and the regional levels, the more effective the actions of the international community in crisis situations.

I would now like to consider the African Union, which is the most interesting political reality of the African continent. As I said last year in my addresses to Addis Ababa summit in January and to the Security Council Session on Africa in September, we have to keep working and to step up our efforts. As I see it, the African Union can make ever greater progress if it follows the best practices of comparable political and institutional realities.

A few working points:

I believe that the African Union, with the assistance of all of us, should continue down the path on which it has embarked to create permanent structures that will enable it to manage crises in political, military and civil terms. Of course there is a problem of resources, not unlike the one we are facing in Europe, where we have increased the EU budget for civilian missions, strengthened our missions’ command capacity, and set up a mobilization and rapid reaction system for crisis situations . . . More is still needed, but ten years ago this would all have been unthinkable. I believe this represents important progress that deserves to be studied carefully by Africa.

Simply stating the will to handle one’s own continental crises is not enough. The African Union has to follow through on that will resolutely. That is the only way for “asserted” ownership to become “actual” ownership. A continent that rightly aspires to play a global role should aspire to equip itself with
the instruments needed to set its house in order. And I am greatly encouraged by what I see: an Africa that is not just seeking assistance but is rather playing a front-line role in international efforts to bring peace to the continent.

We see this also in the great efforts, which we fully support, by all the African sub-regional organizations. Together with the African Union, they have helped to identify a political solution in Kenya and are working to find a rapid solution to the profound crisis in Zimbabwe, which we follow with great concern.

In building a more solid African institutional framework, the structures for coordinating all the regional organizations must also be strengthened. The European Union and the African Union launched a joint strategy in Lisbon last December. A historic outcome. I believed in it, and I worked on it both in Brussels and in Rome. Now we must make it operational and concrete.

I fully share the statement that the Slovenian Presidency will deliver shortly on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to offer a few closing remarks about what my Country can do to continue lending a hand:

The African Peace Facility. When I was the President of the European Commission, it was my responsibility to launch the European Peace Facility for Africa. As Italy’s prime minister, I decided last year to introduce an Italian instrument to support the African Union and its peacekeeping efforts, particularly in the Horn of Africa. I signed the agreement with the President of the Commission, Konaré. This instrument promotes African ownership in full complementarity with its European counterpart facility. The Facility has already enabled the achievement of significant results, such as in Somalia,
where we are using it to train the Somali security forces and rebuild the public administration.

Vocational training. The United Nations centres in Italy – the Staff College in Turin and the Logistics Base in Brindisi, as well as other specialised agencies, such as the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units (COESPU) in Vicenza – will remain available to Africa. As tools for education, training and capacity building in the spirit of the suggestions made by the Secretary-General in his report.

As my final point I would like to reiterate our readiness to strengthen – in ways to be jointly identified – cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, including in the area of financing. I am fully aware that this is a key point to which African leaders attach great importance. The Secretary-General’s report makes a number of proposals that we endorse. We will not fail to offer our ideas and resources in the pursuit of this process. Thank you.
Mr. President,

I wish to warmly thank Mr. Guéhenno for his clear and comprehensive briefing on the Secretary-General’s report on the situation in Afghanistan. I acknowledge the participation to this debate of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General. We are pleased by the appointment of such a skilled and experienced diplomat to this challenging position. The higher the expectations - and they are very high -, the stronger the support you, Mr. Eide, will need while you embark into this trip. Be sure that you can count on all of us.

I would also like to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this meeting in the broadest possible format. The long list of speakers before us witnesses the keen interest of large sectors of the membership for this issue. It also shows how many friends Afghanistan can rely on
in his quest for peace, stability and development. It is a privilege for us to have the opportunity to listen to our partners from all constituencies, before embarking in the final stages of our work on the resolution to extend UNAMA’s mandate. We feel humbled by the responsibility to steer this process in the Council. In this regard, we have a North Star in the clear indications contained in the SG report. I refer in particular to para. 64, which reads: “The guiding principle of UNAMA’s activities is to reinforce Afghan leadership and strengthen international cohesion in support of that leadership”. We will proceed giving the utmost consideration to all the views which will be expressed during this debate. We have already noted USG Guéhenno’s opinion that the mandate is appropriate and sufficiently broad, while it needs to be sharpened on the basis of the six areas of emphasis listed in the SG report.

Mr. President,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the Permanent Representative of Slovenia on behalf of the European Union. I will only add a few complementary comments on the challenges that the Council is confronted with.

The main message that we can draw from the Secretary-General’s report is that the international community needs to stay the course in Afghanistan, possibly with evolving modalities, but certainly with unchanged determination. This is what our Afghan friends are asking for. The enemies of peace of stability have shown that they are ready to exploit any sign of weakness, and to fill all the gaps that might be created. We pay tribute once again to the victims of all nationalities caused by the senseless violence that Afghanistan is enduring. Such death toll can
not be tolerated and must be stopped.

The mutual trust between Afghanistan and its partners is indispensable to counter the opposing forces. The international community must trust the good faith of the Afghan authorities, and the Afghan authorities on their part must trust the genuine and unbiased commitment of its partners. Such background of trust must be maintained even when from either side it is felt that mistakes are made. These misperceptions - this is what is all about, perceptions and misperceptions - can not infringe the commonality of our strategic goals; they can be corrected through dialogue and mutual understanding. The scary alternative would be the unraveling of our partnership, and the success of our common enemies.

Mr. President,

we remain convinced that the United Nations must continue to play with determination its irreplaceable role of guarantor of our partnership and mutual trust. Our common commitment is nurtured by the legitimacy that only the United Nations can provide. With this in mind, we can not ask the United Nations to do more in terms of coordination without a genuine commitment by every single international actor to comply with the UN coordination role. It should also be clear that such essential role must continue to go hand in hand with the continuous reinforcement - I repeat - of Afghan ownership and leadership in all sectors, ranging from security to the provision of services to the population.

The JCMB embodies - as USG Guéhenno stressed - these guiding principles by its very nature and composition. Therefore, in our view, it should be further strengthened and enabled to fulfill its monitoring functions in
accordance with the Afghanistan Compact. Such functions become all the more relevant as our common efforts to meet the benchmarks and timelines of the Compact face increasing challenges.

The Secretary-General’s report and today’s briefing are adamant on the entity and nature of the challenges in the areas of security, governance, electoral preparation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, human rights protection, gender equality, humanitarian assistance, counter-narcotics. The EU Presidency will address in detail our shared concerns in these areas. I will simply add that, against this background, it is certainly appropriate to organize a high-level, mid-term review of the implementation of the Compact, in order to re-focus and re-prioritize our efforts. We are therefore ready to offer our contribution to the preparation of the international conference that France has generously offered to host. Similar events are instrumental to give a new, fresh impetus to the initiatives on the ground, as proved by the effective follow-up to last year’s Rome Conference on the Rule of Law. We have noted with particular satisfaction, in this regard, the good news contained in the SG report on the launch of the National Justice Programme.

Finally, I would like to address the fundamental question of the contribution to be provided by the Security Council. Sometimes the developments on the ground appear to frustrate the requests and the expectations expressed around this table, but this does not mean that the Council should shy away from fulfilling its role as enshrined in the Charter. It is our responsibility to give a focused and clear guidance to UNAMA: in this area we can indeed make a difference.
In this regard, we believe that the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General offer a unique opportunity to provide such guidance. Given the wide-ranging nature of the mandate, we agree that there is a need to further build on the indications contained in Resolution 1746 in order to identify a number of priority actions for the Mission. We are ready to work with Security Council members in order to translate into consensual language the well-advised recommendations of the Secretary-General, while carefully considering at the same time any additional suggestions. We are sure that the vision and the skills of the new SRSG will be instrumental to effectively implement the re-focused and prioritized mandate. Let me also reiterate once again that UNAMA needs from the international community not only clear guidance, but also all the political support and the resources required to fulfill its challenging tasks.

We also believe that the resolution to be adopted should seriously address a number of horizontal issues included the Council’s agenda - protection of civilians; children in armed conflict; women, peace and security - which are all dramatically relevant in the case of Afghanistan. Our general discussions on these issues must be followed up when discussing country-specific mandates.

I will conclude by reiterating Italy’s unwavering commitment to assist our Afghan friends, as long as it will be requested, in their endeavour to enjoy peace, stability and development after decades of conflict. I believe that our continued contributions since 2001, along with the sacrifice of our troops, validate such commitment more eloquently than any words.
First of all, allow me to express our warmest welcome to the President of Serbia, His Excellency Mr. Boris Tadić, to the Foreign Minister of Serbia, His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, and to the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. We certainly cannot say that yesterday’s declaration of independence by the Kosovo Assembly has caught any one of us unprepared. As we already pointed out during last Thursday’s debate, there has been a growing perception that momentum was building on the Kosovo future status issue. That momentum is the result of long and intensive efforts by the international community, through which we had hoped to bridge the differences between the two parties directly involved in this issue. We have strongly supported the extensive negotiations that have taken place under the aegis of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, President Ahtisaari, and later by the Troika. As the European Union representative on the

Troika, Ambassador Ischinger, has assured us, no stone has been left unturned. A continuation of negotiations would not make sense, because it would prove useless, as all avenues for reaching an agreement between the two parties have been explored. Nothing leads us to believe that a few more months — or, more likely, a few more years — of talks would allow us to reach a shared solution. Unfortunately, the potential for reaching a negotiated solution has been exhausted. We have often expressed our concern over the unsustainability of an unresolved situation and over the heightened security risks that a prolonged status quo could cause. As Italy already stated here in this Chamber during last December’s debate on the Contact Group Troika report, there is a profound contradiction between calling for further negotiations among the parties and assuming that the status quo in Kosovo is no longer sustainable, as has been repeatedly underscored here at the United Nations and in other relevant multilateral forums. Growing uncertainties affect both the local population and the international presences on the ground. Clarity on the future status of Kosovo is needed for the benefit of all. We must now move on to a new phase.

We deeply regret the failure to secure a mutually agreed outcome, and we also deeply regret that the Security Council cannot agree on a way forward. We have long argued, and we continue to believe, that if the status quo remains unsustainable, with no room for a negotiated solution, the United Nations Special Envoy’s proposal for Kosovo’s internationally supervised independence is the only viable option to deliver stability and security in Kosovo and in the region as a whole.

Kosovo’s independence is today a fact. It is a new reality that we must face and acknowledge. It is time to look ahead. We intend, together with the majority of the European Union member States, to proceed swiftly with
the recognition of Kosovo’s new status of independence under international supervision. The limits of its sovereignty are clear. The presence of the international community on the ground is strong, while its role will be intrusive in all of the more delicate and significant sectors, especially when facing any real but manageable risks for regional stability.

Italy will do its part by continuing to endeavour for the development of a European perspective, which is becoming more and more tangible, both for Belgrade and for Pristina. The inevitable tension between Serbia and Kosovo can be assuaged only within the framework of a credible process of integration of both parties into the European Union structures. We will also continue our endeavours to reach an agreement between Serbia and Kosovo that can mend their torn relations and put them back on the track of cooperation. We will continue to make our determined contribution through the participation of our men in the European Union and NATO missions aimed at maintaining regional stability, an issue that is directly connected with Italy’s national security. The European Union’s future role in Kosovo is part of a strategic commitment to the region aimed at promoting stability and reinforcing a European perspective for all countries of the Western Balkans. We must move on to a stage in which the European Union takes up an extensive share of responsibility in the administration of the territory. For more than one and a half years, a planning team has been operating on the ground to prepare the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo). It has been working closely with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and other international players. We acknowledge the excellent cooperation established with the United Nations throughout this period. Significantly, the European
Security and Defence Policy mission is going to be the largest international operation ever carried out by the European Union.

We must also consider that the strong and decisive role assigned to the EULEX Kosovo mission, recently approved by the European Union, is a central aspect of a complex international administrative arrangement designed for Kosovo. It has been carefully moulded in accordance with the provisions set forth by the Secretary-General’s status Envoy in the comprehensive settlement proposal submitted to us one year ago. Through the EULEX Kosovo mission and the International Civilian Office, the European Union will be able to monitor respect for those provisions and to contribute to the consolidation of democratic institutions and the strengthening of the rule of law. Our project, building a multi-ethnic and democratic Kosovo that must reinforce regional stability with the active support of the international community, is fully consistent with international law and the relevant international documents, including resolution 1244 (1999). The Secretary-General has taken note of the significant endeavour being embarked upon by the European Union. We look forward to continuing to work with the Secretary-General, building on the impressive contribution the United Nations has made to Kosovo in the past eight and half years of administration. Our goal is, as I have already said, to establish an appropriate multi-ethnic framework in which the rights of all communities are upheld and democratic institutions are built based on the rule of law.

We call upon all parties involved to approach these matters constructively, and we urge all sides to stand by their commitments to maintain peace in the region and to avoid violence, threats or intimidation. We welcome the commitments expressed in Kosovo’s declaration of independence, to “protect and promote the rights of all
communities in Kosovo” and to act consistent with principles of international law and resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 1244 (1999), as well as the full acceptance of the obligations for Kosovo contained in the plan set out by Special Envoy Ahtisaari. We welcome Kosovo’s invitation to an international civilian presence to supervise the implementation of the Ahtisaari plan and to the international military presence to continue to play its role to ensure Kosovo’s future peace, prosperity and stability. We also stress Italy’s strong appreciation, gratitude and support to the Secretary-General, along with the Special Representative and UNMIK, for their continuing efforts. We fully trust in his good judgement on how to deal with the process under way, which is crucial in order to continue providing overall safe and orderly conditions for all communities in Kosovo.

Italy has a large military contingent operating in the International Security Force in Kosovo, and is set to become one of the main contributors to the EULEX Kosovo mission. We strongly support the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and all the international organizations active on the ground. We must work together to ensure for Kosovo a stable and democratic future, in which all communities live peacefully and prosper together. Italy will continue to actively promote regional stability and a European future for all countries of the Western Balkans. Serbia is an essential factor in this strategy. A stable and prosperous Serbia, fully integrated into the family of European nations, is essential for the stability of the region. The European Union is the long-term solution to the Kosovo issue. The European Union is the goal that Serbia also must achieve.
Monsieur le Président du Conseil de Sécurité,
Monsieur le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies,
Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,
Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Président du Conseil,
M. le Vice President et Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
de Panama, pour avoir organisé ce débat, qui offre une
occasion précieuse pour discuter de la question des
enfants dans les conflits armés. Nous estimons en effet
que le Conseil de Sécurité a une responsabilité particulière
dans la lutte contre cet odieux phénomène.
Permettez-moi d'exprimer le soutien de mon Pays au tra-
vail du Secrétaire Général, à celui de la Représentante
Spéciale du Secrétaire Général pour les Enfants dans les
Conflits Armés, ainsi qu'à l'UNICEF et à l'UNIFEM, au
Comité pour les droits des enfants, au Comité pour les
droits de l'homme et à toutes les ONGs qui travaillent
dans le monde pour protéger les enfants.
L'Italie s'aligne à l'intervention qui vient d'être prononcée par la Présidence de l'Union Européenne.

Les chiffres devant nous sont épouvantables et demandent une action immédiate de la part de la communauté internationale: pendant les dix dernières années les conflits armés auraient provoqué la mort de plus de deux millions d'enfants et en auraient mutilé six millions. De même, on compte de millions d’enfants réfugiés, tandis que d'autres sont pris en otage, ou font l'objet de trafics illégaux.

La communauté internationale ne peut pas rester inerte: l'Italie est depuis toujours très active dans la promotion des droits de tous les enfants. Sous Présidence Italienne en 2003 l'Union Européenne a adopté ses "Lignes Guide sur les enfants dans les conflits armés". C'est grâce à cet instrument que l'UE agit concrètement dans ses relations avec les Pays tiers et dans les enceintes multilatérales, pour la protection des enfants face aux conflits armés. En particulier, nous sommes en faveur d’une coopération accrue de l’Union Européenne avec les Nations Unies dans ce domaine.

Dans le même esprit, l'Italie a fait de ce thème l’une de ses priorités souscrites lors de sa candidature au Conseil des Droits de l'Homme.

Nous sommes également convaincus qu'il y a un lien très étroit entre la protection des droits des enfants et le développement. Il faut agir au sein des sociétés bouleversées par les conflits pour donner la perspective d’un futur différent eux enfants. Il faut s’engager avec des projects concrets dans la santé, l’éducation, le travail pour offrir aux enfants des alternatives réelles favorisant leur réinsertion dans la vie civile. Dans le cadre de la coopération au développement, l’Italie a confirmé cet engagement en matière de protection des enfants, tout en développant de nouvelles stratégies d'assistance en ce
domaine.
L'Italie soutient les Nations Unies dans tous ses programmes en faveur des enfants dans les conflits armés. Très récemment, en effet, des projets d'UNICEF ont été financés par l'Italie: c'est le cas, par exemple, de l'Afghanistan, où un certain nombre d'initiatives ont été destinées à l'éducation et aux structures scolaires. L'assistance italienne à l'Iraq comprend une contribution spécifique à l'UNICEF pour améliorer la condition des enfants qui ont souffert les conséquences des conflits. Nous sommes déterminés à poursuivre ces efforts concrets.

En même temps, l'Italie soutient et participe activement au Groupe de Travail du Conseil de Sécurité, tout en espérant que son rôle s'élargisse et que ses recommandations puissent trouver rapidement leur mise en œuvre.

Aujourd'hui, je voudrais saluer la présentation du Rapport du Secrétaire Général pour l'année 2007 et exprimer le soutien italien pour son contenu et, en particulier, ses recommandations.

L'Italie partage l'idée que pour combattre cet odieux phénomène, nous avons besoin d'une stratégie globale, qui ne soit pas limitée à faire face au recrutement des enfants; c'est pourquoi je souhaite me joindre à mes collègues européens en encourageant le Conseil de Sécurité à inclure le viol et les autres graves violences sexuelles et de genre sur les enfants parmi les violations qui causent l'inscription d'une partie au conflit dans l'annexe du Rapport du Secrétaire Général.

En outre, l'Italie soutient la recommandation du Secrétaire Général visée à soumettre à la Cour Pénale Internationale les cas de violations des droits des enfants dans les conflits armés, qui rentrent dans sa juridiction.

Finalement, permettez-moi de rappeler que l'Italie se reconnaît dans la position de l'Union Européenne, qui est
activement engagée pour que la communauté internationale adopte un instrument légal pour l'interdiction des sous munitions qui causent des souffrances inacceptables pour la population civile et en particulier pour les enfants.

Monsieur le Président,
Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je ne terminerai pas sans rappeler que nous avons le devoir de faire en sorte que ce débat marque un moment important dans la lutte au phénomène des enfants dans les conflits armés. Pour cette raison, je souhaite que ce débat puisse représenter une étape fondamentale sur le chemin vers une nouvelle Résolution du Conseil de Sécurité à adopter lors du prochain débat sur ce sujet, qui tienne compte des leçons apprises et des progrès réalisés depuis l'approbation de la Résolution 1612 en 2005.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION - STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AMB. MARCELLO SPATAFORA

JANUARY 30, 2008

Allow me to join previous speakers in thanking Under-Secretary-General Pascoe for his very exhaustive briefing and its clear-cut language, which once again gives us a clear picture of the situation on the ground and of where we stand on the political track, the way forward and the conditionalities. We fully share and support his concluding remarks in paragraphs 32 and 33 of his statement and his encouragement addressed to both parties, Prime Minister Olmert and President Abu Mazen. We are deeply concerned by the evolution of the situation in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel, and we are very worried about its humanitarian repercussions. I think the clear-cut language, as I said before, of Under-Secretary-General Pascoe speaks for itself: grim realities, intensification of violence, and increased humanitarian suffering and violation of human rights. Those three points encapsulate what is going on and what we have to
deal with. We welcome, in principle, the decision by the Israeli authorities to suspend the blocking of the crossing. We will have to see it on the ground. We hope that the flow of goods across the border, and not only diesel fuel, will resume as quickly and effectively as possible for humanitarian and trade purposes. Also on that matter, we support Under-Secretary-General Pascoe’s call on all parties to work urgently for a controlled re-opening of the crossing.

We firmly condemn the firing of rockets at Israel and recognize, certainly, Israel’s right to self-defence, but we request that the consequences of those actions not be borne by innocent civilians. We believe, as I said before, that the decision to suspend or restrict the delivery of essential goods into Gaza is unsustainable and counterproductive. It is imperative that there be an end to all violence and, above all, that the civilian population of both parties no longer be subject to indiscriminate attacks. We thus support the proposal for the Palestinian Authority to take control of the Palestinian side of the Gaza Strip crossing, and we support the resolution adopted by the League of Arab States in that regard. For that purpose, we would also like to resume the monitoring mission of the European Union at Rafah on the basis of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. We welcome the stance taken by the Egyptian Government in the peaceful and orderly management of the crisis underway, and we support the availability of the European Union to foster a solution in collaboration with Egypt, the Palestinian Authority and Israel. The evolution of the situation in the Gaza Strip should in no way slow down the dialogue underway, as Under-Secretary-General Pascoe stressed. There is a need for all parties to show the necessary consistency with the spirit of Annapolis. Most of all, it is important that the parties abstain from taking stances conflicting with the principles of the Road Map and that
they do not send the wrong signal regarding their goodwill in pursuing the success of their bilateral dialogue. In particular, it is necessary for all the activities aimed at expanding the Israeli settlements in the West Bank to cease and for all of the illegal outposts to be dismantled, in accordance with the commitments undertaken in the Road Map. In addition, it is necessary for the freedom of movement and access of the Palestinians to be eased. The international community is strongly committed to supporting the building of an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State. The European Union has made a major commitment to that effort, including through the recent adoption — recalled by others, in particular my Belgian colleague, Mr. Verbeke — of the new mechanism for managing assistance to the Palestinian people. Also, in the light of the complex situation on the ground, it is our hope that the Quartet’s role in support of bilateral dialogue will be re-launched. With regard to the situation in Lebanon, Italy categorically condemns the terrorist attack that took place in Beirut on 25 January, taking the life of the captain of the Lebanese internal security forces, Wissam Eid. I would go on, but since I am taking the floor at this stage of the debate, I will limit myself to simply recalling and fully supporting what the French Permanent Representative, Mr. Ripert, has said. What he has said is what I would have said. Allow me to conclude by saying that we would like to stress that we welcome the mediation efforts of the League of Arab States and we encourage its Secretary-General. We strongly support the Arab League’s role in the search for a rapid solution to the political crisis. On the final point that was raised by Mr. Arias as a matter of principle, I think that it is an important point and provides food for thought, and it would be a mistake and shortsighted of us to dismiss it.
I think he makes an important point about our mission and that of the General Assembly. We must think about that. Our credibility, that is, the credibility of the United Nations, depends on how we address those issues.
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION - STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY, AMB. ALDO MANTOVANI

JANUARY 22, 2008

Let me first of all thank Under-Secretary-General Pascoe for his exhaustive briefing, which gives us a clear, though extremely worrying, picture of the situation on the ground. Italy fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the European Union presidency later today. But let me add just a few remarks on the events of recent days. We are extremely concerned about the 1.5 million people living in Gaza in extremely severe conditions as a result of the closures of the crossing points, as well as of the Israeli decision to drastically reduce the supply of fuel to Gaza, which is jeopardizing if not totally hindering the functioning of the power plant, with all the consequences that we may imagine. Due to this blockade, all the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip have been indiscriminately affected. We are very concerned over the current events, which are putting at risk the regular supply of humanitarian aid.
In this respect, we were also startled by the recent statement by the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), who stated that in two more days UNRWA would run out of its own fuel supply. Although the agency had sufficient food stocks in Gaza, it would not be able to continue its support to 860,000 directly assisted Gaza residents. We condemn the continuous launch of rockets against Israeli territory, which threatens the lives of the civilian population. However, we believe that what is happening in Gaza is a reason for extremely grave concern. Thus, we invite all parties to cease military operations in Gaza so as to allow all forms of humanitarian aid to be delivered to the Gaza population. All parties must be consistent with the spirit of Annapolis and recreate the conditions that will prevent any hindrance to the peace process. In this respect, we are partially relieved by the significant de-escalation of violence referred to by Under-Secretary-General Pascoe, as well as by indications of a possible easing of the blockade by Israeli authorities, allowing for a more adequate flow of fuel into Gaza. We strongly hope that this reverse trend is a lasting one, and that it can permanently break the dangerous chain of violence of recent days and enable us to regain the spirit that animated the Annapolis talks in November.
Today we are once again addressing the issue of the status of Kosovo. Kosovo stands as a unique and “sui generis” situation. This territory has been under U.N. administration since 1999. A degree of internal stability has been achieved. Institution building has been gradually advancing. In 2005, the Kai Eide Report stressed the need to move towards a status settlement. Since then, extensive negotiations have taken place, under Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and more recently by the Troika, in an attempt to bridge the gap between Belgrade and Pristina on status. Unfortunately, the parties were unable to reach an agreement.

We are now at a turning point. The European Union is ready to take responsibility for future settlement concerning Kosovo. As stated in the Contact Group/Troika Report: “Belgrade and Pristina
reaffirmed the centrality of their European perspective to their future relations, with both sides restating their desire to seek a future under the common roof of the European Union.”

The EU Troika Representative, Amb. Ischinger, has assured us that during the four months of negotiations, “no stone has been left unturned.” A variety of imaginative solutions on status as well as non-status options were proposed, discussed and analysed. As the Troika rightly emphasised, and the parties agree, it has been “the most sustained and intense high-level direct dialogue since the hostilities ended in Kosovo in 1999.”

Areas of mutual interest were identified. The Contact Group Ministerial Statement of Sept. 27 encouraged the Troika to provide fresh ideas. A document with the so-called “Fourteen Points” was presented to the parties. This would have allowed the creation of a “community” with common bodies designed to facilitate cooperation on issues of common concern, without prejudice to the status issue.

Unfortunately, the potential to reach a negotiated solution is now exhausted. On status, the positions of the parties remain diametrically opposed.

At the same time, it is clear that the status quo is no longer sustainable. This assessment was reaffirmed by the Contact Group Ministers last September here in New York.

We therefore need to move on now, bearing in mind some basic principles: regional security must be maintained; rights of individuals and minorities must be respected; the extraordinary religious and cultural Serbian heritage must be preserved; rule of law must be developed and strengthened.

These are our main tasks for the future; they have to remain the responsibilities of the International Civilian
and Military presence on the ground.
The military presence will not have any role different from the one I have just mentioned. Let me be clear on this: the goal is no repressive measures but rather the provision of security for all communities in Kosovo.

There is a worldwide understanding that Kosovo is in essence a European responsibility. Europe is ready to face this challenge. The European Council on December 14th stated that the European Union is willing to establish an ESDP mission in the crucial sectors of Rule of Law, Justice and Police and to contribute to the future architecture of the international supervision in Kosovo. The ESDP mission will be by far the largest EU operation ever. It will be consistent with the relevant UN Resolutions as well as with International Law.

The decision of the European Council goes beyond these operational aspects since it confirms, at the highest level, the European Union’s willingness to play a leading role in the process of democratic stabilization of the Balkans and Kosovo.

The European Council has reaffirmed that the future of the Western Balkans lies within the European Union. The European Council considered that a stable and prosperous Serbia, fully integrated in the family of European nations, is important for the stability of the region as a whole.

In other words, the new status of Kosovo and the EU perspective of the region as a whole are part of the same strategic project.

Our project is consistent with that of Security Council Resolution 1244: a multi-ethnic and democratic Kosovo which must reinforce regional stability, through the active support of the International Community.

This is the challenge that stands ahead of us. We believe it crucial that the parties stand by their
commitments to maintain peace in the region and avoid violence, threats or intimidation.

We, the International Community, and first of all the European Union, must remain engaged. The EU is ready to take a major responsibility in managing developments in Kosovo and in the region. Kosovo requires a clear future perspective that will allow it to achieve its ultimate goals: democratic stability, prosperity, and integration into the European Union.

We reaffirm our commitment to assure a European perspective to the Western Balkans region as a whole.
I shall now make a statement in my national capacity as the representative of Italy.
I wish first to warmly welcome Special Representative Ould Abdallah and to thank him for a most focused presentation with an operational approach. That is precisely what we need. I am glad that we have been able to have this debate in December, under the Italian presidency, given that Somalia is a strong priority for Italy. I am also glad that the public format has allowed the whole membership to follow the meeting.
First of all, the scale of human suffering in Somalia has become unacceptable. Effectively addressing the humanitarian emergency dimension of the Somali crisis has to be at the top of our agenda. The words used by Under-Secretary-General Holmes a few days ago still echo in this Chamber “increasingly terrible things are now
happening in Mogadishu, as it descends into the nightmare of urban guerrilla warfare and reciprocal atrocities” (S/PV.5792, p. 6).

I wish to acknowledge the great work being accomplished by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the non-governmental organizations active in Somalia and the humanitarian community in general to alleviate this human suffering. But I also concur with the Special Representative that without a consistent and strong multidimensional strategy encompassing the political, security and human rights dimension, the humanitarian response alone cannot solve the crisis.

Secondly, the situation in Somalia is indeed a very serious threat to international peace and security, which requires an appropriate response by this Council. Like many others before me, I fully agree with the Special Representative’s assessment of the need to radically change our agenda for Somalia and step up our efforts. “Business as usual”, as has been said, is not an option any more. I am glad to see a strong awareness of this fact among Council members. Now we have to translate this awareness into a coherent, multidimensional strategy and draw the necessary operational conclusions.

Our paramount goal should remain, more than ever, the active promotion — at the appropriate time and under the right conditions — of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia. We note that today’s discussion has indicated that that is indeed the view of many, if not all, Council members. A first step in that direction was the technical meeting organized by the United Kingdom in early December. We hope that this dialogue with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) could be accelerated so that concrete options within the contingency plan could be presented to the Council soon. Let us remember that the contingency plan was last requested in August in resolution 1772 (2007). That is
already four months ago.
In particular, it is necessary — and this has been said very
clearly by other members who have spoken before me —
that the technical assessment mission that was also
requested in paragraph 16 of resolution 1772 (2007) be
dispatched to the region as soon as possible and, I would
add, without delay. Keeping the United Nations option
alive will also encourage African troopcontributing
countries to participate in the African Union Military
Observer Mission in Somalia (AMISON), whose
strengthening remains our first objective in the short term,
as has been stated this morning by all members. This is
the first priority: to strengthen AMISON, because what is
at stake is the credibility of the partnership between the
Italy has provided €10 million to AMISON and invited
other donors to contribute. I wish to underline, however,
that our support of AMISON should not prevent us from
actively pursuing all other options and, in particular, from
responding to the African Union request that was very
strongly expressed here by the representative of Congo for
a United Nations rehatting as soon as possible.
Thirdly, the Special Representative has heard this morning
that there is wide support for his role, which is indeed a
very challenging one. His commitment and proposal for a
re-energized agenda and political process for Somalia are
most welcome, and he has our strong and fullest support. I
wish to add the full support of my Government to that
which has already been expressed by others. I trust that
the Special Representative’s action in the region and his
position vis-à-vis all interlocutors will be strengthened
following this debate.
We also need to strengthen the United Nations political
office and provide a special representative with the
necessary means to carry on its initiatives and to push the
political process forward. I also hope that the Council may
soon express itself on Somalia by means of a presidential statement, and I look forward to receiving the proposal that the United Kingdom will circulate in this regard. I would like to express deep appreciation to the United Kingdom for its efforts. Somalia is a textbook case on the credibility of this Organization and its ability to make a difference on the ground. We cannot continue to pay lip service to doing more for Somalia and then do nothing. We need concrete — I repeat, concrete — steps forward, and we need to move from goodwill to action now.
I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.
I give the floor to the representative of Portugal.
Thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this debate and bringing to our attention an issue that, as the Ambassador of South Africa said, is an absolute priority.

Italy fully associates itself with the statement to be delivered by Portugal on behalf of the European Union. I will add only a few remarks.

We warmly welcome the Report of the Secretary General and the briefing of the Under-Secretary-General, Ambassador Holmes. We welcome them because they are extremely focused and action-oriented. The Secretary-General’s presence here, his lucid and passionate statement, and the quality of the report are a clear demonstration of the primary importance of the protection of civilians in armed conflict agenda and of the personal commitment of the Secretary-General on behalf of all of us.
The Security Council, no doubt, has made substantial progress on the issue. I will not repeat what previous speakers have said about the progress made. It’s enough to read paragraph 10 of the Report of the Secretary-General. But if we shift our attention from the Security Council to the ground, I wonder whether we could still say that there has been substantial progress. From what previous speakers have said and a careful reading of the Report of the Secretary General, some doubts arise over whether there really has been progress on the ground and even, as I in fact think, some steps backward. In the future we will have to have a less Security Council-centered approach to finding the benchmarks and a more ground-centered approach to assessing whether or not the benchmarks have been met.

There is no doubt that the protection agenda has picked up momentum. We now have to build on the progress made, and we need to do so through, I repeat, an operational approach. Let’s address the remaining strong concerns through effective and sustainable proposals. For all of us the report of the Secretary General is a road map for action.

As he stated in the report, it is a framework for action with five recommendations that are very precise and focused. Under-Secretary-General Holmes has also been very clear on which actions we should undertake in the upcoming weeks and months. Let’s deliver on these proposed actions. Once again, what is at stake is our credibility.

The report paints a troubling picture of conflict situations throughout the world: negative developments in the conduct of hostilities, restrictions or outright denials of access by humanitarian personnel to vulnerable people trapped in conflict, and the use of sexual violence as a calculated method of warfare. It is a powerful reminder,
as it has been said, to all of us, that we must never lose sight of the fact that what matters most, at the end of the day, is if, and how, we are able to deliver, and to impact, on the ground, in bringing relief to those who suffer. We must never lose sight of the wider picture.

Bearing this in mind, the Secretary-General’s proposal to create a working group finds us strongly in favor, also considering Under-Secretary-General Holmes’s vision of it as a regular forum for timely consultations. I would add a bit more to what Ambassador Holmes said: I think it should be a tool for that enhanced operational and ground-centered approach. This working group will make the difference if it can provide added value to this ground-centered approach.

Ambassador Holmes has mentioned, and we strongly appreciate it, the enhanced mechanism on monitoring and reporting. Let me just add that I feel, I think, and I hope that it will be a proactive monitoring and not just a list of what happens.

Concluding, in operational terms, let’s concentrate on developing a framework for moving the process forward. We need appropriate tools on different points:
- First, on peacekeeping, UN operations must be clearly mandated to ensure the protection of civilians and subsequently report on it. We take this opportunity to welcome the joint study being conducted by OCHA and DPKO mentioned in the SG’s report;
- Second, on access, more systematic and timely reports to the Council on serious access constraints by the Emergency Relief Coordinator are necessary. We need an effective system of, I said it before, proactive monitoring and prevention. The Council’s attention must be drawn to situations of restricted access as soon as they arise and then we have to react and find ways of being effective operationally and not just through statements;
- We also reaffirm the principle mentioned by all the speakers that those who are deemed responsible for denial of access by humanitarian personnel to the civilian population could be prosecuted by the ICC;
- On sexual violence, we recall the ICC’s role in punishing those responsible for atrocious crimes such as rape;

Thank you, Mr. President.
At the outset, I would like to express our great appreciation for the strenuous efforts made by Mr. Gambari in moving forward the good offices mandate of the United Nations. His briefing confirms the value of the challenging diplomatic process that he is conducting through his visits and talks. Last month, we referred to a window of opportunity that was opening for Myanmar. We are convinced that that window is indeed still open, due first and foremost to Mr. Gambari’s wisdom and patience. It is encouraging to observe that the membership at large remains united in support of Mr. Gambari’s mission. Once again, it will be crucial for the Security Council to seek his advice when considering how to deal with the situation in Myanmar.

In that regard, we are convinced that the Council’s sustained attention has been, and remains, instrumental to the achievement of our common goals.
At this stage, it is essential to take stock of the implementation of the requests made by the Council in its presidential statement of 11 October (S/PRST/2007/37). Having listened to today’s briefing, we believe that implementation has not achieved all its objectives — and therefore is not completely satisfactory. I refer in particular to the limited access granted to Mr. Gambari during his latest visit and to the measures taken against the United Nations Resident Coordinator, which are not consistent with the stated commitment of the Myanmar authorities to cooperate fully with the United Nations. It is certainly not our intention to underestimate the positive steps taken in recent days by the Myanmar authorities. As mentioned by Mr. Gambari, a path to constructive dialogue has been opened. Myanmar authorities remain committed to receive further visits and are considering the establishment of an in-country United Nations presence. Aung San Suu Kyi has been allowed, for the first time in years, to meet with a Government representative and with members of the National League for Democracy’s Central Executive Committee, as well as to release a public statement through Mr. Gambari, which is the clearest proof of her readiness to embrace a constructive dialogue on the democratic future of the country. However, those positive developments are still coupled with elements of concern that require further progress. The rejection of the trilateral dialogue mechanism proposed by Mr. Gambari shows that the Myanmar authorities are still reluctant to engage without preconditions in a credible, comprehensive and inclusive national reconciliation process. Thousands of political detainees are still imprisoned. Arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances continue to be reported. We hope that the current visit by United Nations Special Rapporteur Pinheiro, which is in itself a positive development, will not be subject to any
restrictions and will create the conditions for substantive and immediate progress in that regard. Positive answers are required to the whole set of concerns expressed by the Human Rights Council and the Security Council. The international community as a whole is increasingly recognizing that national reconciliation is the only viable recipe for peace and development in Myanmar. We praise the efforts by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other neighbours of Myanmar to positively influence that process by conveying clear messages to the Myanmar authorities.

Further engagement by regional players is still required, as an integral and essential element of any sustainable solution to the current problems. Last week, the Italian authorities expressed these views to them at all levels, including through specific visits to the region. In fact, in Italy, the call of the people of Myanmar for peace, democracy and freedom continues to be at the top of the concerns of the Government, the Parliament, civil society and public opinion at large. There is no loss of focus or decrease in attention.

Italy welcomes with deep satisfaction the appointment of Mr. Piero Fassino as European Union (EU) special envoy for Myanmar. The primary objective of the special envoy’s mandate is to support the United Nations and Mr. Gambari in the implementation of the good offices missions. All his efforts will be in that direction. We are convinced that this appointment will be essential to allow the EU to speak with one voice and to reaffirm the importance that all EU countries attach to development, democratic transition and respect for human rights in Myanmar. The EU looks forward with particular interest to the outcome of Mr. Gambari’s efforts, as they are the major yardstick to review the restrictive measures adopted last month to target those responsible for the violent crackdown and the political stalemate in Myanmar.
Let me conclude by expressing the view that, at this crucial stage, we should not open a divisive debate on whether the glass is half empty or half full. Rather, we should identify the most effective way to support Mr. Gambari in his efforts to fill the glass completely, as the people of Myanmar are asking for nothing less than that.
First of all, I wish to thank you, Mr. Minister, for organizing this debate on such a vital issue. It is an honour to have you among us today in the Security Council. Thank you for the very well focused concept paper, which by itself highlights the centrality of this issue. We welcome you. We are always very pleased to have the Secretary-General among us. We like to think that he is one of us.

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Portugal on behalf of the European Union (EU). I shall limit myself to some supplementary remarks.

Italy attaches the greatest importance to the role in the maintenance of international peace and security assumed by regional and subregional organizations. We look with favour to the definition of more-incisive modalities to deepen their cooperation with the United Nations, and
thus we welcome your initiative, Mr. President. We also welcome the initiatives that the Secretary-General referred to earlier.

Regional organizations should be involved in every stage of peacekeeping, from preventive diplomacy to troop deployment and peacebuilding activities in a broad sense, from disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to security sector reform and consolidation of rule of law. This is because they are the main stakeholders in their respective geographic areas. Regional organizations, as Ambassador Khalilzad has already said, actually know local realities better and have direct interests in the solution of crises that risk having negative repercussions on the region. Here, I would like to highlight the point I have already made, that regional organizations should be involved from the beginning of the process — not just arrive when things have already been prejudged, in a sense.

While the United Nations continues to bear the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the multiform and interconnected nature of threats and challenges requires that the international community take a global, collective and multilateral approach. The new missions, which often combine more and more civilian and military dimensions, involve complex tasks. The Chad operation is just one example of how these multidimensional operations now constitute the new pattern for new needs. Activities range from peacekeeping to monitoring the implementation of peace processes, military consultants and assistants, police work, monitoring the borders, the rule of law and the defence of human rights. An effective response thus assumes action in which all the international subjects, starting with the regional and subregional organizations, are as united and coordinated as possible and able to offer added value.

Italy, which promoted the European security strategy
during its 2003 EU presidency, looks with favour on the strengthening of cooperation between the EU and the United Nations based on the joint declaration of June 2007, which follows on and updates the one adopted under the Italian presidency in September 2003. The operations that the EU conducted in the Balkans under a Security Council mandate and its experience with the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been useful testing grounds.

It is time to focus on the implementation of these strategic decisions. The mission in the Central African Republic and in Chad is a new example of the way the EU assumed the responsibility towards the United Nations and enhances a strong and focused cooperation with the African Union. We are working along these lines to strengthen coordination mechanisms between EU member States on the Security Council to undertake more effective action by the EU.

The Peacebuilding Commission is a body that brings together, in country-specific meetings, all the significant actors in a specific country, including the regional and subregional organizations. The Peacebuilding Commission therefore represents a model for interaction between the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations, whose potential has to be exploited to the maximum for the promotion of integrated peacebuilding strategies. There are enormous potentialities in that regard that we must not miss.

Finally, we attribute particular relevance to capacity-building in regional and subregional organizations, especially in the area of homogenous standards, respect for shared principles and lessons learned from the most recent peacekeeping experiences. In that context, ways to assist regional organizations should be explored that do not necessarily provide for the use of troops, such as greater assistance in the areas of logistics, intervention...
planning and training.
With regard to training in particular, Italy contributes, through structures of the Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units, to strengthening the capacities of the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the police component of peace operations.
What I mean to say is, that if we enhance the role of regional and subregional organizations, we have to focus at the same time on building the capacity of those regional and subregional organizations. Otherwise, this is just a rhetorical exercise.
The presence of Minister Osei-Adjei among us is an honour; it shows the significance that the Ghanaian presidency attaches to an issue of crucial importance, for reasons that we all know.
I should like, first of all, to thank the Secretary-General for his very focused statement. I also wish to thank Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno for his briefing. It would be very useful if we could have copies of his talking points, because he discussed several points that I have to build upon. I thank Special Adviser Mayanja for the passion that she expressed in her briefing, which I shall also revisit. I thank Ms. Sandler, Ad Interim Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), for her briefing. Italy is a true believer in and a strong supporter of UNIFEM, which is a shining example in the galaxy of funds within the United Nations system. If UNIFEM were not there, we would...
have to create it. Finally, I thank Ms. Torry, Coordinator of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, for her briefing, which was very passionate. I will also come back to that in a presentation that is cool, but all the more compelling because of its coolness.

In view of the constraints on our time, I shall touch on just a few points, dispensing with my talking points.

One of the points made by Mr. Guéhenno was the way in which we enhance and have clearly in mind the relationship between protection and empowerment. That is a double track, and we must make progress on both tracks. I will not elaborate on that here; it has been very eloquently addressed by many preceding speakers.

Another point — which, as we have heard from those around this table, is very sensitive — is that, as Mr. Guéhenno said, it is time to review the segmented approach. We could also put it the way that the Secretary-General and Ms. Mayanja did: we must decide whether or not to create new bodies or new mechanisms. I do not want to belabour this point. But I fully agree that it is now time to review the segmented approach. What we need is, to quote Mr. Guéhenno once again, a mutually reinforcing, more coordinated and integrated approach.

Thanks to the commitment of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat, including, inter alia, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNIFEM, much progress has undoubtedly been made, as has been pointed out. But, as has also been said, much remains to be done. I think, however, that we have to go deeper into this point — the relation between progress achieved and what remains to do.

I am not so sure that I would agree with what Ms. Sandler said, namely, that the presidential statement that is to follow is a message of hope. It is, of course, useful, but I wonder — looking at it and at what we do from the point
of view of those who are the victims on the ground, of those who suffer — if, after six or seven years, what we produce, namely, presidential statements, meetings, plans of action and so on — could be perceived as a message of frustration, as a message of despair, rather than as a message of hope, because what we manage to do is to do only presidential statements.

What I think and hear — and I think Belgian Special Envoy Chevalier hinted at this — is that we know very well what have to do. In a certain way, we do not need more information. Of course, I fully agree that having more information is very useful. But if we really wanted to, we could act today on the information that we have. We do not need more information. We need to know how we can have an impact on the ground, because the benchmark of our credibility, the benchmark of our success comes, as Ms. Torry has told us, from the NGO point of view, that is to say, from the ground. In the last six years has the suffering diminished? Has the number of victims diminished? I am not so sure, listening to what has been said — and I thank the French delegation for what we heard just now. The number of victims in Kivu alone in just the past few months is 27,000, if I remember well. Clearly, I think, we have had a setback.

So, I think the prism through which we have to look at what we must do is the awareness that there has been a setback, notwithstanding everything that we have done, or everybody’s efforts, or the evidence of progress. But, at the end of the day, what counts is that there has been a setback, seen from the point of view of the people who suffer on the ground. It is from that point that we will have to start to act.
Mr. President,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the Permanent Representative of Portugal on behalf of the European Union. I will only add a few remarks on a national basis.

At the outset, I wish to thank wholeheartedly Mr. Koenigs, not only for his enlightening briefing, but more in general for his outstanding stewardship of the UN presence in Afghanistan. Since his appointment almost two years ago, Mr. Koenigs has been able to effectively impersonate with wisdom and authority, in each and every occasion, the voice of this Council and of the entire international community. It is crucial that we continue to stand united in supporting the Afghan people, rallying behind the impartial and central role of the United Nations. Without the legitimacy provided by this organization, our commitment would simply be
impossible to sustain. The daily sacrifice of military personnel and civilians, of Afghans and internationals, is dignified by our shared goals, which are at the core of the principles on which this organization is built. Our solidarity goes to all the victims of the senseless violence that Afghanistan is enduring, a violence which has not spared Italian nationals.

Mr. President,

The high level event that was held three weeks ago in this building was a unique opportunity to take stock of the progress made in Afghanistan and to reinvigorate our common commitment to address the outstanding challenges, so helping the Afghan people to build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous country. The report before us, along with the additional briefing given today by the Special Representative, reminds us of the entity of these challenges, with remarkable frankness.

Mr. President,

As emphasized by our Foreign Minister at the high level event, in such a complex scenario coordination is the key word and the only recipe for success: coordination among donors, coordination between the donor community and the Afghan authorities, coordination between the Government and the international security forces, coordination among the political, economic and military dimensions of our efforts. This list could be even longer. Sometimes we fall short of our objectives simply because coordination mechanisms are not in place or are not properly used. For this reason, the Compact framework and the JCMB mechanism are essential and must be further consolidated, including through guidance at political level as necessary.

Mr. President,

In the Secretary-General’s report, compelling arguments are put forward to define the need for a new, integrated
political-military strategy. In our resolutions we have repeatedly called for synergies between UNAMA and ISAF, and between them and the Afghan Government. Such calls must be translated into action to ensure that our military, political and reconstruction efforts make a positive difference in the life of the Afghan people, rather than the opposite, and that they result in increased public confidence in the legitimate Authorities. We fully share the Secretary General’s emphasis on the idea that all our actions at this crucial juncture should be confidence-oriented and closely coordinated with the Afghan Government. We can not afford to lose the trust of the Afghan people.

In this regard, we are confident that our efforts to prevent popular alienation will be reinforced by the renewed Afghan commitment to improve governance and the rule of law, particularly at the local level, and to promote national reconciliation within the framework of the Afghan Constitution. Such measures become all the more urgent as we approach the 2009 elections. Here, once again, the United Nations can play a key role, on the basis of the increasingly focused mandate of UNAMA outlined in Resolution 1746. It is therefore essential to support the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report concerning UNAMA’s international staff. We believe that Member States could hardly make a better investment. Let me emphasize once again that in our view UNAMA must be given all the political support and resources to fulfill its complex mandate in a challenging environment.

Mr. President,

The EU Presidency will elaborate on the progress made on two issues that in our view are the keystones for the sustainability of our efforts: the foundation of functional and professional Afghan security forces and the development of a conducive regional environment. I will
only add that Italy will spare no efforts to promote further progress in these areas. For example, we are favourably considering the Afghan request to support the organization in Herat, later this month, of the Ministerial Conference of the Economic Cooperation Organization. More in general, we pay tribute to all the actors who are contributing to these endeavours, and we are proud that the European Union, through its EUPOL mission, is actively engaged in the police reform process.

Mr. President,
let me conclude by expressing to our Afghan friends our regret for the sudden interruption, a few days ago, of the de facto moratorium on executions in Afghanistan. Our opposition to the death penalty, with no exceptions, is very well known and is not softened at all by the fact that Italian nationals were among the victims of the crimes of which one of the executed had been convicted. A moratorium is particularly important in those cases where further progress is still needed in the reform of law enforcement agencies and the judicial sector.

I take this opportunity to recall that Italy remains fully committed to help the Afghan Authorities to build a professional, accountable and effective justice system in line with the highest international standards. I am glad to report that we are working hard, together with our Afghan and international partners, to ensure the full and timely implementation of the successful outcomes of the July Rome Conference on the Rule of Law in Afghanistan.

Thank you, Mr. President
DEBATE ON MYANMAR - STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AMB. MARCELLO SPATAFORA

OCTOBER 5, 2007

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to express my strongest appreciation for the strenuous efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser, Prof. Gambari, on behalf of all of us. The very clear messages that Prof. Gambari delivered during his mission, the objectives that were assigned to him, are messages and objectives that are shared by all of us around this table, as well as, I am sure, by the membership at large. As mentioned by the Secretary-General, the mission has opened of a window of opportunity that, I hope, will not be closed by the Myanmar Authorities. I therefore look forward to hearing from the Myanmar Permanent Representative during this debate.

Mr. President,

I can not appreciate enough the efforts of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General, Prof. Gambari. His
briefing today confirms that through his mission he has been able to achieve the maximum possible results under the current circumstances, in a limited time with the many restrictions that he had. We are convinced that the unanimous support lent by this Council, and by the entire international community, was instrumental to the access to political actors that was granted to Prof. Gambari during his mission. Once again, cohesion, unity of vision and common purpose have proven to be powerful driving forces, and the United Nations has reaffirmed its unique role of trusted and legitimate highest body of international governance. Today, I am glad to see the Secretary-General here with us, further reinforcing this message.

Mr. President,

I will carefully report to my Government on the contents of Prof. Gambari’s briefing, which presents lights and shadows. It was eagerly awaited and will certainly be studied in Rome with the greatest attention, in line with the central priority that our Government, Parliament, civil society and public opinion attach to the call of the people of Myanmar for peace, democracy and freedom.

Unfortunately, since Prof. Gambari’s departure from the country, we have continued to receive very disturbing reports of repression. The suspension of demonstrations has not been achieved through dialogue and reconciliation, but rather through ruthless crackdown and intimidation, that we strongly deplore and condemn.

Three days ago, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has expressed before the Human Rights Council her concern for the safety and well being of the monks and for the hundreds - I should say thousands - of people arrested in the course and in the aftermath of the peaceful demonstrations. We fully share her concerns and join her call on the Myanmar Authorities to give a full account for its actions, including precise and verifiable information on
the number of people killed and injured, as well as on the whereabouts and conditions of those who were arrested. Humanitarian organizations should be given full access to detainees.

A democratic transition, to be achieved through an inclusive political dialogue, remains the only viable recipe for peace and development in Myanmar. This is gradually being recognized by the entire international community, along with the need for an immediate release of all political prisoners and with the recognition of the vital role to be played by the United Nations in this regard. The consensual resolution adopted three days ago by the Human Rights Council testifies that the peaceful voice of the demonstrators in Myanmar has been heard and is mobilizing the attention of the community of nations as a whole. The Security Council, all of us, can not remain silent.

Mr. President,

We are convinced that the latest events make increasingly difficult to argue against the competence of this body to address the situation in Myanmar. Our firm belief is nurtured by the strong statements that we have heard in the last days from the countries of the region and in particular from the Ministers of ASEAN, the main sub-regional organization. We have to continue to engage at the highest level with key players, notably in the region. We are convinced that they hold a special responsibility to promote a peaceful and democratic solution to the current situation. I wish to thank in this regard China for the constructive role that has played so far, and hopefully will continue to play, in facilitating the fulfillment of the UN good offices mandate. At the same time, the Security Council should continue to be informed on a regular basis about the developments on the ground and the progress in the implementation of the Secretary-General’s good
offices mandate. The objectives of Prof. Gambari’s mission are our objectives. The message coming from this body, after this meeting or in the next days, should be a strong message of strong support to him. We need to strengthen his hand, in order to facilitate the implementation of the very clear messages that he delivered to the Myanmar Authorities during his visit and therefore the achievement of the objectives that have been assigned to him, on behalf of all of us.

We are convinced that an incremental pressure from the Council is essential to achieve our common goals in the country and beyond: reconciliation, stability, freedom, democracy. I hereby reiterate the position expressed by the EU Ministers on the need for the Security Council to consider further steps. From its side, the European Union has already decided to toughen its sanctions against the regime in Myanmar, while at the same time providing increased humanitarian assistance to the country.

Thank you, Mr. President.
DÉBAT SUR L’EXPOSÉ PAR LE PRÉSIDENT EN EXERCICE DE L’OSCE - SON EXCELLENCE M. VITTORIO CRAXI, SOUS-SECRÉTAIRE D’ÉTAT AU MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

Monsieur le Président,
Messieurs les Ministres,
Messieurs les Représentants Permanents,
Mesdames et messieurs,
Je suis particulièrement honoré pour l’opportunité d’adresser le Conseil de Sécurité dans cette importante occasion.
Permettez-moi d’abord de féliciter le Ministre Moratinos de son exposé et, surtout, de l’efficacité de son action en tant que Président en exercice de l’OSCE ainsi que des résultats obtenus jusqu’à présent par l’Organisation sous sa direction.
À la dernière réunion ministérielle de l’OSCE, qui a eu lieu à Bruxelles en décembre 2006 et à laquelle j’ai eu l’honneur de représenter le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, l’Italie a rappelé son attachement à l’OSCE, en souhaitant en même temps l’amélioration du niveau de
confiance parmi tous les Etats participants à l’Organisation. Je souhaite exprimer mon appréciation du fait que l’action de la Présidence espagnole, tout comme celle de la Présidence belge qui l’avait précédée, a été constamment inspirée par cet objectif.

Nous avons approuvé les priorités que le Ministre Moratinos a fixées pour l’Organisation au cours de cette année et je saisir cette occasion pour confirmer à la Présidence espagnole le soutien de l’Italie pour une heureuse conclusion de son mandat.

Monsieur le Président,


Nous constatons avec satisfaction que l’OSCE a réussi à établir une coopération étroite et productive avec les Nations Unies surtout dans les domaines reliés à la sécurité et à la solution des conflits régionaux.

L’Italie est convaincue que l’OSCE demeure un instrument efficace pour rechercher, sur la base du consensus, les solutions aux problèmes qui continuent à affecter l’Europe. En effet, des différends régionaux subsistent – en Haut Karabagh, en Géorgie, en Moldavie – et nous souhaitons pour autant que, sous la direction du Ministre Moratinos, tous les Etats participants à l’OSCE veuillent respecter les principes qui sont à la base de l’Acte Final d’Helsinki : retenue et responsabilité, refus du recours à la force. En toute circonstance, le dialogue et la recherche de solutions partagées doivent rester la priorité. Les événements récents ont démontré que ces questions ne peuvent pas être résolues facilement et que, finalement, la volonté politique des parties intéressées reste un élément
indispensable.
L’Italie est convaincue que l’OSCE peut aussi continuer
de jouer un rôle important pour le futur du Kosovo, aussi
que pour la stabilité de cette Région; dans cette perspecti-
ve, nous soutenons l’action de la Présidence en exercice.
Même soutien nous avons réservé aux autres priorités du
programme de la Présidence espagnole :
• la lutte contre le terrorisme, défis majeur de nos jours qui
peut être relevé seulement en coopération étroite entre les
Etats et grâce au respect des principes démocratiques;
• la protections de l’environnement, avec une attention
particulière à la dégradation et contamination du sol ainsi
qu’à la gestion durable des ressources hydriques;
• dans la dimension humaine : la promotion de la diversité
et de la participation dans les sociétés pluralistes, la lutte
contre l’intolérance, la discrimination, la corruption et le
trafic d’êtres humains.
Il s’agit là de facteurs qui sont devenus incontournables
dans une approche indivisible et globale de sécurité qui est
propre à l’OSCE. Nous partageons donc le choix de ces
priorités et nous croyons que tout le mérite revient à la
Présidence espagnole d’avoir montré que l’Organisation
est en mesure de relever les défis de son temps tout com-
me d’avoir efficacement œuvré pour un meilleur équilibre
parmi ses trois dimensions.
Monsieur le Président,
La route qui amène à la Conférence Ministérielle de
Madrid a déjà été bien entamée, toutefois des questions
majeures restent ouvertes: je voudrais ici me limiter à
mentionner le régime pour le contrôle des armes
conventionnelles en Europe; la solution des conflits
régionaux; les Présidences futures de l’Organisation; son
statut juridique; l’adoption des barèmes de contribution au
budget.
La Présidence espagnole saura néanmoins nous guider
pour que le rendez-vous de Madrid soit marqué par une
prise de conscience renouvelée -de la part de tous les Etats participants- de l’importance du dialogue politique dans le cadre offert par l’OSCE, dans un environnement de sécurité en pleine évolution.
President Sarkozy has raised very important questions on peace and security in Africa. I wish to clarify two points immediately.

First, we must be clear which Africa we are talking about. The Africa that I see is a continent that is transforming its potential into reality. Just look at its progress towards achieving regional integration, strong economic growth, democratic political reforms, an enhanced strategic role, the courage with which many of its leaders have spoken out against the death penalty, and the demographic growth that will soon bring Africa’s population up to the levels of China or India.

In short, Africa is now a protagonist and no longer just an object of international relations.

Secondly, rather than continue to discuss what we can do for Africa, let us try to reflect on what Africa at this moment is asking us to do. In my many meetings with
African leaders, the message that I have heard is for a relationship between equals to address the challenges in Africa, as well as the global challenges.

I will now respond to some of the specific questions raised by the African leaders. I wish to focus on two particular challenges: Darfur and Somalia, two grave crises that have been unresolved for far too long, and that require greater and more timely efforts. I have seen some signals pointing in the right direction.

The launch of the Hybrid Operation in Darfur is an important new development that moves in the direction of recognizing Africa’s responsibility in Africa — which we call ownership — and the offer of cooperation from the international community — which we call partnership. If we are successful — and I am convinced that we shall be — it will constitute a key formula for the future. Darfur is a test case for the international community’s ability to identify appropriate responses. Italy is ready to do its part.

I have already indicated to the Secretary-General Italy’s commitment to the joint mission, in terms of both finances and logistical air support for troop transportation, in addition to training programmes for the personnel that will be deployed there.

Let us be clear: the hybrid mission responds primarily to security demands. Yet, there are other demands that are of crucial importance to solving the crisis: political, humanitarian, and those related to the country’s economic development. This is why, in my recent meeting in Rome with President Al-Bashir, I asked him for a strong signal to assure the success of the political negotiations scheduled to take place in Tripoli in late October. Mr. Al-Bashir assured me of his commitment to a unilateral ceasefire upon the resumption of the negotiations. This is an important signal, but we must all work together to ensure that the Tripoli meeting arrives at lasting solutions. Italy is also continuing its efforts to organize a meeting of
the Intergovernmental Authority of Development to refocus international attention on the stabilization of South Sudan.

Somalia is another dramatic case that demands a rapid response and a sense of urgency. It has taken on a pressing dimension for Italy because of our special relationship with this country, which is suffering a political, humanitarian and security crisis.

There are some hopeful signs. The national reconciliation process seems to have begun, and the international community is being called upon to consolidate it, with a view towards restoring democratic normalcy in the country through the reconstruction of Government institutions and of the country itself. Security Council resolution 1772 (2007) of last month moves in this direction.

I believe, however, that an additional, collective effort must be made for the emergence of a comprehensive strategy inspired by the principles of ownership and partnership. Italy is financially committed to supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). But, as in the case of Darfur, in Somalia too we must be committed to closer cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. The International Contact Group for Somalia, which met in Rome a few days ago, sent a strong appeal along these lines.

Mr. President, you have asked us for concrete responses to the challenges facing Africa. What I consider useful and realistic is to give high priority to what Africa is requesting: peace, security, support for alleviating poverty and fostering growth — continentwide cooperation.

To promote peace and security, Italy has decided to support African capacity also through a bilateral African Peace Facility, a fund that will allow us to support — and, I underline, at the request of Africa — the efforts of the African Union and the leading subregional organizations
in favour of peace and security; rapid-action interventions aimed at consolidating their institutional and operational structures; conducting joint United Nations-African Union actions; strengthening the logistical capacities of actions decided upon by the African Union; and dedicating special attention to training human resources in preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and post-conflict rehabilitation. The Sudan and the Horn of Africa will have top priority. The fund will operate in close coordination with the fund that already exists at the European level, because it is clear that our contribution must necessarily form part of a European strategy.

Europe must take the lead on defending peace and security in Africa, as well as on facing other global challenges that know no borders.

Europe is still Africa’s leading partner in trade, investment and development assistance. But this is no longer sufficient: we must strengthen and, in some cases, create institutional, cultural and political cooperation. In short, we have to move from a strategy for Africa to a partnership with Africa. In this perspective, the upcoming Africa-Europe summit can no longer be postponed. It should mark an important step towards a strategic partnership between equals, based on mutual commitments and responsibilities. I truly hope that this can be done before the end of the year. Italy is working to ensure that it will spark the development of a truly European policy.

To honour the millennium commitments that we undertook here in New York and that have such a great impact on Africa, I have already indicated my willingness to sit at a table next year and see where we are in the achievement of these goals. I am convinced that those who have more to give should make a special commitment. Here, the Group of Eight (G-8) can and must play an important role. I pledge here and now to
make this a central theme of Italy’s presidency of the G-8 in 2009.
Mr. President,

the unprecedented surge of the United Nations’ commitments in the field of peacekeeping – rightly or wrongly perceived as having been undertaken with scant attention to sustainability – makes today’s reflections on the issue of conflict prevention more timely than ever. Italy is very grateful to the Congolese Presidency for promoting this reflection, both today and through the Chairmanship of the Working Group and welcomes the participation to our debate by the S.G..

Italy fully endorses the statement that is to be made by the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union, and wishes to make some additional observations in her national capacity.

There are limits to the Security Council’s action in the field of prevention that are objective, and they are due to the fact that the Council’s agenda is dominated by current
events, if not emergencies. The Council is, to use an expression that has often been heard in this Council, “the fireman that puts out crises”.

Having said this, there are also many things that the Security Council can do to contribute to collective efforts at conflict prevention.

First, to set appropriate guidelines for its action.

The Council’s action to implement resolution 1625 should be built on the recognition that the primary responsibility for conflict prevention resides with Member States. The experience of the African continent demonstrates that the absolute prerequisite for any change is the political will of national actors, especially in countries emerging from conflicts. The Council should encourage and support the efforts of national actors.

The Council’s action should also stem from a clear partnership of the UN with the regional and sub-regional Organizations that operate in the framework of Chapter VIII, and from an active promotion of the principle of regional ownership. As we see it, this promotion should strive for a balanced development of the capacities of the regional and sub-regional bodies. In this light, we see particular potential in paragraph 7 of the Joint Communiqué signed at the end of our mission to Addis Abeba, which places our partnership with the AU Peace and Security Council in a comprehensive framework, ranging from prevention to peacebuilding and reconstruction. The Communiqué rightly underlines the strategic value of the implementation of the Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union.

In this connection, we commend recent, innovative examples of cooperation with the Africa Union, notably AMIS and AMISOM, and the UNSC's decision to deploy a Hybrid operation in Darfur.
Secondly, conflict prevention should be a collective effort of the whole UN system, and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the General Assembly for having laid the foundations for our common work, particularly through its Resolution 57/337 of 2003, as well as I wish to welcome here the participation of the Presidencies of the G.A. and the PBC OC., embodied by Amb. Mérorès and Amb. Christian.

Mr. President,
as for the specific role of the UN Secretariat, Italy thinks that the Council should, first and foremost, work closely with the Secretary-General, who needs to feel the full weight and convinced support of all the members of the Council in promoting UN preventive diplomacy.

Resolution 1625 was born from the awareness that the UN’s contribution to operative conflict prevention lies essentially in the hands of the Secretary-General. The current Secretary-General and his predecessor have repeatedly drawn attention to the contradiction between the awareness of the need to strengthen the Secretariat’s capacity for mediation and early warning – which was expressed at the highest level at the 2005 World Summit – and the lack of sufficient resources. Italy supports the view that the resources available to the Secretariat, particularly the DPA, be commensurate with their actual needs, among which we believe that particular importance should be attached to strengthening political missions operating in crisis situations, in support of existing political processes. The last Resolution on Somalia has given us an excellent example of the recognition of this priority.

In our view, based on the positive experience of UNOWA in West Africa, the Security Council should consider applying more widely a sub-regional approach to the root-
causes of instability, which often go beyond national borders.

Thirdly, Mr. President, we should like to underscore the importance of exploiting the full potential of the instruments already available to the Security Council to assist in promoting effective prevention. I refer, in the first place, to the PBC, but also to the UN Integrated Offices and to the definition of the mandates of peacekeeping operations by this Council.

Mr. President,

The effectiveness of our collective efforts is undermined by artificial divisions within the UN family. If we are to overcome these divisions, a wider sense of ownership of the UN activities in the field of conflict prevention is needed. Regular interaction between the wider membership and the Secretariat, particularly on issues pertaining to the long-term prevention of conflicts, should be envisioned as a necessary complement to the existing dialogue between the DPA and the SC. Such interaction would be critical in strengthening confidence and cooperation, between the various UN bodies involved in conflict prevention, giving the Secretariat a stronger and more credible mandate to carry on its activities on the ground.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me express my country’s confidence that today’s debate and its follow-up will contribute, from the Security Council perspective, to the elaboration of a comprehensive conflict-prevention strategy, based on the concurrent efforts of all UN bodies.
Italy, as a sponsor of the present resolution, is particularly pleased with the strong message that has been sent through the unanimous adoption of this very important resolution.

We express our strong appreciation to the Secretary-General for the crucial role that he has played over these months in bringing us to this point. He has shown strong determination and a very clear political vision.

This resolution represents not the conclusion, but rather the beginning, of the international community’s new commitment. The true challenge is now the implementation of the resolution. We therefore trust in the cooperation of all interested parties, in particular the Sudan Government.

Let us not underestimate the challenges lying ahead of us. This will be the largest current peacekeeping operation in Africa, and it will also be the most expensive for the
United Nations. We must all be willing to do our part. The peacekeeping force represents an essential component of the international action aimed at restoring peace in Darfur. However, a sustainable solution to the conflict, as has been stated, can only be political. To that end, we wish to reaffirm our utmost support for the efforts to re-energize the political process being conducted by the envoys of the United Nations and the African Union, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim. In that context, our hope is that the upcoming meeting in Arusha will see the participation of all major rebel movements, leading to a shared platform for the subsequent negotiations with the Khartoum Government. Let us always be well aware of the crucial relevance of the other two tracks of our comprehensive approach: the humanitarian and development tracks, which are central in helping to create the conditions for sustainable peace in the region.
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY - STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AMB. MARCELLO SPATAFORA

JUNE 25, 2007

It is indeed an honour for all of us to have Minister De Gucht among us here. I would like to thank the President for taking the initiative to convene this debate, as well as for the very lucid, focused and forward-looking concept paper that he has provided. This debate provides a very good opportunity to take up the theme of natural resources and conflict from the perspective of the Security Council while at the same time stressing the importance of the role and experience in this field of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. I would therefore like to extend a warm welcome to Sheikha Al Khalifa and Ambassador Dalius Ėkuolis, and thank them for their statements. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Pascoe for his substantial introductory remarks. Italy fully associates itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Germany on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to make just a few
There is no doubt that the mismanagement of natural resources can become a cause of conflict or contribute to fuelling and sustaining an ongoing conflict, especially when it comes to the illegal trade or trafficking of high-market-value resources. Moreover, in the post-conflict phase, lack of good governance in the management of natural resources could create instability, increasing the risk of relapsing into conflict.

In that regard, Italy supports stronger engagement by the United Nations system in preventing the exploitation of natural resources by the parties to a conflict and making the utmost effort to that end, keeping in mind that the issue must also be addressed from the point of view of development and as part of the development agenda. We can benefit a great deal from the lessons learned in cases such as Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone, where the Security Council responded to the crises by imposing commodity sanctions in a successful and effective manner. Italy also believes that whenever commodity sanctions are in place, peacekeeping operations should be given an appropriate mandate to assist the Government concerned to prevent the illegal exploitation of natural resources from further fuelling the conflict.

As for the post-conflict period, it is fundamental to ensure accountable and transparent management of natural resources in order to generate the financial resources that are needed for reconstruction and development and to let people share in the dividends of peace. In that regard, as other speakers who have taken the floor before me have done, we would like to stress the crucial role that the Peacebuilding Commission could play in this field by assisting the Governments concerned. At the same time, regional initiatives can also play an important role, such as the Protocol against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, which was adopted last December by the
International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

With regard to the wider range of initiatives that are not directly linked to the Council’s own efforts but that make a contribution to the same goal, I would like to underline the importance of the efforts being made in the area of combating corruption, promoting the transparency of revenues and corporate responsibility of private-sector enterprises through initiatives undertaken within the European Union and the G8 framework, to which Italy continues to contribute actively, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

The efforts of the General Assembly with regard to the very issue we are debating here today are of fundamental importance. In that regard, as all other speakers have done, allow me to refer to the Kimberley Process as the best example to date of international cooperation in this area.

Finally, I would like to conclude by referring to the significance of the myriad United Nations frameworks overseen by the Economic and Social Council intended to improve the management and sustainable use of natural resources at the global level.

I am thinking not only of major multilateral environmental agreements on climate, desertification and biodiversity, but also of a variety of mechanisms and initiatives, ranging from the Global Compact, to UN-Energy, to the Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, and so forth. It might be useful for the future to consider those activities in a more coherent framework, bearing in mind their broader impact on long-term conflict prevention.

Lastly, I think that the idea raised by the Mr. Pratomo, Indonesia’s Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, with regard to a conference certainly deserves to be explored, especially because, as the Minister implied, the conference
should have a focused, comprehensive and action-oriented approach that builds upon what has already been achieved.
I would like to join other colleagues in thanking President Pocar and President Byron, as well as Prosecutor Del Ponte and Prosecutor Jallow, for their presentations to the Council. Italy commends the tremendous progress, as President Pocar has called it — or, as Prosecutor Del Ponte has referred to them — the impressive achievements made recently in pursuit of the completion strategy through various modifications to the rules of procedure and evidence and the strong commitment of the judges, prosecutors and staff of both Tribunals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Møse for his leadership of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) over the past four years. I also wish to thank Prosecutor Del Ponte for her passionate commitment, determination and consistency in her prosecutorial activities during her long tenure at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.
(ICTY) and in her previous work at the ICTR. In addition, I wish to extend my congratulations to President Byron on his election.

Italy is pleased that respect for human rights, with particular emphasis on fair trials and due process, is at the core of the concerns of both Tribunals in completing their work, as respect for human rights and the rule of law is crucial to the work of international tribunals established to hold accountable those responsible for the worst international crimes.

The valuable contributions of both Tribunals to the codification and progressive development of international humanitarian law is beyond any doubt. As regards the ICTY, that contribution was recently confirmed by the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In its judgement last February in the case on the application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina vs. Serbia and Montenegro) the ICJ made several references to the ICTY’s decisions and based some of its conclusions on the judicial activities of the Tribunal. Furthermore, it is well known that the Tribunals’ case law served as a basis for the drafting of key provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The recent apprehension by the Bosnian authorities of one of the most prominent fugitives — General Tolimir — and the arrest yesterday in Montenegro of Vlastimir Djordjevic, illustrate that the international community is fully engaged in the capture of those allegedly responsible for international crimes in the former Yugoslavia. We hope that similar actions will lead to the apprehension of other major fugitives — especially Ratko Mladic, Radovan Karadzic and, as regards the ICTR, Felicien Kabuga. We should not forget that respect for the victims and their loved ones implies that the perpetrators of the
As to the future endeavours of the ad hoc Tribunals in their completion strategies, Italy believes that the crucial issues should be to finalize the numerous cases the Tribunals are dealing with and to conduct trials against fugitives once they are apprehended. In that regard, I wish to commend the ICTY and the ICTR — and especially their Presidents, Judge Pocar and Judge Byron — for their reports, in which a precise timeframe for the remaining judicial activities was given for the first time. Their assessments show once again how determined the ICTY and the ICTR and their Presidents are to fulfil the completion strategies.

Other aspects of the strategies that we wish to underline here are the ongoing referrals of intermediate and lower-ranking cases to competent national jurisdictions by the Tribunals, provided that the national jurisdictions fulfil the human rights requirements referred to in resolution 1534 (2004); the reshaping of judicial activities, which will focus on appeals and on the possible revision of judgements; and the expansion, if possible, of the Tribunals’ outreach and capacity-building activities, which have proved to have an enormous impact on the civilian population.

Finally, we would like to recall that the Tribunals’ legacy is under serious consideration within the Council. Many delicate issues, both judicial and administrative in character, are at stake. We are confident that important decisions will be made to reaffirm the purpose for which the Tribunals were established, namely, the punishment of those responsible for the most horrific international crimes in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda. International criminal justice in those areas, as in the rest of the world, does not expire in 2010. I would like to join other colleagues who have spoken before me in emphasizing the absolute need to consider a transitional mechanism that
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goes beyond 2010.
THE SITUATION IN KOSOVO - STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AMB. MARCELLO SPATAFORA

MAY 10, 2007

In taking the floor for the first time this month in a public meeting, Sir, I sincerely wish you all success as you discharge your responsibilities as President of the Security Council. I also thank your predecessor, Ambassador Jones Parry, for the wisdom and effectiveness with which he conducted the work of the Council during the month of April.

I wish also to express my most sincere appreciation and gratitude to Ambassador Verbeke for his extremely able leadership during the Security Council mission. Nor can I fail to express our most sincere appreciation to the Secretariat: in a mission that was very complex logistically, its members provided us with precious assistance. Here, I thank Ms. Norma Chan of the Council secretariat. As has been said by others, our mission to the region was indeed a fruitful and extremely interesting opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the
ground. The report (S/2007/256) drafted by Ambassador Verbeke accurately depicts the meetings and the visits that took place during our trip. After eight years of administration through the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the situation in Kosovo remains complex. Progress has been achieved, but more remains to be done, particularly in standards implementation. Our challenge is that of achieving progress without slowing down the status process, which needs to be brought to a conclusion. Indeed, the “overall security situation in Kosovo remains calm but tense”, as the report rightly states (para. 55). We must be aware that in this context it is of paramount importance to establish a momentum that will bring about future status. Special Envoy Ahtisaari’s comprehensive proposal provides us with an accurate and detailed set of principles, rules, regulations and procedures that should allow the new status framework to operate.

Within that framework, the European Union will be involved in managing particularly critical aspects of Kosovo’s administration, such as the police and the justice system. We must ensure that the European Union — together with NATO, which must be confirmed as a vital element of the international security setup in Kosovo, and with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe — will be able to carry out its tasks effectively, with the utmost legal and international backing. The European Union is committed to establishing a large-scale operation in Kosovo — indeed, as others have recalled, the largest it has ever undertaken, entailing the deployment of highly qualified personnel and large financial expenditure. The operation has been planned this way because stability in the Balkans is viewed as a strategic issue directly affecting European security. I might add that this is a particularly relevant issue for Italy, considering our close links as a country neighbouring the
region. We therefore remain of the conviction that the long-term solution to all pending Balkan issues lies in the European perspective of all the countries of the region. Kosovo’s future status must give impetus to that perspective, not only for Kosovo itself but also for Serbia and the region as a whole. We must now endeavour to reach our objective of finalizing our work here in New York. At the same time, the dialogue among the parties must remain intense so that progress can be made in reaching a mutually satisfactory result. Our attention and our work must focus on drafting a resolution, which should achieve the widest possible consensus. I am convinced that success is possible. We must approach this problem with maximum goodwill and make an effort to bridge the existing gaps. I look forward to working together with all other Security Council members with a view to reaching the necessary consensus for a manageable and long-lasting solution for Kosovo.
CLIMATE CHANGE - STATEMENT BY MR. VITTORIO CRAXI, STATE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ITALY

APRIL 17, 2007

Allow me to begin by thanking the United Kingdom, in its capacity as President of the Security Council, for having organized today’s debate, and to thank its Foreign Secretary, whose presence here attests to the importance of the issue under discussion. Italy associates itself with the statement to be made by the representative of Germany on behalf of the European Union.

Climate change is an unequivocal global threat. Today’s debate helps to raise awareness of the dangers associated with environmental problems and to provide food for thought on the actions to take in the competent forums, in the specialized agencies, and among the United Nations membership. A few weeks ago, the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reiterated the extreme seriousness of global warming and its connection to human activities. Various studies, including the Stern Review and the report promoted by the United Nations
Foundation, highlight the serious threat that climate change poses to peace and security, such as fomenting or aggravating conflicts. Climate change has an impact not only on the environment, the economy and human health, but also on stability and security, especially when they intersect with realities already characterized by problems of an ethnic, cultural, political or economic character. In the long term, disputes over borders or over the division of maritime zones might be a consequence of territorial changes caused by a rise in sea levels. There is a further great risk of an exodus of entire populations, unleashing serious socio-economic instability and potential humanitarian crises. It is estimated that, by 2010, environmental degradation linked to climate change may drive population shifts involving upwards of 50 million people in developing countries — bona fide climate refugees. Particularly vulnerable to climate change are areas such as sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, South-East Asia and in particular, the small islands, which, for that matter, generate fewer greenhouse gases than other States. We must recognize that there is no trade-off between the fight against poverty and safeguarding the environment. Climate change and the risks associated with spiralling conflicts and mass exoduses contribute to an increase in both poverty and instability. The increase in climate-change-related poverty increases, in turn, pockets of discontent and ultimately — as the Stern Review underlines — recruitment by rebel or terrorist groups. We should not neglect the relationship between climate change and energy consumption, which can also be reflected in crisis situations between States.

Our development model and our very lifestyle require huge amounts of energy. That translates into an increasingly fraught search for large quantities of fossil fuels, with consequences in terms of geopolitical tensions and environmental unsustainability.
To achieve a governance of the environment and energy dynamic that will provide access to potable water and electricity to all citizens of the world, the international community needs to endorse the concept that energy security and environmental sustainability are indivisible. We need to enact common strategies to address the risks related to climate change and our current model of economic growth.

In the context of United Nations reform, we should strive to strengthen multilateral governance that helps to counter and manage such phenomena. In that regard, we welcome the reference to that issue in the Secretary-General’s recent report on the recommendations of the Panel on system-wide coherence. In that context, the Italian Government believes firmly in the importance of creating a United Nations environmental organization.

The European Union recently made a commitment to unilaterally reducing greenhouse emissions by 20 per cent by the year 2020 and by 30 per cent in the event that a post-Kyoto international agreement is reached.

In the framework of the Group of Eight (G-8), Italy plays a proactive role on environmental questions and has launched a partnership to promote the development of bioenergy. We look forward to the outcome of the G-8 Summit.

In the near future, the Italian Government will organize a national conference on climate in order to raise public awareness and to foster the adoption of a long-term strategy to combat global warming. The debate will also deal with relationship between security and climate change.

In conclusion, we need to act with determination and act quickly with regard both to forms of adaptation and to mitigation. Delayed action could increase costs and could even make global warming irreversible, with all the related disastrous effects that would derive there from in
terms of failure to prevent conflicts. The Italian Government would like to renew here in the Security Council its support for all initiatives that seek a consensus to draft a new, universally endorsed international agreement to fight climate change. In this spirit, we are prepared to work with our European partners to achieve this goal.
Madam President,
Let me first express my gratitude to you, M.me Minister, for convening this meeting, which gives us a precious opportunity to focus on a very relevant issue. We welcome the South African initiative and we hope it to be a first step towards a constructive discussion on how best to exploit the potential of Chapter VIII of the Charter.
Let me also welcome the presence here today of the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of Congo, H.E. Mr. Rodolphe Adada.
Italy aligns itself with the statement that will be made later by Germany on behalf of the European Union and wishes to add some remarks in its national capacity.
Madam President,
At a debate that aims above all to explore relations between the United Nations and the African Union, I wish to recall the recent remarks by the Italian Prime Minister
Prodi at the African Union Summit of last January 29 in Addis Ababa. On that occasion, he remembered the words of one of the fathers of Africa, Leopold Senghor. Senghor used to say that anyone who wishes to work with Africa disinterestedly must approach it with humility, knowing that while they may have much to give, they may have even more to receive, to listen to, and to learn. Senghor’s sentence captures perfectly the sentiments underlying today’s debate. The United Nations certainly has a lot to offer the African Union, especially in terms of technical assistance, capacity building, lessons learnt in more than 50 years of peacekeeping and peacebuilding around the world, and possibly financing. But we also have a lot to learn from the African Union. I am referring in particular to the impressive progress made by the AU in managing and settling African conflicts as well as to the way the Peace and Security Council is structured and conducts its works. Cooperation between our respective Organizations is therefore mutually beneficial and certainly not a one way process. So far the interaction between the UN and the AU has mainly been need-driven and developed on a case by case basis. Italy welcomes recent steps towards a more strategic and comprehensive approach, such as Resolution 1625, Resolution 1631, the Ten-Year Capacity Plan and PRST 2006/39. We also look forward to further steps that may stem from this debate, particularly from the Presidential Statement that will be adopted later today. As we embark on these reflections, I wish to stress some points. Firstly, the main responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security in Africa as elsewhere rests firmly in the hands of the Security Council of the United Nations. This basic principle has a twofold implication: on the one hand, Organizations that are mandated by the Security Council have the responsibility to keep the Council fully
informed of their activity according to art 54 of the Charter and to act within the guidelines provided by the specific mandate. On the other hand, delegating does not mean disengaging and the Security Council should continue to provide support and guidance to regional actors in the implementation of its mandate.

Secondly, we should explore the possibility of drawing up guidelines that are flexible enough to apply to various forms of collaboration. No one formula or solution is right for every crisis that might arise. But this does not mean forgetting the importance of homogeneous standards and respect for certain basic shared principles. The adoption of some pre-determined criteria would allow the Security Council to avoid the perception of “double standards”.

The third point is the importance of triangular cooperation and the assistance that the African Union might get from other regional organizations. The European Union will continue to do its part, as recalled most recently in the conclusions of the Ministerial Council held on 13 November 2006. I am sure my German colleague can give you more detail.

Finally, strengthening the capacity of the Commission of the Africa Union and the executive branches of sub-regional African Organizations is paramount to the success of any strategy aiming at ensuring increased regional ownership of peace and security in Africa. Italy welcomes the important efforts of the UN Secretariat in this regard, particularly DPKO, and will continue to actively support them, notably in the areas of training and capacity building.

Madam President,

A structured reflection on these matters could be continued also in existing bodies, namely the Ad Hoc Working Group on conflict prevention in Africa, the working group on Peacekeeping operations, and the
Peacebuilding Commission. Involving somehow representatives from interested regional and sub-regional organizations, by giving birth to a new joint working group, could also be explored to this end.

Thank you.
Mr. President, distinguished delegates,
First of all, allow me to say that I am extremely honored to have the opportunity to address such an authoritative body today, for my very first time.
I would like to thank the Special Representative for Afghanistan of the Secretary-General, Tom Koenigs, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, Antonio Maria Costa, for their comprehensive briefings.
I express my deepest appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan. It is a very appropriate and timely reminder of the vital importance for the international community as a whole of attaining full success in Afghanistan.
The report mentions the progress achieved in several key areas. It recalls, in particular, the ongoing reforms of the Ministry of Interior; the development of Parliamentary
institutions as independent and active counterweight to the Executive; the meaningful progress made in the field of transitional justice.

These are significant achievements. Italy is proud to have contributed to them, especially through its leading role in the field of the rule of law and the justice system. And yet, this is not the time for complacency. The findings contained in the report sound a worrisome, but healthy, wake-up call. We have to recognize that progress is insufficient in too many sectors: not only security but also governance, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, human rights protection, counter-narcotics. In some of them, to be absolutely frank, we even face setbacks. What does that mean?

It means that we can and we must do more. We must succeed not only for the sake of the credibility of the international institutions involved in Afghanistan. First and foremost, we must succeed for the Afghan people.

The draft Resolution aims at emphasizing the crucial role of the civilian component of the UN mission. UNAMA must be given all the political support and the resources to fulfill its complex mandate. I firmly believe that UNAMA should also have a stronger humanitarian coordination role and human rights monitoring functions. The draft resolution addresses this point in a satisfactory way.

We are all aware that the adoption of a new Resolution is not enough. Promoting and strengthening Afghan ownership is an essential prerequisite for success. President Karzai himself underlined this point during his recent visit to Rome. Today I would like to express to him and to the Afghan Institutions all the gratitude of the Italian Government for the help offered in the freeing of the Italian Journalist Daniele Mastrogiacomo.

In order to create better conditions for Afghan ownership, Italy is organizing - together with the Afghan government and in close cooperation with the United Nations - the
Rome Conference on the Rule of Law. Justice and the rule of law are crucial conditions for the Afghanistan democratic development and for internal security. Much has been done, but serious problems remain, including widespread corruption. We do need an added effort and we need better coordination through the approval of an Action Plan in this strategic sector. A new Trust Fund will also be needed to ensure a coherent approach to the whole sector.

Italy also wants to pay special attention to the linkages between the Rule of Law sector, Counter-narcotics and the Police reform. We welcome the coming European security and defense policy mission in the field of policing, with linkages to the wider rule of law. Italy is fully committed to the success of a mission which constitutes an encouraging sign of a growing assumption of responsibilities by the European Union. We aim at a growing role, for the EU, also in the rule of law and the justice sectors. In this context we fully support the statement that will be delivered by the German Presidency of the EU.

Security provided by ISAF, in cooperation with the Afghan Army, is an essential precondition for stabilization, but cannot be sufficient. I underline this point as representative of a Government which has committed a large number of troops in the country. Peace and stability will rest on shaky grounds without fast and solid progress also in the living conditions of the populations, in civilian reconstruction and in institution building at national and provincial levels.

There is an absolute need to reduce the support for insurgency. As stated in the Secretary General Report, we should encourage the Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation launched by President Karzai. My view is that this encouragement would become effective only in a regional dimension. Therefore, we
should consider a process allowing a full and positive involvement of the neighboring countries. We should be open to the possibility of an international conference – which I conceive as the result of this process. Let me clarify.

The draft resolution already stresses the importance of a stronger role of UNAMA in supporting regional cooperation. I wish to insist on it: the regional dimension has to be reinforced if we wish to succeed. We must and can be ambitious. Italy welcomes – as an important step in the right direction - the meeting of the G8 Foreign Ministers plus Afghanistan and Pakistan on May 30th.

As a follow-up, we believe that an international Conference, in JCMB format, is needed to deal in a comprehensive way with those regional issues related to peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Our proposal is conceived in the framework of the Afghanistan Compact, as part of a process started with the Conferences of Bonn and London. Accordingly to the JCMB format, also the Conference on regional peace and stability should be co-sponsored by the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations.

Its objectives should be very concrete and three-fold:
- state at high political level the commitment of the main stakeholders to contribute to the regional dimension of security and stability of Afghanistan – which I think is absolutely key for peace;
- agree on the need to put in place a series of confidence building and cooperation measures between Afghanistan and its neighbors- support the national reconciliation process as launched by President Karzai through a regional stabilization process involving the neighboring countries and the International community.

Finally, such an international conference will also be a consensus building measure. It will allow to build up trust
and support in public opinions on the prospects of peace and democracy in Afghanistan.

Mr. President,
UNAMA’s role will be crucial in reinforcing Afghan Institutions. Equally important will be the continuous commitment of each of us in security, peace and civil reconstruction. Italy hopes that, once implemented, the measures foreseen in the draft resolution can help contribute to achieve the goal of a better Afghanistan, an Afghanistan which is safe, prosperous and free. We owe it to the International community. Above all we owe it to the Afghan people, who deserve our support, more than ever.

Let us try to live up to their expectations.
Let me first of all join my colleagues in welcoming the Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq, Mr. Adil Abdal Mahdi. I listened very attentively to his remarks, which I believe gave us all important elements to consider. I should like also to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Qazi, and the chargé d’affaires of the United States, Ambassador Wolff, for their informative and very interesting and exhaustive briefings today.

I wish also to take this opportunity, as this is Italy’s first statement in the Council on this subject, to commend the important role that the United Nations, through the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), is playing in contributing to the reconstruction and stabilization of the country.

We are well aware of the limits to United Nations action emanating from the security situation, and we truly
appreciate the risks run by United Nations personnel — both international and local staff — every day in their work. We believe that the United Nations presence in Iraq is of fundamental importance, and we hope that conditions in Iraq will allow for its growth.

Let me convey our sincere congratulations to the Iraqi Government on the success of the Iraqi initiative to convene the 10 March meeting in Baghdad. That was definitely a meaningful event in terms of the promotion of stability in Iraq, and we hope that it will mark a turning point on the road to the true pacification of the country. We deem it of the utmost importance that neighbouring countries fully play their role in actively supporting the new Iraq. But, since the exercise is aimed at garnering broad regional and international consensus, we believe it appropriate that the follow-up of the meeting, particularly at the ministerial level, be extended to other countries that are particularly involved, such as, for instance, the Group of Eight (G-8) countries.

At the national level, I wish to reiterate that Italy is ready to make its contribution, as it has already done as a member of the Preparatory Group for the International Compact, to all initiatives and in all political forums deemed useful by the Iraqi Government.

The current situation in Iraq, despite renewed efforts by the Multinational Force and the Iraqi security forces, remains quite sensitive. The violent sectarian conflict between Sunni and Shiite extremists, ably exploited and fomented by Al-Qaida terrorists and foreign agents who want to keep the country in a state of chaos, hinders the efforts of the Iraqi Government to achieve national reconciliation.

Although international support is critical to the successful stabilization of Iraq, it is clear to us that the key to success lies, ultimately, in the hands of the Iraqi Government and
people. In that framework, Italy has repeatedly underscored to the Iraqi leadership, and most recently to Foreign Minister Zebari, that a political process of national dialogue and reconciliation is needed for the stabilization of the country. In that context, we hope that the Iraqi government will adopt effective and immediate measures to foster the goal of national reconciliation. Among those measures I would recall the drafting of a new law on de-Ba’athification and on the reinsertion of members of the former Iraqi army who were not implicated in any crime into the new security forces. It is now more crucial than ever that the Iraqi Government adopt those measures, as announced, without delay, and that it provide for a general amnesty for those members of armed groups who disband and disarm.

In the framework of the political process to which I have just referred, we believe that, as has been stated on several occasions by the Secretary-General and by Ambassador Qazi, the review of the Constitution is of the utmost importance. Concrete economic development measures, including measures aimed at the development of the private sector, are also needed.

The approval of the hydrocarbon law and, more generally, the revision of the management of natural resources in the federal framework, which is linked to the constitutional review, are also fundamental steps.

At the national level, Italy is increasingly involved in helping to reconstruct Iraq. Since 2003, Italy has contributed, through projects and actions, more than €240 million to international efforts in the civilian area. As proof of our desire to step up our support for the reconstruction of Iraq, on 23 January in Rome we signed a bilateral friendship, partnership and cooperation agreement that set out guidelines for building a privileged relationship between our two countries. Italy has pledged assistance credits of up to
€400 million over three years.
Italy, also as a member of the Preparatory Group, is supporting resolutely the process of the International Compact with Iraq. By taking into account the economic, political and security aspects, the Compact may prove to be a significant tool available to the Iraqi Government for the stabilization and reconstruction of the country. It is fundamental, however, that the Iraqi authorities actually implement the measures indicated in the final report.
In that respect, I wish to welcome the initiative of the Secretary-General to convene tomorrow’s highlevel meeting on the International Compact, at which Italy will be represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Intini. We sincerely hope that, also thanks to tomorrow’s meeting, we will soon be able to witness the official launch of the Compact.
Je voudrais remercier la Slovaquie, dans sa qualité de Président du Conseil de Sécurité, d’avoir organisé ce débat sur la Reforme du Secteur de la Sécurité, ainsi que de votre présence, Monsieur le Ministre, qui témoigne de toute son importance. Le thème de la réforme du secteur de la sécurité est d’une grande actualité pour les Nations Unies et ses États membres. La réunion d’aujourd’hui est donc une occasion utile pour parvenir à une évaluation partagée de ce qui a été fait jusqu’à présent et pour identifier les lignes d’action prioritaires pour l’avenir.

L’Italie, en s’alignant à l’intervention de la Présidence de l’Union Européenne, souhaiterait à son tour souligner les éléments suivants.

L’Italie, comme d’autres pays engagés à promouvoir la paix, attribue une importance cruciale à la réforme du secteur de la sécurité (RSS) pour la stabilisation des pays issus de conflits, également dans le but de prévenir de futu-
res rechutes. À cet égard nous estimons qu’il est essentiel d’adopter une approche de grande envergure : la sécurité en tant que système comprenant non seulement les acteurs principaux – essentiellement les forces de l’ordre et les forces armées – mais également les institutions gouvernementales en général et le secteur de la justice en particulier.

La réforme du secteur de la sécurité doit être considérée comme partie intégrante des stratégies de consolidation de la paix, dans lesquelles les Nations Unies jouent un rôle fondamental. Par conséquent, nous sommes convaincus que cette réforme doit être, d’une part, étroitement liée à la phase immédiatement successive à la fin d’un conflit – lorsque la priorité est donnée au maintien de la paix et aux activités de désarmement, de démobilisation et de réintégration des combattants – et, d’autre part, qu’elle doit s’insérer dans un plus vaste plan à long terme de développement social et reconstruction des structures de gouvernement qui se soutiennent de manière autonome.

Notre expérience nous a appris qu’il ne suffit pas d’aider un pays à se doter de forces de police en mesure de maintenir l’ordre public dans le respect des principes de l’État de droit ; il faut également, en même temps, développer un système efficace d’administration de la justice. L’Italie est favorable à une approche organique et cohérente, dont l’objectif final consiste à atteindre la bonne gouvernance, le respect des droits de l’homme et l’enracinement, la méthode démocratique à tous les niveaux, et finalement le développement économique et social.

Monsieur le Président,

Mon Pays estime que le rôle des Nations Unies dans la réforme du secteur de la sécurité est fondamental pour plusieurs raisons. En premier lieu, les Nations Unies sont l’acteur qui, plus que tout autre, jouit de la légitimité internationale nécessaire pour œuvrer dans un secteur
extrêmement délicat comme celui de la sécurité d’un pays. Deuxièmement, les Nations Unies disposent d’une multiplicité d’outils qui lui permettent une action de vaste portée. Je pense non seulement à des programmes spécifiques mis en œuvre par les différents fonds, agences et programmes, mais également à l’assistance aux autorités locales dans le secteur de la sécurité que ce même Conseil inscrit dans un nombre croissant de mandats d’opérations de maintien de la paix, dans une vision davantage proactive du rôle des Casques bleus que celui prépondérant il y a quelques années encore. À cet égard, je tiens à mettre en exergue la priorité que mon pays attribue au développement de la composante de police dans les Forces de paix des Nations Unies. Dans le cadre de notre engagement, nous avons proposé d’accueillir à Brindisi – où la Base de soutien logistique des Nations Unies (UNLB) est déjà opérationnelle – le siège de la nouvelle Force de Police Permanente, et nous avons accueilli avec grande satisfaction le choix de l’ONU. Enfin, nous envisageons un rôle très important, au sein du système des Nations Unies, pour la nouvelle Commission de Consolidation de la Paix, dont l’objectif consiste précisément à assurer la cohérence et la meilleure utilisation des ressources employées entre la multiplicité d’acteurs et les activités menées par la communauté des donateurs et par les membres des ONG et de la société civile dans de nombreux pays.

L’Italie juge qu’il est fondamental de renforcer la coordination internationale entre les organisations internationales et régionales actives dans le domaine de la réforme du secteur de la sécurité. Dans ce but, nous encourageons une intensification de la coopération opérationnelle entre l’Union européenne et les Nations Unies, qui s’est développée suite à la souscription, en 2003, sous la Présidence italienne de l’Union européenne, de la Déclaration conjointe ONU-UE en matière de gestion des crises. Dans le
contexte européen, l’Italie a fourni une aide importante aussi bien à la conception qu’à la mise en œuvre concrète de missions de l’Union européenne pour la réforme du secteur de la sécurité dans les Balkans occidentaux (Bosnie), au Proche-Orient (Palestine) et en Afrique (République Démocratique du Congo) et, en perspective, au Kosovo et en Afghanistan.

Monsieur le Président,

Le respect de la responsabilité nationale demeure le principe clé des processus de réforme du secteur de la sécurité. Ce principe possède une double dimension. Il implique, d’une part, que les autorités d’un pays déterminé, en tant que sujet directement intéressé, doivent définir, mieux que quiconque, les secteurs d’action prioritaires et une stratégie d’intervention articulée qui doit adresser le domaine du développement économique et social. D’autre part, ces mêmes autorités ont également la responsabilité principale du succès de cette stratégie ; leur engagement concret et authentique est la condition nécessaire pour y parvenir.

L’Italie contribue aux efforts de consolidation de la paix dans différentes régions de crise et, depuis de nombreuses années, nous sommes engagés dans la reconstruction des institutions des pays issus de conflits, en utilisant de manière intégrée un vaste ensemble d’outils. La réforme du système de la justice, notamment, est un domaine dans lequel l’Italie a développé un savoir-faire spécifique, en en tirant quelques importants enseignements.

En Afghanistan, l’Italie est le partenaire principal dans la réforme du système judiciaire, et elle coopère avec le Gouvernement du pays en favorisant la coordination entre les autorités nationales, les donateurs et le système des Nations Unies. Nous organiserons à Rome, au mois de mai prochain, une conférence sur la justice et l’État de droit, dont l’objectif consistera à relancer l’activité des donateurs dans ce secteur. La demande de justice de la
part de la société civile afghane est très forte, et notre expérience dans ce domaine nous permet de déclarer que sans la justice et l’affirmation de l’État de droit il ne peut y avoir ni sécurité, ni développement des institutions, ni développement économique. Ce n’est que par l’affirmation de la justice et de l’État de droit que pourra se développer la conscience civique qui enracine la démocratie en tant que culture politique.
Thank you Mr. President,
I would like first of all to thank Mr. Alvaro De Soto, the United Nations’ Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, for his very interesting and informative briefing. I would like to retain from his briefing the words “we have reason to sound more hopeful today” than in the past. It is to say, we have today a window of opportunity that appears more promising than in the past. What we need now is a concerted effort in order to prevent the opening of that window to narrow down or to close.

Italy fully associates itself with the statement that will be delivered later on by Germany as Presidency of the European Union.

Italy welcomes the agreement reached in Mecca by the Palestinians to form a National Unity Government, as an important step forward for the start of a reconciliation process between the various Palestinian political forces.
We particularly appreciated the role played by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, who, along with the efforts of other Arab leaders and of the Arab League, succeeded in creating the conditions paving the way for the Palestinian parties to go back to the negotiating table, thus facilitating the reaching of an agreement. Confirming, at the same time, the important role that all the countries in the region are able, and should, play to restore peace and stability in the Middle East.

While sharing the hopes expressed by the Quartet in its statements of February 2 and 9, Italy believes that it is necessary to carefully assess the new Government’s program. We wish it may reflect in good faith the principles expressed by the Quartet, an essential condition for the normalization of its relations with the international community. We now wait to know the terms of the agreement to set a Palestinian national unity government and we stand ready, together with the other Member States of the EU, to work with a legitimate Palestinian Government that adopts a platform reflecting the Quartet principles.

While keeping to the results-based sequential approach of the Road Map, Italy has underlined, already for some time, the urgent need to elaborate new strategies that offer the parties a clear negotiating prospect to reach a definitive solution to the crisis, as we believe that the process has to be accelerated. In our view, the parties need to be offered a clear sense of the end-game: a two-state solution leading to the creation of a democratic, independent, and viable Palestinian State and providing precise guarantees of peace and security to Israel and to the neighboring countries.

We believe it is crucial that Israel, in this delicate moment, refrain from any action that could be misunderstood by the Palestinians, particularly regarding the status of Jerusalem, and which could risk to jeopardize
the results achieved so far through such exhausting efforts. It is equally important that there be a cessation of all forms of provocation by the Palestinians toward Israel, particularly the launching of Qassam rockets, and that the Palestinian Authorities do their utmost to avoid that terrorist attacks as the recent tragic one in Eilat, which once more we condemn in the strongest possible terms, occur again. Italy believes that it is time for negotiations to start on the basis of effective mutual confidence-building measures, including the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access, particularly at Rafah whose opening should be routine rather than exceptional, as well as the implementation of the Sharm el Sheik Agreements, the release of prisoners and the complete transfer of customs revenues to the Palestinian Presidency. Above all, we believe that in the long awaited new climate of dialogue that shall emerge with the formation of the new Government, the truce currently in force in Gaza might be extended rapidly also to the West Bank. Finally, Italy continues to believe that, once direct negotiations between the parties have begun, with a clear prospect of a final result, a creative effort should be made to involve in the process all the regional actors that, as I said before, are able to make a constructive, responsible contribution to the dialogue.

Mr. President,

Italy is deeply concerned by the news coming from Lebanon. We condemn today attacks in Bekfaya as well as all resort to violence in the strongest possible terms and express our heartfelt condolences to the relatives of the victims. Italy is deeply concerned by the incident that took place recently between the Israeli and Lebanese armies. We praise UNIFIL’s prompt and effective intervention, which
prevented the situation to degenerate. We hope that the existing tripartite mechanism, that has been working successfully so far, be used also to prevent similar episodes in the future. While we are equally concerned by the discovery of a weapons lorry, promptly seized by the Lebanese Authorities, we appreciate the effective action by the Lebanese Authorities to counter weapons smuggling and hope it will be constantly strengthened, in compliance with resolution 1701. We hope above all that any attempts to rearm irregular militias, which is contrary to Security Council’s decisions, be stopped once and for all. Italy supports, together with the other EU partners, the stability of Lebanon, its full sovereignty, and independence. These elements are necessary prerequisites for the regional balances and for the country itself. Italy considers fundamental the full implementation of resolution 1701, in particular for what concerns the freeing of the two Israeli soldiers who were kidnapped on July 12 and the solution of the Shebaa Farms issue. The international community has committed itself substantially to the stabilization and reconstruction of Lebanon, both through the creation of UNIFIL plus – to which 17 EU Countries contribute – and by making available large financial resources on the occasion of the Paris Conference of January 25. In this respect we welcomed the tangible commitment to Lebanon expressed in Paris also by the Arab world. Finally, we call upon all Lebanese forces to have clear in mind that violence is not an option, and to resume immediately the dialogue in order to reach an agreed solution to the various aspects of the crisis: the formation of a national unity government; the election of a new President of the Republic; the approval of the Statute for the International Tribunal on the murder of Rafiq Hariri; a
new elections law; and early political elections. To this end, Italy urges all the Lebanese political forces to seek a compromise for the way forward, something that, as the tragic events of today show, Lebanon cannot wait any longer.
I think the timeliness of this debate is reflected in the food for thought it is generating. At the outset, I would like to express deep appreciation and support for what Ambassador Gaspar Martins, Chairman of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, said earlier in this meeting, and to draw the attention of Council members to it. Let me quote him briefly. He said, “Let us all agree that our theoretical differences in New York are meaningless to those who are directly suffering from the consequences of conflict on the ground. What matters for them are concrete actions …” (Supra). I think that this is a benchmark that must remain clear in our minds. What we do has an effect on the ground.

In general terms, I think we have to express the strongest support for the Chairman of the Organizational Committee. If he does not feel that he has the House
behind him, he will not be able to be effective. As our colleague the representative of Sierra Leone has said, we will need creativity, flexibility and adaptability. When it comes to the Commission, it will be mainly the responsibility of the Chair to inspire flexibility and creativity. But he will not be able to be creative if he does not feel that the House is behind him. That was the first point I wanted to make.

Secondly, I fully endorse the statement that my colleague, the representative of Germany, will deliver later on behalf of the European Union. I want to stress the importance of the points that he will make. Because of time constraints I will not repeat his words, except to quote briefly from what he will say, according to his advance text: “If the Commission is to add value to peacebuilding efforts worldwide…it will have to be ambitious. It will have to be more than the tools we already have: more than a mere coordination mechanism and more than a donors conference. Promoting the development of a viable peacebuilding strategy is where the Peacebuilding Commission can really create added value.”

Here, we should bear in mind what Assistant Secretary-General McAskie said on this matter.

I will now limit myself to a few additional remarks. I think that, in shaping and implementing our strategies, we will need, first, to focus strongly on institution-building, as mentioned in operative paragraph 2 (b) of Council resolution 1645 (2005) and General Assembly resolution 60/180, in line with the inspiration of the Peacebuilding Commission: to strengthen the sovereignty of post-conflict States by increasing the effectiveness and credibility of national policies and institutions, with particular reference to the rule of law. As my Belgian colleague said, this will increase the attractiveness of such States to private foreign investors.

Secondly, we will need to include a clear sequencing of
actions and clear indications to all stakeholders, including donors, of what needs to be done.

Thirdly, the strategy should be based on a broad sense of ownership. National responsibility should be at the centre of the peacebuilding process. Institutional donors and relevant regional organizations should be fully on board, through regular consultations both in New York and at the country level. I hope involvement, like that we have seen today, by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be structured and will continue in the future.

Fourthly, the involvement of civil society, including the national and international private sectors, should be deepened and widened. I will not elaborate further here.

Finally, the Peacebuilding Commission should also elaborate a system of benchmarks to monitor progress in implementation. We need monitoring, but monitoring is not just making reports after a certain number of months on what has been done. We are submerged in reports. What is needed is proactive monitoring along the way. It should not point out who is doing well or who is doing badly, but it should just point out where we stand week after week and what has to be done. We know what proactive monitoring is.

This is an aspect that has to be injected into the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and into that of the parent bodies of the Commission: the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Of course, we should start developing objective criteria for phasing out the involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission in countries that are under consideration and that are successful. We should also start thinking — as we are, in fact, doing — about possible new entries on the Commission’s agenda.

On a final note, we believe that the Security Council should work together with the Peacebuilding Commission
with a view to designing conflict-sensitive peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies. When I say “work together”, I mean not only having a meeting like today’s from time to time, but rather having more interactive meetings where we can see a ways and means process, together with the General Assembly. As we are all aware, and as has to be clear in our minds, the issue is not only how the Commission can assist or advise the Council; it is also how the Council can provide the Peacebuilding Commission with operational input.

We, therefore, believe that the Security Council should, for example, request the advice of the Commission when renewing the mandates of existing peacekeeping missions or when establishing new ones, with a view to developing integrated mission planning processes. The renewal of the peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, could present the first opportunity for an early peace building planning process. Then, it would act on the advice of the Commission by supporting the crucial functions of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone and the United Nations Operation in Burundi on the ground, with a clear mandate and ad hoc expertise. In particular, the role of the United Nations Integrated Offices in facilitating coordination and consultation among all stakeholders, including donors, should be strengthened, as has been mentioned by some of my colleagues. Finally, the promptness of the Commission’s responses to Security Council requests for advice should be promoted. We need timely advice. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Peace building Support Office should pool their resources and coordinate their efforts in support of the Commission — and I am very grateful to Assistant Secretary-General McAskie for her earlier statement in that regard — in order to ensure smooth and efficient interaction between the two bodies and, of
course, between the Peace building Commission and the General Assembly.
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