



Romania in the UN Security Council
2004-2005

NEWSLETTER

June 2004

Permanent Mission of Romania to UNOG

Romanian positions on issues under debate in the UN Security Council

- 08.06.2004** UN Security Council adopted the resolution 1546/2004
- 09.06.2004** The Permanent Representative of Romania at the UN was elected, by consensus, president of the UNSC Committee 1540/2004
- 11.06.2004** UN Security Council adopted the resolution on the peace progress between the Sudanese government and the rebel force in the Southern region of Sudan
- 14.06.2004** UN Security Council debate on civilian protection in armed conflicts
- 23.06.2004** Thematic debates of the UN Security Council on the role of civil society in post-conflict peace consolidation process
- 29.06.2004** Briefings of the UN Security Council with the presidents and the prosecutors of the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

On 8 June 2004, Romania expressed its opinion that **the core conditions are met for the new resolution to be adopted**, due to the extended support raised by the document proposed by the new provisional Iraqi government, presented in the Security Council meeting of 3 June 2004 by Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari. The resolution 1546/2004 on Iraq reflects the conclusions of an ample process of consultations within the Security Council and other UN bodies which contributed to the joint effort of strengthening the resolution draft by including contributions and suggestions meeting the aspirations of the Iraqi people. Romania's involvement in promoting the resolution, by co-authoring it, is motivated by the necessity to restate the support of the international community and the Iraqi authorities for the military presence in Iraq, the Romanian forces, inclusively. Romania continues to actively contribute to supporting the major interests of the Iraqi population - security, democracy, development, including the period of Romania's chairmanship-in-office of the Security Council (July 2004), to start at the same moment with the power transfer in Iraq.

On 9 June 2004, the Permanent Representative of Romania at the UN was elected, by consensus, president of the UN Security Council Committee 1540, created according to the UNSC resolution 1540 of April 28, on the non proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors. It is for the first time when a country chairs simultaneously two Security Council bodies, Romania holding the presidency of

the Committee 1518/2003 for Iraq. The election of a Romanian representative in such an important position acknowledges the recognition of Romania's responsible conduct in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and a proof of Romania's ability to work for consensus building.

The UN Security Council hailed, in a resolution adopted unanimously on 11 June 2004, the progress in the peace process between the Sudanese government and the rebel forces in the South by the recent signing of three protocols in Naivasha (Kenya). The Romanian delegation to the Security Council had supported from the beginning of the negotiations the text of the draft resolution and expressed its conviction that the final peace agreement would be soon signed with a view to bringing to an end the conflict which has lasted for more than 20 years and has generated important losses and human suffering. The Resolution also refers to the humanitarian situation in the Darfur region, situated in the western part of the country. Romania has already stated its intention to participate in the future UN force mission in Sudan, the main objective being to monitor the observance of the agreements.

On 14 June 2004, on the occasion of a Security Council debate on civilian protection in armed conflicts, the Romanian Representative stressed the progressive nature of the conflicts on the Security Council current agenda as well as the involvement of non-state actors in conflicts and the use of civilians as targets. These developments determined the permanent development of new instruments to adequately calibrate the measures regarding civilian protection in a context of a changing security environment. The UN expertise in managing conflict situations must be translated into more adequate mechanisms of civilian protection, especially through strengthening partnerships with regional organizations.

Romania attaches special attention to the issue of strengthening cooperation between UN and regional organizations, an issue to be brought to the debate of the Council in July, during the Romanian presidency. In this context, it was underlined the need for better coordination between UN and regional organizations concerning the return of refugees and the reintegration of displaced persons. On the same occasion, UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, introduced the annual report of the Secretary General on the issue of civilian protection in armed conflicts. The report highlighted the fact that the main victims of armed conflicts belong to the civilian population. The UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs underlined the importance of free access of civilian population affected by armed conflicts to humanitarian assistance. It was stated that in 20 conflicts around the world the access of humanitarian organizations was either denied or obstructed, and at least 10 million civilians are deprived of minimum subsistence means. The situations in Darfur (Sudan), Northern Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as other countries and regions, were mentioned in the report, as the most tragic instances of situations in which civilians suffer because of armed conflicts.

On 23 June 2004, during the thematic debates of the UN Security Council on the role of civil society in post-conflict peace consolidation process, Romania highlighted the importance of civil society bodies and stressed the necessity to continue collaboration with UN.

Romania encourages the enhancement of internal processes through which local civil society contributes to post-conflict reconstruction, alongside with the international community. Such contribution on the part of civil bodies is especially noteworthy in facilitating inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue. The Romanian permanent representative invited the present delegations to include in their contributions to the thematic debate regarding the role of regional organizations in the stability process, during the Romanian Security Council chairmanship, specific reference to ways of cooperation with the civil society with view to strengthening the regional peace building capacity.

On 29 June 2004, the Security Council held briefings with the presidents and the prosecutors of the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on the progress made towards implementation of the Completion Strategies of the two Tribunals.

Judge Theodor Meron and Judge Erik Mose, presidents of ICTY and ICTR, Carla del Ponte and Hassan Jallow – prosecutors of ICTY and ICTR attended the meeting and addressed the Council. The officials of ICTY and ICTR introduced to UN Security Council Member States some measures taken to implement the Completion Strategies, and designed to ensure the discharge of the tasks of these international criminal jurisdictions no later than 2010, as well as the main obstacles still to be overcome in order to attain this objective. Romania welcomed the significant progress made in implementing the Completion Strategies. It also expressed certain concern over the persistence of a number of factors that could jeopardize the time frames set in Security Council resolutions 1503 and 1534. Full cooperation of the concerned Member States, constant review of their caseload with the aim at retaining only cases involving senior leaders suspected of being most responsible for crimes within the jurisdiction of the relevant Tribunals, as well as the transfer to national jurisdictions of a number of cases were identified as essential in achieving the deadlines established by the above-mentioned resolutions.

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