



NEWSLETTER

May 2004

Permanent Mission of Romania to UNOG

Romanian positions on issues under debate in the UN Security Council

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| 05.05.2004 | Public meeting of the Security Council on Bougainville |
| 10.05.2004 | Public meeting of the Security Council on the situation in East Timor |
| 11.05.2004 | Public meeting of the Security Council on Kosovo |
| 14.05.2004 | Report of the Commission of inquiry on the violent incidents in Abidjan, at the end of March 2004 presented to the Security Council by Mr. Bertand Ramcharan, the UN Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| 17.05.2004 | Open debate on UN Peacekeeping Operations |
| 19.05.2004 | Adoption of the Resolution 1544, on the humanitarian situation of the Palestinians in Gaza |
| 25.05.2004 | Public meeting of the Security Council on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts" |
| 27.05.2004 | Public meeting of the Security Council on UN response to crisis situations |

During the **public meeting of the Security Council on Bougainville, held on 5 May 2004**, Romania noted the steady progress in the implementation of peace process in Bougainville, with the effective contribution of the small, follow-on UN Mission. Good news also relate to talks among the National Government and Bougainville leaders on the finalization of the third draft of the Bougainville Constitution. Romania encourages the parties to proceed in a timely manner with the approval of the constitution, which will mark an important step towards autonomy, and is confident that the parties will soon take a decision on the timing of elections for the autonomous government; necessary preparations in this regard are expected, with the support of UNMOB. Finally, it appreciates all the efforts undertaken by the Government of Papua New Guinea as well as the Bougainville parties in the peace process. The positive developments achieved so far are evidence of the increased capacity of the people of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville to assume full ownership of the peace process and move forward towards political normalization and economic development.

During an **open meeting of the Security Council on the situation in East Timor held on 10 May, 2004**, the Permanent Representative of Romania to the UN welcomed the extension of the UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET) for a further one-year consolidation phase. Romania's Ambassador, Mihnea Motoc, took the opportunity to congratulate the authorities of East Timor for their steady efforts and encouraging achievements towards the development of the country as a stable and democratic nation. He further cited East Timor as a commendable example of peacekeeping and

peace-building actions undertaken by the UN. Notwithstanding these successful achievements, Ambassador Motoc stressed that continued assistance from the international community would be needed to expedite the transfer of responsibility from the international presence to the Government of East Timor allowing it to reach the threshold of self-sufficiency as well as to consolidate and secure the irreversibility of the peace process.

During the **public meeting of the Security Council on Kosovo**, held on **11 May 2004**, Romania underlined the distressing general image of the situation in Kosovo. The progress made in the province prior to the ethnically motivated violence in March has been seriously overshadowed by the organized, widespread and targeted attacks against the Serb and other communities in Kosovo. Concrete measures have to be adopted and put in place for ensuring a real and effective implementation of measures set out in the Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan and – as an ultimate goal - for the development in Kosovo of a secure, democratic, tolerant and multi-ethnic society. Therefore, Romania fully reaffirms its attachment to the “standards before status” policy, and fully shares the view that the aforementioned plan must be further recalibrated and prioritized.

More emphasis should be put on security, return of refugees and idps, minority rights, rule of law and justice, and devolution of functions from the central level to local bodies, so as every inhabitant of Kosovo or every person wishing to return there can have an equal opportunity to a normal, free and secure life. The Provisional Institutions of Self-Government and all communities in Kosovo – with the assistance of the international presence - should work together, in a responsible and coherent manner, to achieve this goal and to prevent the recurrence of similar violence in the future. An important step forward would be the establishment of a stricter legal regime for small and light weapons and the intensification of operations aiming at collecting illegal weapons.

Romania is particularly worried by the long-term implications of any action related to Kosovo's future. That is why Romania insists on the fact that “standards before status” should be taken very seriously, and reiterate that its implementation should be reflected throughout Kosovo. The longer it takes for standards to be eventually worked upon, the more difficult it will prove to catch up again, irrespective of the eventual determination of the final status. Romania is particularly worried by the long-term implications of any action related to Kosovo's future. That is why Romania insists on the fact that “standards before status” should be taken very seriously, and reiterate that its implementation should be reflected throughout Kosovo. The longer it takes for standards to be eventually worked upon, the more difficult it will prove to catch up again, irrespective of the eventual determination of the final status. **Romania attaches great importance to the further development of the review mechanism**, the functioning of which will be essential in clarifying the political approach and reasoning of the international community and this Council in what regards the discussion of Kosovo's final status. Romania believes that confidence building in Kosovo will not be possible without some timely and effective measures in terms of rule of law and justice, reconstruction and full protection of minority communities.

On 14 May 2004, UN Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bertand Ramcharan, introduced to the Security Council member states **the report of the Commission of inquiry on the violent incidents in Abidjan, at the end of March**

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2004. Romania, together with other member states, expressed their concern that all those responsible for violations of human rights, during the events of 25-26 March in Abidjan and later must be held accountable. The member states voiced, unanimously, their support for the establishment of an international Commission of inquiry to look into all instances of human rights violations going back to September 2002, and viewed this action as essential to restoring the climate of trust necessary to fulfill the commitments of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. Concurrently, the member states urged all the parties to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement to carry out the commitment under the Agreement. The Romanian delegation expressed its deep concern over the human rights violations in Cote d'Ivoire and called for the establishment of an international independent Commission of Inquiry.

During the **open debate** of the Security Council, held on **17 May 2004 on the UN Peacekeeping Operations**, the Permanent Representative of Romania underlined the unprecedented increase in the number and complexity of peacekeeping operations, which are present practically on all continents. The UN peacekeeping missions have tremendously evolved during the last fifty years and a lot of experience has been accumulated, which should be continuously turned into value so as to lead to a permanent improvement of the performance in the field. The mandates of UN peacekeeping operations have become increasingly complex, multifaceted and multidimensional. They stand out as an embodiment of the role multilateral institutions can play in safeguarding peace and security. At the same time, there are expectations that have not been met in UN peacekeeping; ways and means to ensure further mobilization of resources needed have to be explored.

Romania welcomes the European Union's contribution to these efforts and its recent initiative of setting up a peace support operations facility aimed at supporting African countries and regional organizations in conflict management and resolution. Of special importance is the Joint Declaration on UN-EU Cooperation in Crisis Management signed on September 24, 2003, which includes concrete measures with regard to peacekeeping operations. The role of regional organizations must be further emphasized. Romania believes in the benefits of cooperation between UN and regional organizations for the efficient use of resources, better practices and enhanced long-term impact of peacekeeping missions. In its deliberations on specific conflicts or crisis, the Security Council is increasingly taking on board their wider regional determinations. Generally, improving the basis for decision-making in the Security Council by identifying ways and means to involve major stakeholders would create a considerable additional incentive for the general UN membership to support peacekeeping operations.

The Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping must be fully engaged in facilitating the development of a comprehensive approach of the Council on all peacekeeping issues and work together with the UN Secretariat and other Member States on how best to review and address the long-standing implications of its decisions. Romania supports further work on improving complementarities between the main UN organs, as well as between these and the relevant UN agencies, programs and funds. Security Council must look beyond the immediate horizon towards stabilization processes and post-conflict peace building. Member States must find a balance between exit strategies and long-term developments, including peace building. Against this background, the lessons previously learned with regard to Haiti could make this time the Haiti case itself a success story.

On **19 May 2004**, the **Security Council adopted the resolution 1544**, with 14 votes in favor and 1 abstention (USA). The resolution expressed the concern of the Council towards the serious humanitarian situation of the Palestinians from the Rafah Refugee Camp, at the same time demanding Israel to respect its obligations under the provisions of the international humanitarian law and to abstain from demolishing the homes of the Palestinian people. Romania voted in favor of this resolution, sustaining the concept of common responsibilities of the parties involved in the peace process in the Middle East, according to the Road Map. The Romanian delegation was satisfied with the present Resolution, which reaffirms the responsibilities of the Israeli and Palestinians in preventing future violence and also for underlining the importance of the fight against terrorism and weapon trafficking in West bank and Gaza. Both parties must enforce the Road map, which is the only peace plan to offer a long-lasting settlement of the conflict. The international support, represented by the Quartet, remains the only course of action to achieve the goal of two peacefully coexisting states.

On **25 May 2004**, in the **public meeting** of the Security Council that focused on “**Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts**”, the Permanent Representative of Romania noted that since the previous similar meeting last January, much progress has been made in dealing worldwide with Taliban and Al-Qaida. At the same time, many threats persist, and new challenges rise. Following Resolution 1526, unanimously adopted by the Council on January 30, 2004, the Committee 1267 has entered a new stage, being now endowed with a coherent and comprehensive set of tools that enable it to better carry out its mandate. The degree of success depends however on the capabilities on the ground to apply the measures adopted by the Council. The fight against Al Qaida and the Taliban requests a solid global texture, any weak component reducing the effectiveness of the entire system. It is therefore in the interest of the Security Council and relevant UN agencies, as well as of international donors, to provide assistance to countries that need specific help, for instance in border control. There is a need to encourage and support the permanent and substantive dialogue and exchange of information between countries situated in different regions, which are today bound together by nefarious terrorist activity.

During the **public debate** on the **UN response to crisis situations** held on **27 May 2004**, the representative of Romania said that an integrated and comprehensive United Nations strategy to respond to complex crises must support structures aimed at strengthening peace and at promoting development, so as to transform the conditions that allowed crises to grow. The intrinsic link between peace and development must remain at the core of the United Nations response. The implementation of a strategy for addressing crises from a peace-building perspective required cooperation between the security and development structures and agencies of the United Nations. This demands a change in the policies and operations of United Nations organs, programmes and funds, specialized agencies, departments and offices of the Secretariat.

At the same time, the Romanian representative noted that development agencies were revisiting traditional concepts of economic aid and were establishing mechanisms to link their approaches to the security community. Similarly, the United Nations security community had expanded its conflict management activities, moving peacekeeping beyond traditional military functions, as in Somalia, the Balkans, and East Timor, where the United Nations missions took on responsibility for governance and development tasks, as well as transitional administrations. Department of Political

Affairs (DPA) field offices, too, had witnessed a diversification of their tasks, and DPA political offices established in Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and Tajikistan were tasked with peace-building activities.

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