Security Council

Mali

In early January 2013, the collapse of government control over northern Mali due to capture of several cities by a coalition of terrorist and extremist groups (the MNLA, Ansar Dine, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa and AQIM) gave way to a military intervention by French forces.[1] In a press release, the Security Council expressed grave concern over the recent coup, stating that "the serious deterioration of the situation threatens even more the stability and integrity of Mali and constitutes a direct threat to international peace and security."[2] At present, the Council's main concerns in light of the recent developments include establishing funding mechanisms for an African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) as part of the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 2085 (2012), as well as addressing the growing humanitarian crisis.[3] On January 30 2013, a donor conference, led by the African Union, raised over $USD 450 million to support an African force in conjunction with AFISMA; AU chair Hailemariam Desalegn expressed that "the contribution toward Mali and the initiatives of NEPAD were example of Africa trying to overcome its own problems instead of waiting for other countries to help."[4] Moreover, the Secretary-General's report on Mali in November 2012(S/2012/894) proposes a plan of action to be undertaken after the attacks subside, in that "the country team will continue to work closely with the transitional authorities, development partners and civil society to build institutional capacity and promote activities aimed at increasing the resilience of Malians, especially those most vulnerable to social and economic shocks."[5]

Algeria

In mid-January 2013, a terrorist attack involving the kidnapping of international hostages was launched at a gas facility in Amenas, Algeria, resulting in numerous casualties and injuries[6]. Security Council president Mohammad Masood Khan of Pakistan released a press statement soon afterwards, declaring "the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of terrorism to justice […] terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security […] any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed."[7]

Developments in other Security Council-mandated countries

On December 12, 2012, the Democratic Republic of North Korea (DPRK) launched a ballistic missile into orbit; the Security Council immediately considered this activity as a violation of Resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009) in Resolution 2087 (2013).[8] Sanctions against the DPRK have been further emphasized and reinforced in response to the launch, including "taking appropriate action against designated entities and individuals that have assisted the evasion of sanction or in violating the provision of Resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009)."[9]

The Central African Republic recently saw its peacekeeping mandate extended by the Council on January 24, 2013 with a unanimous passing of resolution 2088 (2013)[10]. The mission will place a strong emphasis on restoring security from decades of instability, as well as a recent month-long crisis during which rebel groups had advance on the capital before being halted by a ceasefire as well as other arguments."[11]

Syria continues to experience a time of conflict, where much violence has occurred; the Council in a press statement called on all parties, in particular the government of Syria to contribute to a ceasefire in October 2012, which "could be a first step towards a sustainable cessation of all violence in conformity with Security Council Resolutions 2042

[1] Allison, Simon, Mali: five key facts about the conflict, 2013; BBC News Africa, Mali profile, 2013.
[2] United Nations Security Council, Security Council Press Statement on Mali, 2013.
[3] Security Council Report, January 2013 Monthly Forecast: Mali, 2013.
[4] ReliefWeb. AU-led donors' conference pledges over US$450 million for Mali, 2013.
[5] United Nations Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali, 2013.
[6] United Nations News Centre, Security Council condemns terrorist attack in Algeria, 2013.
[7] United Nations Security Council, Security Council Press Statement on Terrorist Attack in Almenas, Algeria, 2013.
[8] United Nations Security Council,, Resolution 2087, 2013.
[9] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2087, 2013.
[10] Reliefweb, Security Council extends mandate of peacebuilding office in Central African Republic, 2013.
[11] Reliefweb, Security Council extends mandate of peacebuilding office in Central African Republic, 2013.

(2012) and 2043 (2012)".[12] However, the conflict continues; according to UN human rights chief Navi Pillay, more than 60,000 people have died in the 22-month old civil war, hundreds of thousands have been displaced and tens of thousands have been arrested as of January 2013.[13]

Counter-terrorism activities

In light of increased terrorism-type activity in the global community in late December 2012 and early January 2013, the Council has seen a renewed interest in acting against such activity in the most efficient and effective method possible. As such, the Council held a high-level Open Debate in January 2013 on comprehensive approaches to counter-terrorism as a follow up to the Ombudsman's report in July 2012(S/2012/590) and the General Assembly's *Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.*[14] In a concept note (S/2013/3), Pakistan demonstrated an intention to focus explicitly on a "comprehensive approach".*[15]* Such an approach involves a combination of traditional approaches to counter-terrorism, addressing the principal causes of terrorism and all related factors in this context; these include, among others, cultural dialogue and tolerance, financing terrorism and the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.*[16]*

Revision of SC Working Methods

In November 2012, the Council held an open debate to take inventory of the various working methods undertaken during the year. Consisting of 35 delegations, the Open Debates highlighted the increasingly successful flexible meeting formats of the Council, such as Arria meetings[17]. Despite the usefulness of informal gatherings to prepare decisions, many delegations expressed concern with action—or lack thereof—regarding presidential note 507 (S/2010/507), which outlines several recommendations to change various Council activities, such as a marked effort to further publicize its decisions, as well as growing criticism of the P5's use of the veto.[18] After the debate, the Council adopted a presidential note in December 2012 which signaled a unified commitment to furthering the improvement of the Council's working methods, stating that "the members of the Council support an informal process with the participation of all Council members […] in a balanced, transparent, efficient and inclusive way, which facilitates an exchange of information related to the work of the subsidiary organs involved."[19]

The Security Council at the National Model United Nations Conference

The Security Council is the primary UN body which evaluates and identifies the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression[20]. It calls on the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment of terms of settlement; as such, the Council is the only UN body whose resolutions are legally binding according to international law[21]. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace or security[22]. The SC comprises of 15 Member States; five permanent members with veto power on substantive issues and ten non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term. Presidency of the Council is on a rotating basis, with one Member State taking a turn every month[23].

Format: The Security Council is a Resolution Writing Committee.

Voting: Each member of the Security Council has one vote; the permanent members (or the P5—China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States) have veto power on substantive issues[24]. In

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[12] United Nations Security Council, Security Council Press Statement on Ceasefire in Syria (SC/10800), 2012.
[13] Cumming-Bruce, N., More than 60,000 Have Died in Syrian Conflict, U.N. says,2013.
[14] Security Council Report (30 November 2012). December 2012 Monthly Forecast.
[15] What's in Blue, Counter-terrorism Open Debate, 2013.
[16] What's in Blue, Counter-terrorism Open Debate, 2013.
[17] United Nations Security Council, Open Debate on Working Methods (S/PV/6870), 2013.
[18] United Nations Security Council, Note by President of the Security Council (S/2010/507), 2010.
[19] United Nations Security Council, Note by President of the Security Council (S/2012/937), 2012.
[20] Charter of the United Nations, The Security Council, article 24.
[21] Charter of the United Nations, The Security Council, article 24.
[22] Charter of the United Nations, The Security Council, article 23.
[23] Charter of the United Nations, The Security Council, article 30..
[24] United Nations Dag Hammarskjold Library. Security Council: Voting Information.

accordance with the United Nations Charter, decisions of the Council are made by an affirmative vote of nine members of the Council, including the concurring vote of the P5. If a member of the P5 casts a negative vote, the substantive question being voted on immediately fails[25].

[25] United Nations Dag Hammarskjold Library. Security Council: Voting Information.

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What's in Blue (14 January 2013). *Counter-terrorism Open Debate.* Retrieved January 23, 2013, from
http://www.whatsinblue.org/2013/01/counter-terrorism-open-debate.php
> *This independent report on the operations and activities of the Security Council gives delegates an overview of the counter-terrorism debate which took place in January 2013. Giving a brief background of previous debates of this nature, the report is a first look into the probable topics, stakeholders and negotiations that take place in regards to the Council's counter-terrorism strategy for 2013. Delegates are encouraged to research previous counter-terrorism open debates, which may lead to pertinent on their particular country's stance on the issue.*

United Nations Security Council. (26 November 2012) *Open Debate on Working Methods (*(S/PV.6870) Retrieved January 26, 2013, from http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_pv_6870.pdf
> *The quintessential guide to gaining insight into the Security Council's deliberation on future working methods. Taking place in November 2012, the debate features several perspectives from Member States of various regions, including permanent members, about how to modify such working methods as improving the quality of interaction between the Council and other UN bodies, transparency, and improving the existing practice of penholdership.*

United Nations Security Council (28 November 2012). *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali(S/2012/894).* Retrieved February 5, 2013 from
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2012/894
> *Delegates wishing to gain background knowledge about the current conflict in Mali should consider consulting this report as a starting point. The report gives detailed information about the events leading up to the current conflict (as well as previous Council Resolutions addressing such events), as well as past and present groups and stakeholders in the region. In addition to the pertinent security situation and possible solutions, the report gives a detailed insight into the humanitarian and development perspectives, while also providing a view into the current stages of implementation of previous Security Council resolutions into the current situation.*

United Nations Security Council (22 January 2013). Resolution 2087 (2013). S/RES/2087. Retrieved February 5, 2013, from http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2087.pdf
> *The Security Council's official and immediate response to the DPRK's use of ballistic missile technology in late January 2013. Establishing the Council's swift recognition and immediate disdain with such activity, the resolution reaffirms the current sanctions placed against the DPRK, while also stating new sanctions to be applied should the DPRK pursue further action. This resolution also instructs other UN bodies and international organizations to demonstrate their disdain for missile activity by maintaining their consistency in following the protocol for sanctions set by the Council in previous resolutions.*

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http://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/security-council-extends-mandate-peacebuilding-office-central-0
> *A detailed report of the Council's 6097th meeting regarding the security situation in the Central African Republic. The Council, in adopting resolution 2088 (2013) and extending the peacekeeping mission to the country in January 2014, outlines the various roles of the involved parties and UN bodies going forward. The article also outlines the recognition of ongoing violations of humanitarian and human rights law, calling all involved parties to take action on such violations as part of the mission extension.*

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I. Women, Peace and Security: Revisiting and Reviewing Security Council Resolution 1325

Security Council Actions

On October 31, 2012, the Security Council issued a Presidential statement on women, peace, and security. The statement reaffirmed the Council's commitment to fully implementing Resolution 1325, as well as reiterating its call to deploy Women Protection Advisors to peacekeeping missions.[26] The statement ended with a request by the Security Council for the Secretary-General to give an update on the implementation of Resolution 1325, including gaps and challenges, in his next annual report, expected to be released in September 2013.[27] With regard to implementation, the statement specifically recognized UN Women as an effective body, particularly in preventing duplication of effort within UN agencies.[28]

On November 30, 2012, the Security Council convened a one-day open debate on women, peace, and security. Although the Council failed to authorize any specific actions in gender and peacekeeping, the forum allowed representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGO), United Nations (UN) agencies, and Member States to express their concerns regarding the role of women in conflict.[29] More than 60 delegates made speeches. Many speakers made reference to the ongoing conflicts in Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Syria, drawing particular attention to the challenges faced by women in conflict zones, including physical abuse, rape, and displacement.[30] While many delegates noted exceptional achievements, such as women's role in reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan, the common theme in the speeches was a call for action.[31] The President of Femmes Africa Solidarité said, "together, we have innovative ideas, solutions and means. What are we waiting for?"[32] She also emphasized the need for Security Council Member States to publicly prioritize women's rights by engaging women leaders, allocating political and financial resources, and behaving as role models.[33]

Member State Actions

Some Member States, as well as regional and military organizations, took actions to promote the implementation of Resolution 1325. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) released its second annual report on Resolution 1325, following the appointment of Norwegian Mari Skåre as its first-ever Special Representative for Women, Peace, and Security in August 2012.[34] The report, released on January 15, 2013, details the actions taken by the sizable military alliance to address gender issues, such as the inclusion of women in conflict resolution in Afghanistan and Kosovo, facilitation of a United Nations Development Programme project on gender, and designating training facilities for Gender Advisers and Gender Field Advisers.[35]

Additionally, twenty Member States have unilaterally enacted National Action Plans (NAP) to identify methods for implementing Resolution 1325.[36] In December 2012, Nigeria hosted more than 30 of its government officials in its capital to discuss the draft of its NAP.[37] Nigeria's NAP uses five pillars – prevention, participation, protection, promotion, and prosecution – to empower women and girls, particularly by incorporating more women in peace negotiations and pursuing judicial reform related to gender-based violence.[38] In December 2011, United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered multiple speeches in which she acknowledged the role of women in ending conflict and promoting security, and promoted the United States NAP.[39] The United States plan attempts to

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[26] United Nations Security Council, Statement by the President of the Security Council, 2012.
[27] United Nations Security Council, Statement by the President of the Security Council, 2012.
[28] United Nations Security Council, Statement by the President of the Security Council, 2012.
[29] United Nations Security Council, Deputy Secretary-General, Heads of UN-Women, Peacekeeping Operations Speak, 2012.
[30] United Nations Security Council, Deputy Secretary-General, Heads of UN-Women, Peacekeeping Operations Speak, 2012.
[31] United Nations Security Council, Deputy Secretary-General, Heads of UN-Women, Peacekeeping Operations Speak, 2012.
[32] United Nations Security Council, Deputy Secretary-General, Heads of UN-Women, Peacekeeping Operations Speak, 2012.
[33] NGO Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security, Statement by Bineta Diop at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security, 2012.
[34] North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO Secretary-General Releases Report on Women, Peace, and Security, 2013.
[35] North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO Secretary General's Second Public Report on Implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and Related Resolutions, 2013.
[36] UN Women, National Action Plans on Resolution 1325, 2013.
[37] All Africa, Nigeria: National Action Plan for Women and Peace, 2013.
[38] All Africa, Nigeria: National Action Plan for Women and Peace, 2013.
[39] United States Department of State, Secretary Clinton's Remarks on Women, Peace, and Security, 2011.

coordinate policies between the U.S. and its allies to promote gender inclusion, particularly in areas of conflict and post-conflict.[40] Chile was the first Latin American country to release a NAP, and placed unique focus on women's participation in the military and the responsibility of military leadership to create gender equality.[41]

Next Steps

In the coming months, the Security Council is likely to consider resolutions regarding peacekeeping actions in conflict zones, including Syria and Mali.[42] If peacekeeping forces are authorized, many NGOs and agencies have called for the mission authorization to take special concerns for women, such as Gender Advisers and the inclusion of women in the eventual peace process.[43] The Security Council requiring such actions could represent a significant step in fully implementing Resolution 1325. The Security Council is also scheduled to consider multilateral counterterrorism measures, which represents an opportunity for the Council and individual Member States to ensure that counterterrorism activities do not infringe upon human rights or gender equality.[44] By incorporating gender-specific measures in more of its resolutions and activities, the Security Council can better promote the implementation of Resolution 1325.

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[40] United States Department of State, United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, 2011.
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> *Bineta Diop's statement at the open debate represented the opinions of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security, and was quoted in the Security Council's official press release. The statement acknowledges specific victories and challenges regarding the implementation of Resolution 1325. It also contains specific calls to action for the Security Council.*

North Atlantic Treaty Organization. (2013, January 15). *NATO Secretary General's Second Public Report on Implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and Related Resolutions*. Retrieved January 16, 2013 from: http://www.nato.int/nato_static/assets/pdf/pdf_topics/201301 15_130111-SG-1325-Public-Report2013.pdf.
> *Many troop contributing countries (TCC) for UN peacekeeping operations are also members of NATO. Non-TCC NATO members currently have troops deployed in many combat zones. By taking steps to promote gender equality in its missions, NATO provides a framework that may be effective for wider use among countries that provide peacekeepers.*

United Nations Security Council. (2012, November 30). *Deputy Secretary-General, Heads of UN-Women, Peacekeeping Operations Speak*. Retrieved January 16, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2012/sc108 40.doc.htm.
> *This press release summarizes the major talking points of the open debate. It also contains summary information for many of the speeches. Although the open debate did not result in immediate action, it was a high-profile opportunity for women's advocates to discuss gender equality in conflict with delegates who may soon vote on peacekeeping resolutions.*

United Nations Security Council. (2012, October 31). *Statement by the President of the Security Council*. Retrieved January 16, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/PRST/2012/23.
> *The statement by the President of the Security Council reiterates the Council's support for Resolution 1325. The President identified specific goals and measures that the Council considered to be important. The statement also requests further information from the Secretary-General, which indicates continued focus on women, peace, and security for the future.*

UN Women. (2013). *National Action Plans on Resolution 1325*. Retrieved February 6, 2013 from: http://www.un-instraw.org/political-participation/knowledge-management/national-action-plans-on-resolution-1325.html.
> *This compilation of existing National Action Plans is useful in identifying common trends and priorities in the implementation of Resolution 1325. The Plans listed come from countries in Africa, Europe, Latin America, and Asia, and may serve as a brainstorming point for actions that can be taken by Member States during conflict to protect women's rights.*

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II. Achieving Peace and Stability in Somalia

Security stabilization

Any political or civil development is built from a basic public confidence that civic activity is safe from physical harm or coercion. In collaboration with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Somali National Security Forces have continued to maintain their hold on all key cities.[45] However, al-Shabaab continues to attack outlying districts, including targeted killings and hand grenades. On January 5th, Somali military in concert with Ethiopian allies defended southern outposts near Luuq and Garbaharey. Forces are currently committed to clearing and controlling al-Shabaab's last stronghold in the southern region of Gedo.[46] Meanwhile, to ensure that al-Shabaab cannot recover around Gedo, Kenyan forces supporting AMISOM have expanded their aerial strike missions in the outlying districts.[47]

Political consolidation

At the outset of his administration, Somali President Mohamud outlined his six-pillar policy framework: stabilization, peacebuilding and reconciliation, economic recovery, collaborative international relations, the delivery of services to citizens, and national unity and integrity.[48] Regarding the apparently successful process of consolidation, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga remarked, that after several failed attempts to end of the transition in Somalia, it was successful last year because the process was inclusive, transparent, legitimate, participatory and Somalia-owned.[49] Additionally, in collaboration with the national parliament, Mohamud's administration has also systematically started development plans for establishing regional administration in those areas wrested from al-Shabaab.[50] Nonetheless, political turmoil simmers in several regional states as state consolidation and centralization efforts foment local transitions in leadership.[51]

Civil security is also managing with growing pangs. A UN expert panel on Somalia determined that private armed security forces continued to operate outside of an obsolescent legal framework; Faiza Patel and the panel called on the Mohamud administration in tandem with local authorities to "integrate the force into the agreed-upon Somali national security structure and ensure that it is used strictly for the purposes for which it is intended."[52]

In international political affairs, on January 18th, the United States formally recognized the Somali government. This landmark decision breaks a 23 year designation by the U.S. as a failed state and sets a direct pathway for international normalization of relations.[53] Moreover, the U.S formally seeks to lift Somalia's international arms embargo and is urging the UN Security Council to accede.[54]

Civil developments

Journalists are reeling from a recent case where the Somali courts convicted a Somali journalist who had reported a woman's allegation of rape by soldiers.[55] Sentencing the journalist to a year in prison for "insulting a political body," the court has caught international attention, including condemnation.[56] On behalf of the general body, Ban "voiced deep disappointment over the sentencing. The rights of the alleged victim and the journalist to a fair and transparent judicial process, including the right of appeal, are fully respected."[57] The current legal purview for journalist activity is in question.[58]

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[46] Garowe Online, *Somalia: Heavy fighting in Geod region between government forces*, 2013.
[47] Actualite Afrique, *Kenya resumes airstrikes against al-Shabaab targets in South Somalia*, 2013.
[48] Security Council, *S/PV/6848*, 2012.
[49] United Nations Political Office of Somalia, *Augustine P. Mahiga*, 2013.
[50] Security Council, *S/2013/69*, 2013.
[51] Garowe Online, *Kismayo leader welcomes federal ministers from Mogadishu*, 2013.
[52] United Nations Human Rights, *Private military and security companies in Somalia need regulation, says UN expert*, 2013.
[53] Agence-Presse France, *Somalia: US Recognizes Government*, 2013.
[54] Reuters, *US urges lifting of UN arms embargo on Somalia*, 2013.
[55] Al-Jazeera, *Somali Journalist charged over rape case*, 2013.
[56] Al-Jazeera, *Fear spreads after Somali journalist jailing*, 2013.
[57] UN News Centre, *Ban deeply disappointed after alleged Somali rape victim, reporter receive jail sentences*, 2013.
[58] UN News Centre, *Ban deeply disappointed after alleged Somali rape victim, reporter receive jail sentences,* 2013.

More generally, in 2013 Somalia continues to face a complex humanitarian crisis. "Of the 3.8 million Somalis in need of assistance, 2.1 million require life-saving aid, while the remaining 1.7 million could easily fall back into crisis if livelihood support is not sustained."[59] In several parts of the south, acute malnutrition still exceeds 20 percent. Fortunately, food security has improved; in the last four months, the number of those who require life-saving services has decreased by 16 percent.[60]

UN efforts

The UN has authorized AMISOM to maintain deployment, maintaining a presence established by their mandate.[61] Additionally, several bodies within the UN are continuously providing resources toward securing peace and stability in Somalia. The United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) continues to give an array of political, logistical, and operational support to both the administration and the National constituent Assembly.[62] Additionally, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has devoted technical expertise toward resolving several policy pursuits. In the new years, the UN has ramped up consultations with new local leaders on continuing security challenges and enhancing national security forces.[63]

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[59] UN Security Council, *S/2013/69*, 2013, III F 45.
[60] UN Security Council, *S/2013/69*, 2013, III F 45.
[61] UN Security Council, *S/RES/2072*, 2012.
[62] UN Security Council, *S/2013/69*, 2013, II A, 17.
[63] UN Security Council, *S/2013/69*, 2013, III C 27.

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This resolution responds to the ongoing threat of piracy and armed robbery at sea around Somalia. Though this update did not expand on the ongoing problem, Resolution 2077 offers the Security Council's current efforts and details its concerns. For any committee work that you may do regarding efforts to stem piracy near Somali waters, this resolution is necessary.

United Nations Security Council. (2013, January 31). *Report of the Secretary General on Somalia*. (S/2013/69), Retrieved February 2, 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2013/69.

This report provides a comprehensive update to the Security Council on all aspects pursuant to Resolution 2010 regarding Somalia. It is organized according to political and security developments, UN efforts regarding peace consolidation, coordination, and strategic review. This is an invaluable resource for any fruitful committee work regarding the state of the issue. Report 69 may be the single most detailed contemporary source of information regarding the status of all major UN activities regarding Somalia.

United Nations Security Council. (2012, October 12). *Security Council meeting 6848*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from: http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_pv_6848.pdf.

Often, regular proceedings at the Security Council can shed a great deal of insight on country-level concerns for the issue of concern. The proceedings from meeting 6848 is a great example of the efforts among the Security Council members to build consensus of knowledge and expectations regarding the status of Somalia. Herein, the document recounts key information provided by Member States toward consolidating the issue at hand into a coherent framework for action.

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III. Resource Scarcity and Its Relation to Conflict

Recent Developments

In November 2012, two resolutions were adopted by the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) that addressed illicit exploitation of resources and its impact on conflict. Resolution 2077 on Somalia (S/RES/2077) was adopted on November 21, 2012 and Resolution 2078 (S/RES/2078) on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was adopted on November 28, 2012.[64] While reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of Somalia, and with respect to offshore natural resources, Resolution 2077 emphasizes that under international law illegal fishing and dumping of toxic substances needs to be prevented.[65] Such a statement by the SC illustrates the need for efficient investigations in order to report illegal fishing and dumping during times of conflict.[66] Yet, the UN has little evidence to prove allegations that such acts are factors responsible for forcing Somali youth into piracy. Resolution 2077 addresses piracy and its impact on youth in Somalia. Moreover, at present there is no evidence of toxic waste being dumped on land or at sea.[67] As a result, through Resolution 2077, the SC has urged Member States to take an independent approach to investigate claims of illegal fishing and illegal dumping, including of toxic substances and to prosecute such offenses committed within their jurisdiction.[68]

In contrast, Resolution 2078 states that illicit exploitation of resources is a major factor in fuelling conflicts in the Great Lakes region of Africa.[69] Thus, the SC encouraged a collective action approach by calling for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to continue its regional action.[70] Further, the SC called for the DRC and fellow states in the Great Lakes region to reinforce the control on imports and exports of minerals by customs authorities and to collaborate with regional level investigations on all illegal exploitation of natural resources.[71] Additionally, the SC encouraged the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC to support its authorities in preventing illicit activities of the production and trade of natural resources through regular visits to mining sites, trade routes and markets.[72]

Other major UN bodies, such as the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and the World Food Programme (WFP) also addressed the importance of reducing resource scarcity in late 2012.[73] In its 21st session, which concluded on September 28, 2012, the HRC adopted Resolution A/HRC/RES/21/2 on the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation.[74] Recalling UN General Assembly Resolution 64/292, the Resolution calls on Member States to ensure that safe drinking water and sanitation remain affordable.[75] Thus, the HRC encouraged Member States to identify the measures needed to ensure such affordable access for households and to prioritize funding for safe drinking water and sanitation in transparent budgets.[76] Moreover, the HRC requested government agencies' collaboration to find sustainable solutions for accessing safe and clean drinking water.[77] Resolution

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[64] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2077, 2012
       United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2078, 2012.

[65] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2077, 2012.

[66] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2077, 2012.

[67] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2077, 2012.

[68] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2077, 2012.

[69] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2077, 2012.

[70] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2077, 2012.

[71] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2077, 2012.

[72] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2078, 2012.

[73] International Institute for Sustainable Development, Human Rights Council Calls for Integrating Right to Water in Development Agenda, 2012.

[74] International Institute for Sustainable Development, Human Rights Council Calls for Integrating Right to Water in Development Agenda, 2012.

[75] International Institute for Sustainable Development, Human Rights Council Calls for Integrating Right to Water in Development Agenda, 2012.

[76] International Institute for Sustainable Development, Human Rights Council Calls for Integrating Right to Water in Development Agenda, 2012.

[77] International Institute for Sustainable Development, Human Rights Council Calls for Integrating Right to Water in Development Agenda, 2012.

A/HRC/RES/21/2 also suggests integrating the right to water into the international development agenda for the post-2015 framework.[78]

The WFP has been increasingly active in countries facing conflict, such as Syria, due to the conflicts' effect on food resources.[79] On January 9, 2013, the WFP was unable to deliver food to 1 million Syrians because of the violence and a lack of fuel.[80] Additionally, even though the WFP had the assistance of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and local non-governmental organizations, the objective to provide emergency food aid to 2.5 million people could not be achieved, and only 1.5 million people were reached.[81] Further, due to the extended nature of the conflict, a bread crisis has hit the country amid a lack of security and a shortage of fuel for bakeries.[82] In recent months, the country has also run out of wheat and many bakeries have been forced to close or reduce production.[83] Rebels allege that bakeries have been targeted in an attempt to starve opposition areas into submission.[84] Such allegations show how food resources and the lack thereof can be not only conflict igniters but are often used as strategic weapons of opportunity. Late 2012 also saw an increasing number of attacks on the WFP aid trucks, which have been hit by fuel shortages.[85]

Conclusion and Outlook

The debate on natural resources and its relation to conflict can be tackled from multiple different angles. The recent SC Resolutions on Somalia and DRC have addressed the issue from country specific policy perspectives. HRC Resolution A/HRC/RES/21/2 examined the issue from the topic specific angle – the human right to water. And most recently, food scarcity has come to the forefront of the resource scarcity debate as it exacerbates the conflict in Syria. All such recent events show the challenges the UN and the international community face in developing solutions to and providing remedies for resource scarcity in countries facing conflict.

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[79] The Guardian, Syrian Fighting is Preventing Food Aid Getting Through to 1m People, says UN, 2013.
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[81] The Guardian, Syrian Fighting is Preventing Food Aid Getting Through to 1m People, says UN, 2013.
[82] The Guardian, Aid Agencies "Can't Reach" 1 Million Hungry Syrians, 2013.
[83] The Guardian, Syrian Fighting is Preventing Food Aid Getting Through to 1m People, says UN, 2013.
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> *This is a press release from the International Institute for Sustainable Development announcing the adoption of resolution A/HRC/21/L1 by the Human Rights Council at its 21st session. This resolution discussed the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and also addressed directly the issue of water scarcity. In relation to this topic, the Human Rights Council encourages Member States to collaborate in finding solutions for sustainable access to safe and clean drinking water.*

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> *This article covers the difficulties of the World Food Programme in providing emergency food aid to 2.5 million people in January 2013 in Syria. As this UN agency was unable to provide food to these citizens it is clear that challenges of addressing resource scarcity in times of conflict still persist. In this article, the WFP spokesperson states that food needs are growing in Syria and it is continually difficult to help the hardest-hit areas, thus exacerbating the severity of the conflict.*

United Nations Human Rights Council. (2012). *Resolution A/HRC/RES/21/2*. Retrieved January 10, 2013, from: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/alldocs.aspx?doc_id=20840
> *This is the Human Rights Council resolution on the human right to safe drinking and sanitation. Water scarcity was addressed directly at the 21st session of the Human Rights Council. Delegates are encouraged to read this document in order to have a better understanding of the depth and significance when it comes to this particular form of resource scarcity.*

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> *This resolution adopted on November 21, 2012 by the Security Council is available in its entirety. Illicit exploitation of natural resources including illicit fishing and dumping of toxic substances fuel the conflict in Somalia. Therefore, the Security Council has requested the setting of efficient monitoring systems in order to prosecute such offences.*

United Nations Security Council. *Resolution 2078 (2012).* Retrieved January 20, 2013, from: http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/RES/2078(2012)
> *This resolution was adopted on November 28, 2012, by the Security Council. It details how illegal exploitation and illicit trade fuel the conflict in the Great Lakes region of Africa. Further, the Security Council requested customary authorities to control imports and exports of minerals and to collaborate with regional level investigations in regard to illegal exploitation of natural resources. It is an important source for delegates in order to have a keen knowledge of the latest resolution adopted by the Council on the topic.*

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