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Update for the Security Council

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Committee Overview

Recent Developments

On 1 January 2017, five new non-permanent members, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Sweden, and Italy, began their two-year term in the Security Council.¹ In addition, the new Secretary-General, António Guterres, held his first formal briefing to the Security Council, which called for a new approach toward peace and security that prioritizes prevention.² In the past few months, apart from addressing global issues such as human trafficking, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, the Security Council focused its attention on the serious conditions in different parts of the world, such as Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as well as the Arab–Israeli conflict.³

In response to the nuclear test carried out by DPRK on 9 September 2016, which violated the previous Security Council resolutions on this matter and challenged the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (1968), the Security Council adopted three resolutions which urged the state to abandon its nuclear ambitions and strengthened its sanctions regime.⁴ Among other things, the resolutions banned DPRK from exporting various materials, equipment, goods, and technology and added 11 new individuals to the list of those subject to a travel ban and asset freeze.⁵ This decision represented a unified approach of the international community to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and to enhance the global regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.⁶

On 16 December 2016, alarmed by the continued security, political, and humanitarian crisis as well as by the escalation of ethnic violence in South Sudan, the Security Council granted a one-year mandate extension to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, emphasizing the mandate's authorization of "all necessary means" to protect civilians under threat of physical violence.⁷ However, despite warnings of high-level United Nations (UN) officials that South Sudan was "on the brink of a cataclysmic event," the Security Council failed to adopt a resolution imposing an arms embargo on country and additional targeted sanctions on key government and opposition figures.⁸ Eight Member States, including China and the Russian Federation, abstained, arguing that sanctions and other punitive measures have had rather negative effects in similar situations in the past.⁹

On 19 December 2016, after two failed attempts to end the military fights in the Syrian city of Aleppo and to arrange a ceasefire that would allow for the much needed delivery of humanitarian aid, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2328 on "The situation in the Middle East (Syria)."¹⁰ It requested the UN and other relevant institutions to deploy observers carrying out neutral monitoring of the civilian evacuations, who, under the auspices of resolution 2328, should be provided with safe, immediate, and unhindered access to the evacuation area.¹¹ The provisions in resolution 2328 were reinforced two days later in resolution 2332 on "The situation in the Middle East (Syria)," which, based on the "unacceptable and escalating" level of violence in Syria, renewed authorization of relief delivery to Syria, and called upon all parties to the armed conflict to respect their obligations

¹ UN Security Council, *Current Members*.

² UN DPI, *At Security Council, UN chief Guterres makes case for new efforts to build and sustain peace*, 2017; UN Security Council, *Tribute to the outgoing Secretary-General (S/RES/2324 (2016))*, 2016.

³ UN Security Council, *Highlights of Security Council Practice*; UN Security Council, *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2331 (2016))*, 2016; UN Security Council, *Meetings conducted by the Security Council in 2016*, 2016.

⁴ UN Security Council, *Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea (S/RES/2094 (2013))*, 2016; UN Security Council, *Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea (S/RES/2270 (2016))*, 2016; UN Security Council, *Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea (S/RES/2321 (2016))*, 2016.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ UN DPI, *Security Council Strengthens Sanctions on Democratic Republic of Korea, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2321 (2016) (SC/12603)*, 2016.

⁷ UN Security Council, *Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan (S/RES/2327 (2016))*, 2016.

⁸ UN DPI, *Security Council Decides against Imposing Arms Embargo on South Sudan, Designating Key Figures for Targeted Sanctions (SC/12653)*, 2016; UN DPI, *South Sudan on Brink of 'Cataclysmic Event', Top United Nations Officials Warn Security Council, Calling for Targeted Sanctions (SC/12642)*, 2016.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ UN DPI, *Security Council approves UN monitors for Aleppo evacuations*, 2016.

¹¹ UN Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East (Syria) (S/RES/2328 (2016))*, 2016.

under international law, especially regarding the protection of civilians.¹² On 23 December 2016, the Security Council was briefed on the situation in Syria by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, who reported the situation remained catastrophic and urged the Security Council and parties to the conflict to redouble their efforts to end violence and enable delivery of humanitarian aid.¹³ The Security Council subsequently unanimously adopted of resolution 2336 on “The situation in the Middle East (Syria),” with the aim of ending nearly six years of bloodshed in Syria by negotiating a nationwide ceasefire and to stimulate new intra-Syrian peace talks.¹⁴ However, the meeting between the Syrian Government and opposition groups, which took place in January 2017 in Astana, was marred by harsh words and mutual accusations.¹⁵

On 23 December 2016, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2234 on “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question,” in which it condemned the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967.¹⁶ Calling the Israel's settlement policy “a flagrant violation under international law,” the Security Council called for Israel to stop all settlement activities.¹⁷ It further called for compliance with the 4 June 1967 lines, only allowing changes agreed by the parties through negotiations, and reiterated its commitment to the two-State solution.¹⁸ The coming months will show how the Security Council, under leadership of the new Secretary-General, will handle emerging challenges to international peace and security.

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This source is an excellent overview of what the Security Council did in the respective year. Delegates should have a close look at this website to get a deeper insight into meetings and consultations that took place in 2016, resolutions that were adopted, missions that were deployed, and issues that dominated the Security Council agenda, while simultaneously follow up further developments. In 2016, the most discussed topics included Syria, South Sudan, the Middle East, Western Sahara, the Democratic Republic of Korea and non-proliferation, and Yemen. This is not only reflected in the adopted Security Council resolutions, but also illustrates the current and future priorities of the Security Council.

United Nations, Security Council, 7847th meeting. (2016). *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2331 (2016))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2331\(2016\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2331(2016))

This resolution represents the first standalone action taken by the Security Council to address human trafficking. On 20 December 2016, the 15-member Security Council condemned all forms of human trafficking conducted by the Islamic State, Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups in strongest terms. It stressed that human trafficking leads to instability and prolongs conflicts because terrorists use the sale or trade in persons as weapons of terror and as an instrument to finance their activities, recruit fighters, and advance their ideological aims. Accordingly, the Security Council encouraged Member States to build strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society to disrupt and dismantle networks involved in human trafficking and to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes.

¹² UN Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East (Syria) (S/RES/2332 (2016))*, 2016.

¹³ UN DPI, *At Security Council, UN humanitarian official flags 'catastrophic' situation in Syria despite eastern Aleppo evacuations*, 2016.

¹⁴ UN DPI, *Security Council Supports Russian Federation-Turkey Efforts to End Violence in Syria, Jump-start Political Process, Adopting Resolution 2336 (2016) (SC/12663)*, 2016; UN Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East (Syria) (S/RES/2336 (2016))*, 2016.

¹⁵ *Syria conflict: War of words as peace talks open in Astana*, BBC, 2017.

¹⁶ UN Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question (S/RES/2334 (2016))*, 2016.

¹⁷ UN DPI, *Israel's Settlements Have No Legal Validity, Constitute Flagrant Violation of International Law, Security Council Reaffirms (SC/12657)*, 2016.

¹⁸ UN DPI, *UN chief welcomes Security Council resolution on Israeli settlements as 'significant step'*, 2016.



United Nations, Security Council, 7853rd meeting. (2016). *The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question (S/RES/2334 (2016))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 28 December 2016 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2334\(2016\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2334(2016))

This resolution on Israeli settlements, adopted on 23 December 2016, was marked by an exceptional agreement among the Security Council members. By a vote of 14 in favor and one abstention the Security Council condemned all settlement activities conducted by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. The resolution was largely welcomed by the international community and presented hope for a two-state solution, although it was heavily criticized by Israel. Delegates should consider how this unprecedented decision reflects shifts in Security Council politics and how it might affect future peace efforts.

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I. Protection of Civilians in the Context of Peacekeeping Operations

Recent Developments

The concept of the protection of civilians (PoC) continues to be a priority for the Security Council.¹⁹ Leading up to 2017, the Security Council has focused on PoC in the Middle East and Africa, specifically addressing the role of the international community in upholding new measures regarding this issue.²⁰ In this update, delegates will find information regarding PoC in Israel, Palestine, Liberia, Syria, and South Sudan.²¹

Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) on “The situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian question,” adopted on 23 December 2016, calls for the protection of civilians affected by the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.²² In addition to preventing acts of terror against civilians, the resolution emphasizes that it is imperative that the involved parties are held accountable for actions that threaten the wellbeing of civilians.²³ Moreover, the resolution requests that all parties comply with international humanitarian law, aimed at preventing escalation of the conflict and working towards a lasting peace.²⁴

Through resolution 2333 (2016), “The situation in Liberia,” adopted on 23 December 2016, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United National Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until 30 March 2018.²⁵ Due to the 2017 presidential elections in Liberia, the Security Council has extended UNMIL, with a focus on PoC and addressing sexual and gender-based violence, in the context of a peaceful transition of power.²⁶ Over the next months, UNMIL is mandated to act as an advisor for the Liberian government, and will help with the reform of leadership within the Liberian National Police (LNP), allowing for greater national responsibility in PoC.²⁷

The Security Council has also prioritized PoC in Syria, by adopting resolution 2332 (2016) on “The situation in the Middle East (Syria),” on 21 December 2016, which demands that all parties to the conflict comply with past Security Council resolutions, including a call for unrestricted deployment of humanitarian aid for civilians being evacuated from Aleppo.²⁸ In addition, the Security Council has continued to support efforts to broker a ceasefire agreement, including through resolution 2336, which promotes a political solution to PoC concerns.²⁹

In South Sudan, ethnic tensions and polarized leadership continue to pose severe threats to PoC.³⁰ The Secretary-General called for the Security Council to act against these threats, specifically by urging the Government of South Sudan to aid the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in fulfilling its mandate, which includes all necessary means, including preventive measures, to deter attacks against civilians.³¹ Further, the Security Council continues to support the deployment of a regional protection force (RPF), as well as reiterating calls for political solutions to the ongoing crisis.³² As demonstrated, PoC remains a key priority for the Security Council and will continue to be emphasized in the mandate and implementation of peacekeeping missions.³³

¹⁹ UN DPKO, *Protection of Civilians*, 2016.

²⁰ UN Security Council, *Security Council Resolutions*, 2016.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² UN Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question (S/RES/2334 (2016))*, 2016, p. 2.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ UN DPI, *Liberia: Security Council extends UN Mission, for the final time, until 30 March 2018*, 2016.

²⁶ UN Security Council, *The situation in Liberia (S/RES/2333 (2016))*, 2016, p. 3.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

²⁸ UN Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East (Syria) (S/RES/2332 (2016))*, 2016, p. 5.

²⁹ Barnard & Saad, *Iran, Russia and Turkey Agree to Enforce Syria Cease-Fire, but Don't Explain How*, 2017.

³⁰ UN DPI, *Act now to halt South Sudan's trajectory towards mass atrocities, 'Ban urges Security Council*, 2016.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² UN DPI, *UN mission in South Sudan confirms discussions on regional protection force continuing*, 2017.

³³ UN Security Council, *Security Council Resolutions*, 2016.



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This website explains the background and mandate of UNMIL, as well as providing information about PoC in the context of UNMIL. Delegates will find this website a useful demonstration of how PoC can be incorporated into peacekeeping missions in a more preventive context in anticipation of the upcoming elections. In addition, through a careful review of the history of UNMIL and its implementation of PoC components, delegates can gain a stronger understanding of how PoC can be considered across different phases of conflict and post-conflict peacekeeping.

United Nations, Security Council, 7840th meeting. (2016). *Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan (S/RES/2327 (2016))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2327\(2016\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2327(2016))

This resolution describes the recent work of UNMISS and other organizations in regard to PoC and fulfilling its mandate. Most importantly, the resolution expands the mandate of UNMISS as a response to the violence that is ongoing in the region. In particular, this resolution highlights the potential use of regional approaches to PoC, through the proposed deployment of the RPF. However, the failure to resolve the underlying political tensions, as well as disagreements within the Security Council which delayed the extension of UNMISS' mandate by one day, call attention to further disagreements about the most effective approaches to PoC.

United Nations, Security Council, 7841st meeting. (2016). *The situation in the Middle East (Syria) (S/RES/2328 (2016))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2328\(2016\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2328(2016))

Bearing in mind the recent atrocities in Syria, the SC adopted this resolution in order to support the evacuations of civilians in conflict areas. This resolution places particular emphasis on the evacuation of civilians that are being devastated by the occurring violence. The SC asserts the importance of not only humanitarian assistance, but also organizations' ability to enact and carry out humanitarian efforts. Additionally, the resolution reiterates that PoC is a priority for the SC in Syria. Due to the number of SC resolutions that have been adopted at the end of 2016 that pertain to the crisis in Syria, delegates can ascertain that this topic is a priority for the SC.

United Nations, Security Council, 7851st meeting. (2016). *The situation in Liberia (S/RES/2333 (2016))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2333\(2016\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2333(2016))

Due to the ongoing conflict in Liberia, the SC adopted this resolution to both expand and extend the UNMIL mandate. It has been expanded to include advising the Liberian government in training the LNP in order to ensure PoC during the upcoming elections. This resolution describes the efforts that were already made in Liberia, in the context of human rights and PoC. This resolution will show delegates how the SC can respond to governmental transitions and promote rebuilding in conflict countries.

United Nations, Security Council, 7853rd meeting. (2016). *The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question (S/RES/2334 (2016))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2334\(2016\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2334(2016))

This resolution addresses the conflict between Israel and Palestine, in the context of recent setbacks in the progress of achieving a two-state solution. This includes violence and terrorism in and around Israeli settlements. The SC has condemned the continued building of Israeli settlements, and has called for the de-escalation of conflict. It is maintained that PoC is a priority of the SC, as civilians are victims of terror attacks in retaliations for the settlements. When reading this resolution, delegates will see how the SC continues to advocate for PoC, even in the most strenuous conflicts.

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II. The Situation in Libya

Recent Developments

In December 2016, the United Nations (UN) Security Council gathered to discuss the current situation in Libya.³⁴ In its 14 December resolution 2323 on “The Situation in Libya,” the Security Council prolonged the mandate of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) until 15 September 2017.³⁵ Additionally, the Security Council further defined the goal of UNSMIL to include facilitation of the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) and support for the Government of National Accord (GNA) throughout the country’s transitional phase.³⁶ Finally, the resolution extended the tasks of UNSMIL to include provision of humanitarian services, as requested, institutional support, monitoring and reporting on human rights, assistance for disarmament measures, and the coordination of international support measures especially in post-conflict zones liberated from the Islamic State (IS).³⁷

On 1 December 2016 the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council a regular “Report on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya,” which highlighted setbacks in implementation of the LPA, due to the ongoing disagreement by the House of Representatives over the constitution of the GNA.³⁸ The report also highlighted a further challenge for the LPA caused by the existence of parallel institutions that have no authority under the LPA, but which claim legal authority in various regions of the country.³⁹ The Secretary-General also mentioned the extensive use of improvised mines and similar devices throughout the country, which pose a great risk for the civilian population, and called upon Member States to fully fund mine-eradication programs.⁴⁰

On 25 October 2016, a conference between the UN, the League of Arab States and the African Union took place in Cairo to discuss an international and regional approach to the conflict in Libya.⁴¹ All delegations rejected foreign military intervention and stressed the need for a Libyan-controlled solution.⁴² The organizations further condemned all violence and urged an enhanced dialogue between the involved parties to ensure the implementation of the LPA.⁴³ In mid-December, the UN agencies active in Libya met with civil society representatives and government officials to discuss the UN Strategic Framework for Libya for 2017-2020.⁴⁴ The framework aims at strengthening the government in three steps: first supporting the government through development programs, then improving the regional and sub-regional institutions through capacity building, and finally enhancing democratic principles by promoting the rule of law.⁴⁵ The strategy will address the development of inclusive politics and promoting equality of regions and minorities.⁴⁶

The defeat of IS by Libyan National Forces in Sirte in mid-December 2016 nearly eliminated IS control in Libya, although small, poorly organized groups continue to pose a threat in Benghazi and other parts of the country.⁴⁷ The liberation of Sirte allowed the UN and humanitarian actors to provide an urgent emergency response, including humanitarian assistance, medical support, mine clearance activities, and measures for the safe return of displaced persons.⁴⁸ However, the humanitarian situation in the country remains critical with 1.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, as they live in precarious situations, have limited access to medical support and other basic services.⁴⁹ The 2017 *Humanitarian Response Plan* calls for funding of 151 million USD to support the 940,000

³⁴ UN Security Council, *The Situation in Libya (S/RES/2323 (2016))*, 2016.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ UN Security Council, *Report by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2016/1011)*, 2016.

³⁹ Ibid., p. 2.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 17.

⁴¹ UNSMIL, *Joint Communique by League of Arab States, African Union and the United Nations (UNSMIL)*, 2016.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ UNSMIL, *United Nations discusses its 2017-2020 Strategic Framework with Libyan officials and civil society*, 2016.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ UN Security Council, *Report by the Secretary-General on UNSMIL (S/2016/1011)*, 2016, p. 5.

⁴⁸ UNSMIL, *UN congratulates Libya for defeating Islamic State in Sirte*, 2016.

⁴⁹ UN OCHA, *Humanitarian Bulletin Libya*, 2016.

people who are in the greatest need of humanitarian aid, including food, water, medical aid, shelter and education, but remains greatly underfunded.⁵⁰ Moreover, violations of human rights and humanitarian law, such as abduction, arbitrary detention, torture, attacks on civilians, illegal killings, and detention of migrants in illegal detention centers remain the primary concerns reported by UNSMIL.⁵¹ The dire humanitarian situation, the stagnating implementation of the LPA, and the aftermath of the defeat of ISIL are the main challenges for Libya at present.⁵² In preparation for the conference, delegates should consider which measures could be implemented to meet these challenges. A strong focus should be on the peace process in the country and the further implementation of the LPA.⁵³ Delegates should also consider the role of the International Criminal Court, which has expressed its intent to reprioritize the case of Libya in 2017.⁵⁴

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United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2016). *Humanitarian Bulletin Libya*.

Retrieved 6 January 2017 from:

https://unsmil.unmissions.org/Portals/unsmil/Documents/Humanitarian%20Bulletin_Libya_Issue%2010_December_2016_EN.pdf

This bulletin is regularly published by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and assesses the development of the provision of humanitarian aid in the past year. It contains data on the aid distributed so far, and provides an outlook on the aid needed in 2017. The document contains specific examples of actions taken by humanitarian organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which distributed non-food items to refugees. It also explains how other UN agencies like the United Nations Children's Fund cooperate with local organizations in Libya to support traumatized children. Delegates should review this document to get an overview of the humanitarian needs in the country.

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs & Humanitarian Country Team Libya. (2016). *Humanitarian Response Plan January-December 2017*. Retrieved 29 January 2017 from:

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_libya_hrp_final.pdf

This is the Humanitarian Response Plan by the Humanitarian Country Team in Libya. It provides detailed information on where the 1.3 million people in need are located and which measures have been implemented so far to meet their needs. While the overall strategy for humanitarian relief in the country is specified, it also details the plans and needs for specific sectors such as health care, sanitation, protection, and education. As the biggest challenge for humanitarian aid in the past year has been funding, this report provides delegates with the specifics of where money is needed, what it is needed for, and which part of the population will benefit from it. This information will make it easier for delegates to draft proposals in committee in support of the Syrian population.

United Nations, Security Council. (2016). *Report by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2016/1011)*. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/S/2016/1011>

This report highlights the recent developments in all aspects of the UN involvement in the Libyan crisis, such as the failure to implement the LPA and widespread human rights abuses. It stresses the importance of the implementation of the LPA, but points out that the support of all parties involved as well as that of the international community is needed. The report further addresses regional developments in the fight against the Islamic State. In the final section of the report, the Secretary-General makes recommendations for the SC to support the LPA further and calls for funding of programs to defuse improvised mines.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ UNSMIL and OHCHR, “Detained and Dehumanised” – Report on Human Rights abuses against migrants in Libya, 2016.

⁵² UN Security Council, *Report by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2016/1011)*, 2016, p. 8.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ United Nations News Center, *International Criminal Court aims to make Libya a priority for next year, says Prosecutor*, 2016.



United Nations Support Mission in Libya & Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2016). “*Detained and Dehumanised*” – *Report on Human Rights abuses against migrants in Libya*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <http://unsmil.unmissions.org/Portals/unsmil/Documents/Migrants%20report-EN.pdf>

This is the most recent report on the human rights situation in Libya. It highlights the different kinds of human rights violations, and particularly the devastating situation of migrants, who are frequently detained in inhumane conditions in illegal centers. The report connects these violations partly to the activities of the Islamic State, but also identifies violations by all involved parties. There is also a section on the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean Sea resulting from migration through Libya. Delegates should consider this report and its recommendations on how to improve the human rights situation in Libya.

United Nations Support Mission in Libya. (2016). *Joint Communiqué by League of Arab States, African Union and the United Nations (UNSMIL)*. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from:

<https://unsmil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5662&ctl=Details&mid=6187&ItemID=2099760&language=en-US>

This document is the outcome of a conference between the Troika of organizations that cooperate in order to support the transition process in Libya. It stresses the importance of national ownership for Libya and also highlights the importance of the implementation of the LPA in order to stabilize the political situation in the country. The parties of the communiqué call for support for the establishment of a National Oil Corporation for the restoration of the oil industry in Libya, which could contribute to economic development in the country. Delegates should consider the implications of this statement when deciding on a course of action regarding Libya.

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<https://unsmil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5662&ctl=Details&mid=6187&ItemID=2099760&language=en-US>



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<http://unsmil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5662&ctl=Details&mid=6187&ItemID=2099800&language=en-US>

United Nations Support Mission in Libya. (2016, December 13). *UN report urges end to inhumane detention of migrants in Libya* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from:
<http://unsmil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5662&ctl=Details&mid=6187&ItemID=2099826&language=en-US>

United Nations Support Mission in Libya. (2016, December 14). *United Nations discusses its 2017-2020 Strategic Framework with Libyan officials and civil society* [Press Release]. Retrieved 8 January 2017 from:
<https://unsmil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3561&ctl=Details&mid=8549&ItemID=2099829&language=en-US>

United Nations Support Mission in Libya. (2016, December 18). *UN congratulates Libya for defeating Islamic State in Sirte* [Press Release]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from:
<http://unsmil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5662&ctl=Details&mid=6187&ItemID=2099835&language=en-US>

III. The UN-AU Partnership on Peace Operations

Recent Developments

In recent months, various events have taken place regarding the United Nations (UN) - African Union (AU) (UN-AU) partnership on peace operations. The outcomes of these meetings addressed the financing of peace operations, the political and strategic institutionalization of the partnership, and the necessity to further extend the partnership framework and increase the cooperation regarding conflict prevention, including mediation.⁵⁵

On 2 and 3 September 2016, the UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU) held its annual retreat, inviting partners from the Security Council, Commission of the AU, and the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC).⁵⁶ As a result, the AU highlighted various recommendations to strengthen the UN-AU partnership such as the use of joint analysis and early engagement to improve coordination and promote greater coherence, a reinforced role for the AU Mission in New York, joint visits and assessment missions, and a common focus on conflict prevention, mediation, and peace building.⁵⁷ Some of these suggestions were also addressed in the annual report of the Secretary-General to strengthen the AU-UN partnership and the work of UNOAU, which evaluated previous efforts to strengthen this partnership and includes recommendations to increase joint field visits and build capacity for UNOAU.⁵⁸

On 28 September 2016, the Secretary-General submitted the report of the joint African Union-United Nations review of available mechanisms to finance and support African Union Peace Support Operations authorized by the United Nations Security Council (S/2016/809), which reviewed possible mechanisms to finance and support AU peace operations.⁵⁹ The report emphasized that the UN-AU partnership on peace and security operations must include joint efforts on conflict prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding and also concluded that those fields of cooperation need to be addressed in the future to make the partnership more effective.⁶⁰ Due to the more complex and challenging environment surrounding peace operations, the UN has revised its own internal administrative processes, policies, and procedures to better support peace operations through improved flexibility, mobility, and situational awareness.⁶¹ The report also recommends that the AU should strengthen its own administrative and operational frameworks and in particular to define its own mission support model.⁶²

In November 2016, based on the preceding reports and the 2016 report of the High Representative for the AU Peace Fund on financing the AU and the AU Peace Fund, the Security Council held a debate on UN-AU cooperation, which focused on the issues caused by the lack of predictable, sustainable, and flexible funding for AU peace operations authorized by the Security Council.⁶³ Following the debate, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2320 (2016) on “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.”⁶⁴ The Security Council also decided to consider the AU’s proposal to

⁵⁵ UN Security Council, *Report of the joint African Union-United Nations review of available mechanisms to finance and support African Union peace support operations authorized by the United Nations Security Council (S/2016/809)*, 2016, p. 33; UN DPI, *Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2320 (2016), Welcoming Cost-Sharing Proposal, Stronger Cooperation between United Nations, African Union (SC/12595)*, 2016; Boutellis & Connolly, *The State of UN Peace Operations Reform: An Implementation Scorecard*, 2016, pp. 11-12.

⁵⁶ UNOAU, *UNOAU 2016 Retreat*, 2016, p. 2.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 2016, pp. 2, 6, 11.

⁵⁸ UN Security Council, *Report on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2016/780)*, 2016, pp. 1, 17.

⁵⁹ UN Security Council, *Report of the joint African Union-United Nations review of available mechanisms to finance and support African Union peace support operations authorized by the United Nations Security Council (S/2016/809)*, 2016, pp. 3-4.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 34.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, p. 33.

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ UN Security Council, *November 2016 - Monthly Forecast*, 2016; What’s in Blue, *Debate and Resolution on Strengthening the UN-AU Partnership*, 2016.

⁶⁴ UN Security Council, *Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security (S/RES/2320(2016))*, 2016; UN DPI, *Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution*

finance 25% of the cost of AU peace missions and supported the proposals of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations for improved cooperation.⁶⁵

In December 2016, the General Assembly adopted the Renewed UN-AU Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA) 2017-2027 following the completion of the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme, which promotes a closer cooperation between the UN and the AU regarding issues such as migration and violence.⁶⁶ The priority areas cover 13 thematic issues, including peace and security, and describes seven main principles for UN-AU partnership, including the importance of AU ownership and leadership and the necessity for respect of Africa's policy space.⁶⁷

Regarding the UN-AU partnership, the PSC held its 628th meeting on 29 September 2016 on "Strengthening the partnership between the United Nations (UN) and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa."⁶⁸ The PSC decided to increase burden-sharing and consultative decision-making between the PSC and the Security Council and encouraged increased coordination between the Commission of the AU and the UN Secretariat.⁶⁹

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United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, November 18). *Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2320 (2016), Welcoming Cost-Sharing Proposal, Stronger Cooperation between United Nations, African Union (SC/12595)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12595.doc.htm>

On 18 November 2016, the Security Council adopted resolution 2320 (2016), which welcomes the AU proposal of cost-sharing and advocates for a stronger cooperation between the AU and UN. The meeting coverage details the Security Council debate, which includes statements by members of the Security Council, and other actors, such as the European Union. Delegates might use the document to better understand their Member State's positions and the various dimensions raised in the debate.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2015). *Framework for a Renewed UN/AU Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027 (PAIDA)*. Retrieved 25 January 2017 from: http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/images/e1500899-ramework_for_a_renewed_unau_partnership_on_africas_integration_and_development_agenda_2017-2027_paida.pdf

This document contains the Framework for a Renewed UN/AU Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027 and is the successor document of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Program. The document summarizes the principles for PAIDA such as the importance of ownership and leadership of AU, the necessity to respect the African policy space, and the importance of faithfulness to commitments. The document also describes priority action areas, including priorities for peace and security, and covers UN support for Africa. As PAIDA will be of high importance for the UN-AU partnership in the next ten years, delegates should use this document and start thinking on how to implement the framework regarding peace operations.

United Nations Office to the African Union. (2016). *UNOAU 2016 Retreat* [Report]. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: http://unoau.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/2016_unoau_annual_retreat_report.pdf

The report summarizes the UNOAU annual retreat of September 2016 which included sessions with the Commission of the AU, members of the Security Council, and the PSC in which they

2320 (2016), *Welcoming Cost-Sharing Proposal, Stronger Cooperation between United Nations, African Union (SC/12595)*, 2016, p. 1.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ramachandran, *UN Partners With Africa's Development Agenda 2017-2027*, 2016; United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, *Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA)*, 2016.

⁶⁷ Ibid.; UNECA, *Framework for a Renewed UN/AU Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027 (PAIDA)*, 2015, p. 3.

⁶⁸ AU, Peace and Security Council, 628th meeting, *Communiqué*, 2016, pp. 1-3.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

discussed achievements and shortcomings of the UN-AU partnership. The summary for each session includes various recommendations to strengthen the UN-AU partnership. Delegates should address these various recommendations and think about practical steps towards implementation.

United Nations, Security Council. (2016). *Report of the joint African Union-United Nations review of available mechanisms to finance and support African Union peace support operations authorized by the United Nations Security Council (S/2016/809)*. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/S/2016/809>

The report is a review of available mechanisms to finance and support AU peace support operations. The evaluation underlines that the UN-AU partnership is essential, evolving, and innovative. The report recommends in order to overcome capability gaps to allow faster recruitment processes. The report also reviews different types of support between the UN and AU such as technical assistance, logistical support and training and equipment. The report concludes with general findings of the review to further strengthen the AU-UN partnership such as the necessity for the UN to revise their internal administrative processes to be able to provide a better support for modern field operations of the UN. The report provides an excellent overview of the UN-AU cooperation.

United Nations, Security Council. (2016). *Report on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union (S/2016/780)*. Retrieved 5 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/S/2016/780>

The report of the Secretary-General addresses the work of UNOAU and the strengthening the partnership between the UN and the AU. The report summarizes the challenges for peace and security in Africa such as piracy, terrorism, or election-related disputes. The document summarizes the history of the UN-AU partnership and evaluates previous efforts to strengthen this partnership. It further addresses joint peacekeeping efforts, the financing of peace operations, and the role of regional economic communities. The report includes recommendations to strengthen the cooperation such as joint field visits and strengthening the capacity of UNOAU.

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