Chapter V

Europe and the Mediterranean

In 2014, the crisis in Ukraine emerged as a major new concern of the Security Council. The conflict, which opposed President Viktor Yanukovych and opposition leaders led to the President leaving the country for an unknown destination and requesting military assistance from the Russian Federation to restore law and order. Meanwhile, there was a build-up of Russian troops in the Ukrainian Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which declared its independence, following a referendum on 18 March. The peninsula was subsequently incorporated into the Russian Federation. The Security Council was unable to pass a resolution affirming Ukraine’s territorial integrity. However, the General Assembly, in resolution 68/262 of 27 March, affirmed its commitment to the territorial integrity of Ukraine and urged the parties to pursue a peaceful solution. At the same time, armed separatist groups operating in parts of eastern and southern Ukraine took over the administration of a number of towns and villages. The fighting between separatist groups and the Ukrainian army resulted in significant loss of life and suffering for the civilian population and caused massive refugee flows to other parts of Ukraine. During the conflict, a Malaysia Airlines commercial aircraft flying over Ukrainian airspace was brought down with a missile on 18 July, killing 298 passengers and crew. The Security Council, in resolution 2166(2014) of 21 July deplored the downing of the aircraft and called for an independent investigation into the incident. That investigation was led by the Netherlands, which in its preliminary report said that the plane was hit by a large number of “high-energy objects from outside the aircraft.” In other developments, Petro Poroshenko was elected President of Ukraine and proposed a peace plan for settling the conflict, including a unilateral ceasefire. On 5 and 19 September, respectively, under the auspices of the Trilateral Contact Group, the Minsk protocol to halt the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the Minsk memorandum clarifying implementation of the ceasefire agreement, were signed. The Secretary-General joined other leaders in welcoming those agreements and in urging their full implementation.

The downwards trajectory followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina over the previous eight years continued in 2014, with ongoing challenges to the fundamentals of the 1995 Peace Agreement. The major development was the holding of elections in October which led to the appointment of a new government. The newly elected Presidency assumed office on 17 November and the House of Representatives was inaugurated on 9 December. Efforts were also initiated, aimed at integrating Bosnia and Herzegovina into the European Union (EU). The Security Council extended the mandate of the European Union Force for a further 12-month period.

In Kosovo, the parties continued implementation of the 2013 Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations. In May, the Kosovo Assembly was dissolved and new elections were held on 8 June. No party gained an outright majority, which led to six months of political stalemate, which ended on 19 November, when agreement was reached to form a coalition government. Serbia welcomed the establishment of the new Kosovo authorities and affirmed its readiness to engage them in discussions at the earliest opportunity. At the same time, however, a number of serious incidents occurred throughout the year, particularly in northern Kosovo, threatening its fragile security situation.

International efforts continued to advance the Georgia-Abkhaz peace process. International discussions under the leadership of the EU, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to address security, stability and humanitarian issues in Georgia were held throughout the year. In June, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the status of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, that called on all participants in the international discussions to ensure respect for human rights and create favourable security conditions to the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all IDPs and refugees.

No progress was made towards the settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the occupied Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

In Cyprus, efforts continued through the Secretary-General’s good offices mission to reach a suitable peaceful settlement to the conflict opposing Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. On 11 February, the leaders of the two sides concluded a joint declaration officially relaunching high-level negotiations on a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) continued to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities by facilitating projects benefiting both of them in the buffer zone. The Security Council extended the mandate of UNFICYP through 31 January 2015.
**Part One: Political and security questions**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

In 2014, the international community continued to assist the two entities comprising the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina—the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (where mainly Bosnian Muslim (Bosniacs) and Bosnian Croats reside) and the Republika Srpska (where mostly Bosnian Serbs reside)—in implementing the 1995 General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (the “Peace Agreement”). Since the conclusion and withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) in December 2002, those efforts had been led by the European Union (EU) and accomplished through the activities of the Office of the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina (OHR), responsible for the Agreement's civilian aspects; the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM), responsible for developing sustainable policing arrangements, which was launched on 1 January 2003; the European Union Force (EUFOR), responsible for the Agreement's military aspects, which were transferred to it by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 2004; and the European Union Implementation Plan, which set out a number of core tasks to be accomplished. Challenges to the implementation process and related political developments during the year (see below) in the context of his mission implementation plan, which set out a number of core tasks to be accomplished. Statements regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and walkouts and boycotts of the country's legislative bodies. In particular, the leadership of the Republika Srpska continued to ignore its obligation to fully cooperate with international organizations and agencies, failing to provide them with all information necessary for their work. The Security Council, by resolution 2183(2014) extended the EUPFOR mandate for a further 12-month period.

**Implementation of Peace Agreement: Civilian aspects**

The civilian aspects of the 1995 Peace Agreement entailed a broad range of activities, including the provision of humanitarian aid and resources for rehabilitation, the establishment of political and constitutional institutions, the promotion of respect for human rights, and the holding of free and fair elections. The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, who chaired the PIC Steering Board and other key implementation bodies, was the final authority with regard to implementing the civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement.

**Office of High Representative**

**Reports of High Representative.** The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko (Austria), reported to the Security Council through the Secretary-General on the peace implementation process for the periods 21 October 2013 to 21 April 2014 [S/2014/314], 21 April to 21 October 2014 [S/2014/777] and 21 October 2014 to 21 April 2015 [S/2015/300]. The Council considered the reports of the High Representative on 11 November [S/PV.7308].

**Political situation and other developments**

The High Representative, briefing the Security Council on 15 May [S/PV.7176], presented the forty-fifth report [S/2014/314] covering the period from 21 October 2013 to 21 April 2014. According to the report, in response to the failure of the authorities to tackle their problems, and in support of a protest that began in Tuzla on 5 February, citizens in many cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina took to the streets on 7 February to call on the authorities to address many longstanding economic and social concerns. The demonstrations turned briefly violent, but resulted in no loss of life. Some political leaders and parties attempted to exploit the demonstrations for political gain in advance of the forthcoming elections. In the aftermath of the protests, a new form of civic organization, called “plenums,” emerged to allow for the exchange of views and agree on demands to be put before governments. One of the key demands of the “plenums” was the resigna-
tion of governments and this was met in four cantons (Tuzla, Sarajevo, Zenica and Bihac).

Also of major concern were statements and actions challenging the fundamentals of the General Framework Agreement. Unilateral actions by Republika Srpska towards adopting an entity-level residence law and the adoption by its government of a decree on residence verification, despite the fact that the matter was exclusively regulated at the state level, risked reversing measures taken to implement core provisions of the Agreement, including those related to freedom of movement.

The Central Election Commission was expected to announce that elections would be held in October, in accordance with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Election Law. On 15 April, the House of Representatives supported amendments to the Election Law, providing for limited technical improvement. However, the amendments were sent for harmonization in the Collegium as they failed to receive the required support from Republika Srpska delegates. The Federation Parliament adopted, in April, amendments to the Law on Execution of the Budget of the Federation for 2014. Important progress was made in unblocking long-delayed appointments to the Federation Constitutional Court and its Vital National Interest Panel. On 11 April, the Federation Parliament adopted the Law on the Rights of Returnees to their Pre-war Place of Permanent Residence in Republika Srpska and the Brcko District.

Briefing the Security Council on 11 November [S/PV.7308], the High Representative, presented the forty-sixth report [S/2014/777] covering the period from 21 April to 21 October. The most significant developments during the period were the flooding that affected the country and the holding of the country’s seventh general elections on 12 October. The elections appeared to have generally been conducted in an orderly fashion, but the high number of spoiled and invalid ballots was a source of controversy, prompting a recount for about 120 polling stations before the preliminary results were announced. Overall voter turnout stood at approximately 55 per cent. While the final election results were to be confirmed by the Central Election Commission, the preliminary results showed that, in the Federation, the Party for Democratic Action received the highest support. The Croatian Democratic Union reaffirmed its position as the largest Croat Party in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Republika Srpska, the ruling coalition, the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats lost votes compared with 2010, but remained the largest party. The three-member Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency saw the re-election of the current Bosniak member and two new Croat and Serb members. One of the candidates for the Croat member of the Presidency announced his intention to file a complaint alleging fraud.

Officials of Republika Srpska continued to question and challenge the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, advocating for secession and the dissolution of the State. The issue of properties suffered a serious setback, with authorities in Republika Srpska seeking to transfer illegally the right of ownership over sites in the Kalinovik and Foča municipalities to the local municipality in violation of the High Representative’s ban.

The authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to make progress on the outstanding objectives for the closure of the OHR. In a positive development, the country took steps to assume control of its air space, opening the Bosnia and Herzegovina Area Control Centre to provide air traffic services over parts of the Sarajevo flight information region. Final steps were also completed to make the Vital Interest Panel of the Federation Constitutional Court functional and, in July, the Federation Parliament adopted a new Federation Law on Internal Affairs, representing a workable model for cantonal laws to be similarly improved.

In a later report [S/2015/300], the High Representative informed that the election results for the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the two entities (the Federation and Republika Srpska), and the 10 cantons in the Federation were certified on 10 November. The Republika Srpska National Assembly appointed a government on the same day, the first to do so, which took office on 27 December. The newly elected Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina officially assumed office on 17 November. The House of Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina was inaugurated on 9 December, and the election of working bodies completed on 29 December. On 5 November, the Foreign Ministers of Germany and the United Kingdom launched an initiative, which became an EU initiative, offering the country an opportunity to make progress on integration with the EU. On 13 November, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Air Navigation services commenced services in the airspace between 10,000 and 32,500 feet.

Judicial reform

With the expiration of the justice sector reform strategy at the end of 2013, a new strategy for 2014–2018 was adopted by the Brcko District and Federation. It remained for the Republika Srpska government and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers to adopt the strategy. Corruption was still a concern, with a number of arrests of high-ranking officials in June and September, including the Federation’s Deputy Prime Minister and several others on charges of tax evasion. The Supervisory Board for the Implementation of the War Crimes Prosecution Strategy expressed satisfaction with the pace of war crimes processing. Indicators suggested that the goal of reducing the number of unsolved cases by 5 percent by September was surpassed. Nevertheless, the target of
prosecuting the most complex war crimes cases by the end of 2015, and other war crimes cases by 2023, was unlikely to be met. A special report on the causes for the delay was being prepared. Additional judges and prosecutors were appointed to speed up the process.

**Economic reform**

Although the total economic impact caused by floods and landslides in May were estimated at 15 per cent of the gross national product, Bosnia and Herzegovina’s economic recovery was more resilient than expected, with projected growth in 2014 close to 4 per cent. In the first eight months of the year, exports increased by 0.5 per cent, and imports by 5.6 per cent. However, industrial production decreased by 4.5 per cent compared to the previous year. Unemployment and foreign direct investment (FDI) levels remained a serious concern, with the official unemployment rate close to 44 per cent and FDI dropping 54.3 per cent in the first half of the year. The resumption of international disbursements, in particular by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and indirect taxes to help the country to alleviate the impact of the floods helped mitigate the risks to fiscal stability. However, the fact that the budget of state institutions had been locked at the same level for three years could impact the functioning of those institutions and their ability to meet their obligations. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina’s non-compliance with its international obligations, related to money-laundering, the financing of terrorism, and the energy sector, could prompt MONEYVAL (the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism of the Council of Europe) to impose additional measures on the country. On 23 September, the Energy Community Ministerial Council declared Bosnia and Herzegovina in breach of its obligation in the gas sector by its failure to adopt legislation requested by the Council. The Energy Community secretariat was invited by the Council to assist the country in drafting the requested legislation.

**Media development**

Since the adoption of state-level legislation requiring public broadcasters within Bosnia and Herzegovina to establish the umbrella Public Broadcasting Corporation and implement key reforms to make more efficient use of resources and coordinate within a single system, no action had been taken towards registration. The financial sustainability of the current system was also questioned, as transition provisions relating to the financing of public broadcasters was due to expire in less than six months. The failure of the Council of Ministers to appoint a new director to the state-level Communications Regulatory Agency crippled the institution regulating and overseeing public and private electronic media throughout the country.

**Return of refugees and displaced persons**

The Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities failed to create the conditions for ensuring the right of refugees and displaced persons to return to their pre-war homes. As a result, a possible recommendation by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to stop granting refugee status to refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina seemed problematic, especially in the light of the expected political fallout from the announcement of census results. The High Representative recommended new consultations with Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities at all levels and with international organizations on the issues following the establishment of new governments in the country after the elections.

The sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons to communities where their group was not a numerical majority was further hindered by divisions and discrimination within the education sector. The High Representative stated that the incoming authorities should address education in order to raise standards throughout the country based on the principles of non-discrimination, non-segregation and inclusiveness.

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 11 November [meeting 7307], the Security Council adopted resolution 2183(2014) by recorded vote [14-0-1]. The draft [S/2014/794] was submitted by France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,


Reaffirming its commitment to the political settlement of the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States there within their internationally recognized borders,

Emphasizing its full support for the continued role in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Underlining its commitment to support the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively, the Peace Agreement), as well as the relevant decisions of the Peace Implementation Council,

Recalling all the agreements concerning the status of forces referred to in appendix B to annex I-A of the Peace
Agreement, and reminding the parties of their obligation to continue to comply therewith.

Recalling also the provisions of its resolution 1551(2004) concerning the provisional application of the status-of-forces agreements contained in appendix B to annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement,

Emphasizing its appreciation to the High Representative, the Commander and personnel of the multinational stabilization force (the European Union Force-Althea), the Senior Military Representative and personnel of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters Sarajevo, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the personnel of other international organizations and agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina for their contributions to the implementation of the Peace Agreement,

Emphasizing that a comprehensive and coordinated return of refugees and displaced persons throughout the region continues to be crucial to lasting peace,

Encouraging the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of the international community, to accelerate their efforts to address the disposal of excess ammunition,

Recalling the declarations of the ministerial meetings of the Peace Implementation Council,

Recognizing that full implementation of the Peace Agreement is not yet complete, while paying tribute to the achievements of the authorities at State and entity level in Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the international community in the 19 years since the signing of the Peace Agreement,

Recognizing also that the security environment has remained calm and stable, and noting that the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities have so far proven capable to deal with threats to the safe and secure environment,

Emphasizing the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration on the basis of the Peace Agreement, while recognizing the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s transition to a functional, reform-oriented, modern and democratic European country,

Welcoming the steps taken by the international community to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in the ongoing reconstruction efforts following unprecedented floods that hit the country in May 2014, and stressing the importance for its authorities to address the calls by citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to improve the social and economic situation,

Welcoming also the overall orderly conduct and the competitive environment of the elections, which took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12 October 2014, while taking note of concerns expressed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe election observation mission, and underlining the crucial importance of swift government formation at all levels to address the multiple challenges ahead,

Taking note of the reports of the High Representative, including his latest report, transmitted on 31 October 2014,

Determined to promote the peaceful resolution of the conflicts in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,


Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

Welcoming the continued presence of the European Union Force-Althea, successfully focusing on capacity-building and training while also retaining the capability to contribute to the deterrence capacity of the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities if the situation so requires,

Welcoming also the readiness of the European Union, as confirmed in the conclusions of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Union on 20 October 2014, to continue at this stage an executive military role to support Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities to maintain the safe and secure environment, under a renewed United Nations mandate, and welcoming the agreement of the European Union to keep the operation under regular review, including on the basis of the situation on the ground, with a view to making progress on the conditions conducive to the delivery of its mandate,

Recalling the letters between the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization sent to the Security Council on 19 November 2004 on how those organizations will cooperate together in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which both organizations recognize that the European Union Force-Althea will have the main peace stabilization role under the military aspects of the Peace Agreement,

Recalling also the confirmation by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including its constituent entities, of the arrangements for the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters presence,

Welcoming the reaffirmed determination of the European Union to actively and intensively engage in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s European Union integration process and the continued engagement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization,

Reiterating its calls upon the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take the steps necessary to complete the 5 plus 2 agenda, which remains necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative, as confirmed in the Steering Board communiqués of the Peace Implementation Council, and noting the continued lack of progress in that regard,

Reiterating its calls upon all Bosnia and Herzegovina’s political leaders to refrain from divisive rhetoric and to make further concrete and tangible progress towards European Union integration,

Determining that the situation in the region continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

1. Reaffirms once again its support for the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively, the Peace Agreement), as well as for the Dayton Agreement on Implementing the Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina of 10 November 1995, and calls upon the parties to comply strictly with their obligations under the Agreements;

2. Reiterates that the primary responsibility for the further successful implementation of the Peace Agreement lies with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina themselves and that the continued willingness of the international
community and major donors to assume the political, military and economic burden of implementation and reconstruction efforts will be determined by the compliance and active participation by all the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in implementing the Peace Agreement and rebuilding a civil society, in particular in full cooperation with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in accordance with their respective obligations under resolutions 827(1993) of 25 May 1993, 955(1994) of 8 November 1994 and 1966(2010) of 22 December 2010, in strengthening joint institutions, which foster the building of a fully functioning self-sustaining State able to integrate itself into the European structures, and in facilitating returns of refugees and displaced persons;

3. Remind the parties once again that, in accordance with the Peace Agreement, they have committed themselves to cooperate fully with all entities involved in the implementation of this peace settlement, as described in the Peace Agreement, or which are otherwise authorized by the Security Council, including the International Tribunal and the Mechanism, in accordance with their respective obligations under resolutions 827(1993), 955(1994) and 1966(2010), and recalls the obligation of States to cooperate with the Tribunal and the Mechanism and in particular to comply without undue delay with requests for assistance;

4. Emphasizes its full support for the role of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina in monitoring the implementation of the Peace Agreement and giving guidance to and coordinating the activities of the civilian organizations and agencies involved in assisting the parties to implement the Peace Agreement, and reaffirms that, under annex 10 of the Peace Agreement, the High Representative is the final authority in theatre regarding the interpretation of civilian implementation of the Peace Agreement and that, in case of dispute, he may give his interpretation and make recommendations, and make binding decisions as he deems necessary on issues as elaborated by the Peace Implementation Council in Bonn, Germany, on 9 and 10 December 1997;

5. Expresses its support for the declarations of the ministerial meetings of the Peace Implementation Council;

6. Reaffirms its intention to keep implementation of the Peace Agreement and the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina under close review, taking into account the reports submitted pursuant to paragraphs 18 and 20 below, and any recommendations those reports might include, and its readiness to consider the imposition of measures if any party fails significantly to meet its obligations under the Peace Agreement;

7. Recalls the support of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the European Union Force-Althea and the continued North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence and their confirmation that both are the legal successors to the Stabilization Force for the fulfilment of their missions for the purposes of the Peace Agreement, its annexes and appendices and relevant Security Council resolutions and can take such actions as are required, including the use of force, to ensure compliance with annexes 1-A and 2 of the Peace Agreement and relevant Council resolutions;

8. Pays tribute to those Member States which participated in the multinational stabilization force (the European Union Force-Althea), and in the continued North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence, established in accordance with its resolution 1575(2004) and extended by its resolutions 1639(2005), 1722(2006), 1785(2007), 1845(2008), 1895(2009), 1948(2010), 2019(2011) 2074(2012) and 2123(2013), and welcomes their willingness to assist the parties to the Peace Agreement by continuing to deploy a multinational stabilization force (the European Union Force-Althea) and by maintaining a continued North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence;

9. Welcomes the intention of the European Union to maintain a European Union military operation (the European Union Force-Althea) in Bosnia and Herzegovina from November 2014;

10. Authorizes the Member States acting through or in cooperation with the European Union to establish for a further period of 12 months, starting from the date of the adoption of the present resolution, a multinational stabilization force (the European Union Force-Althea) as a legal successor to the Stabilization Force under unified command and control, which will fulfill its missions in relation to the implementation of annexes 1-A and 2 of the Peace Agreement in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters presence in accordance with the arrangements agreed between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union as communicated to the Security Council in their letters of 19 November 2004, which recognize that the European Union Force-Althea will have the main peace stabilization role under the military aspects of the Peace Agreement;

11. Welcomes the decision of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to continue to maintain a presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the form of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters in order to continue to assist in implementing the Peace Agreement in conjunction with the European Union Force-Althea, and authorizes the Member States acting through or in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to continue to maintain a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters as a legal successor to the Stabilization Force under unified command and control, which will fulfill its missions in relation to the implementation of annexes 1-A and 2 of the Peace Agreement in cooperation with the European Union Force-Althea in accordance with the arrangements agreed between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union as communicated to the Security Council in their letters of 19 November 2004, which recognize that the European Union Force-Althea will have the main peace stabilization role under the military aspects of the Peace Agreement;

12. Reaffirms that the Peace Agreement and the provisions of its relevant resolutions shall apply to and in respect of both the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence as they have applied to and in respect of the Stabilization Force and that, therefore, references in the Peace Agreement, in particular in annex 1-A and the appendices thereto, and relevant resolutions to the Implementation Force and/or the Stabilization Force, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the North Atlantic Council shall be read as applying, as appropriate, to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence, the European Union Force-Althea, the European Union and the Political and Security Committee and Council of the European Union respectively;
13. Expresses its intention to consider the terms of further authorization as necessary in the light of developments in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

14. Authorizes the Member States acting under paragraphs 10 and 11 above to take all measures necessary to effect the implementation of and to ensure compliance with annexes 1-A and 2 of the Peace Agreement, and stresses that the parties shall continue to be held equally responsible for the compliance with those annexes and shall be equally subject to enforcement action by the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence as may be necessary to ensure implementation of those annexes and the protection of the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence;

15. Authorizes Member States to take all necessary measures, at the request of either the European Union Force-Althea or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters, in defence of the European Union Force-Althea or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence respectively, and to assist both organizations in carrying out their missions; and recognizes the right of both the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence to take all measures necessary to defend themselves from attack or threat of attack;

16. Authorizes the Member States acting under paragraphs 10 and 11 above, in accordance with annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement, to take all measures necessary to ensure compliance with the rules and procedures governing command and control of airspace over Bosnia and Herzegovina with respect to all civilian and military air traffic;

17. Demands that the parties respect the security and freedom of movement of the European Union Force-Althea, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization presence and other international personnel;

18. Requests the Member States acting through or in cooperation with the European Union and the Member States acting through or in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to report to the Security Council on the activity of the European Union Force-Althea and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters presence respectively, through the appropriate channels and at least at six-monthly intervals;

19. Invites all States, in particular those in the region, to continue to provide appropriate support and facilities, including transit facilities, for the Member States acting under paragraphs 10 and 11 above;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit to the Security Council reports of the High Representative, in accordance with annex 10 of the Peace Agreement and the conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference held in London on 4 and 5 December 1996, and later Peace Implementation Conferences, on the implementation of the Peace Agreement and in particular on compliance by the parties with their commitments under the Agreement;

21. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2183(2014):

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, United Kingdom, United States.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Russian Federation.

Military and police aspects

EUFOR

The European Union Force (EUFOR) mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina executed the military aspects of the Peace Agreement as specified in annexes 1-A and 2, which were transferred to it by NATO in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 401]. EUFOR activities in 2014 were described in reports covering the period from 1 December 2013 to 28 February 2014 [S/2014/531] and 1 March to 31 May 2014 [S/2014/702], which were submitted by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

The Force was comprised of around 600 personnel, based in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams in other parts of the country. EUFOR continued to monitor and advise the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of activities related to ammunition and weapons storage sites; the civilian and military movement of weapons and military equipment; the disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition; and defence industry factories.

Kosovo

In 2014, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continued to fulfil its mandate based on Security Council resolution 1244(1999) [YUN 1999, p. 353] and the reconfigured functions outlined in the Secretary-General’s June and November 2008 reports [YUN 2008, pp. 438 & 441], following Kosovo’s declaration of independence in February 2008 [ibid., p.437], the entry into force of the Kosovo Constitution on 15 June [ibid., p. 439] and the deployment of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) throughout Kosovo in December of that year [ibid., p. 442]. Serbia condemned Kosovo’s declaration of independence and maintained that that action by Kosovo’s Provisional Institutions violated Security Council resolution 1244(1999), which reaffirmed Serbia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, including Kosovo and Metohija. The position of the United Nations on the status of Kosovo was of status neutrality.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), in a 2010 advisory opinion [YUN 2010, p. 416], concluded that Kosovo declaration of independence did not violate any applicable rule of law. In September of that year, the General Assembly acknowledged the ICJ advisory opinion and welcomed EU readiness to facilitate dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina [ibid.].

Political and security developments

Reports of Secretary-General. The Secretary-General reported on the implementation of UNMIK

Following the EU-facilitated agreements reached between Pristina and Belgrade in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 361], the parties continued substantial implementation of the 19 April 2013 Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations [ibid.]. UNMIK continued its engagement with Pristina and Belgrade and regional and international actors in promoting security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and the region. The mayoral election held in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 362], resulted in victory for the Serbian Civic Initiative candidates in all four municipalities in northern Kosovo. The newly elected mayors and municipal assemblies in the north were sworn in on 11 January, with the exception of the mayor-elect of North Mitrovica, who decided not to take office and resigned from his position as Deputy Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija of the Government of Serbia. A new mayoral election in North Mitrovica was held on 23 February and was won in the first round by the Serbian Civic Initiative candidate. The North Mitrovica municipal assembly was inaugurated on 10 February. The four municipalities completed work on their statutes, and on 16 May, the Ministry of Local Government Administration certified the adopted statutes.

In an extraordinary session held on 7 May, over two thirds of the members of the Assembly of Kosovo voted to dissolve the Assembly, thus triggering an early election on 8 June. A total of 31 political entities, including 5 Kosovo Serb entities, participated in the elections, with 42.63 per cent of eligible voters casting ballots. EU election observers assessed that the elections had been transparent and well organized. On 4 July, the Kosovo Central Election Commission certified the election results. No single party achieved an overall majority in the Kosovo Assembly, which led to a deadlock on the election of the President of the Assembly and the formation of a new government. On 22 August, the Constitutional Court ruled unanimously that the election of the President of the Assembly on 17 July was unconstitutional and confirmed the right of the Democratic Party of Kosovo, with a relative majority as a pre-election bloc, to nominate a candidate for the post. However, the situation between the parties remained polarized.

On 2 May, the Kosovo authorities and the EU finalized the draft text of a stabilization and association agreement for political and economic association. On 6 March, the Kosovo government approved recommendations from a two-year strategic security sector review, including a recommendation to transform the Kosovo security forces into Kosovo armed forces. Constitutional amendments on the matter were submitted to the Assembly and were upheld by the Kosovo Constitutional Court. KFOR stated that making changes to the mandate, structure and functioning of the security forces might lead to discussion on their impact on the provision of continued NATO support to Kosovo. Progress was made regarding the integration of Kosovo Serbian personnel into the Kosovo police. By March, 284 former Serbian police officers were assigned to active duty in northern Kosovo.

The security situation in Kosovo remained overall stable, with the exception of several interethnic incidents. In March, Kosovo police raided the homes of several Kosovo Serb police officers and offices hosting a Belgrade-sponsored court. Serious incidents occurred for illegal logging activities, including near the administrative boundary line; in one incident a Kosovo Albanian was wounded, and in another a Serbian officer and a Kosovo Albanian were killed. Belgrade and Pristina remained engaged in the EU-facilitated dialogue, albeit at a slower pace because of the general elections in Serbia and the legislative elections in Kosovo. Progress was made in the implementation of the 19 April 2013 agreement, including the structure and staffing of the judiciary in Northern Kosovo.

The Security Council considered the Secretary-General’s reports [S/2014/68], [S/2014/305], [S/2014/558] and [S/2014/773] on 10 February [S/PV.7108], 27 May [S/PV.7183], 29 August [S/PV.7257] and 4 December [S/PV.7327], respectively.

**Year-end developments.** In a later report [S/2015/74], the Secretary-General noted that the achievement of a coalition agreement, the establishment of the Assembly of Kosovo and the formation of a new Kosovo government brought to an end six months of political stalemate. On 19 November, an agreement was reached to form a coalition government, which was signed on 8 December. On 9 December, the Assembly of Kosovo approved the new 21-member coalition government, including two women ministers, two Kosovo Serb representatives and a Kosovo Turk, reflecting efforts to build a multi-ethnic and democratic Kosovo. Serbia welcomed the establishment of the new Kosovo authorities and affirmed its readiness to engage at the earliest opportunity.

In December, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) completed implementation of the seven-year Kosovo Small Arms Control Initiative, which assisted Kosovo institutions in countering uncontrolled possession and proliferation of small arms and light weapons. In addition to the development of the legislative framework for weapons regulation and control, over 1,500 firearms were removed from circulation. The proliferation of small arms nevertheless remained a concern in Kosovo.
EULEX

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), established to undertake an enhanced operational role in the rule-of-law area, with a focus on policing, justice and customs, became fully operational in April 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 412]. It operated under the overall authority and within the status-neutral framework of the United Nations and submitted reports to it on a regular basis.

On 23 April, the Assembly of Kosovo adopted a law on the ratification of the international agreement between Kosovo and the EU on EULEX, extending that Mission’s mandate until 14 June 2016, and established a specialist court to try cases arising from the findings of the European Union Special Investigative Task Force. The Assembly also amended and supplemented the laws related to EULEX mandate. On 12 June, the EU Council endorsed the extension of EULEX mandate in Kosovo. The Kosovo Judicial Council and EULEX signed an agreement on the activity and cooperation of EULEX judges with Kosovo judges working in the local courts. The agreement clarified the number and role of EULEX judges to hear ongoing and upcoming cases and the procedure by which EULEX might request the Kosovo Judicial Council to refer cases to international judges. The prosecution of war crimes resulted in the first conviction of rape as a war crime since 2002. Three EULEX judges also started the trial in the “Drenica Group” case against a number of high-profile defendants. EULEX continued to undertake monitoring, mentoring and advising activities around the rule of law and to implement its executive functions according to its mandate. Further steps were taken in the fight against corruption and serious crimes. Verdicts were pronounced in cases involving the Mission’s judges and prosecutors. EULEX continued to facilitate the implementation of the agreements reached within the EU-facilitated dialogue on the normalization of relations between Pristina and Belgrade in the rule of law sector, including the registering and issuing of licenses to companies importing controlled goods through the northern crossing points. The Special Investigative Task Force, established in 2011 to investigate allegations of illicit trafficking in human organs contained in the report of the Council of Europe Special Rapporteur, Dick Marty, continued to gather information and evidence. On 29 July, the lead prosecutor explained that compelling evidence had been found to file an indictment against certain former senior officials of the Kosovo Liberation Army. Cooperation with judicial and law enforcement authorities in the region and elsewhere continued to be productive. EULEX continued to strengthen the rule of law throughout Kosovo, including by making arrests in Northern Kosovo of persons accused of war crimes and murder, and advised police in Northern Kosovo to set up a community policing strategy.

The Reports of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on EULEX activities in 2014 were annexed to the Secretary-General’s reports to the Security Council on UNMIK [S/2014/305, S/2014/558, S/2014/773, S/2014/74].

UNMIK

The United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK), established in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 357] to facilitate a political process to determine Kosovo’s political future, comprised five components: interim administration; institution-building; economic reconstruction; humanitarian affairs; and police and justice. Following Kosovo’s declaration of independence in 2008 [YUN 2008, p. 437], and the deployment of EULEX in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 412], the profile and size of UNMIK were reconfigured. The Mission’s strategic goal remained the promotion of security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and in the region through engagement with all communities in Kosovo, with the leadership in Belgrade and Pristina, and with regional and international actors. UNMIK was headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Farid Zarif (Afghanistan).

Financing

The General Assembly considered the Secretary-General’s performance report on the UNMIK budget for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/578], the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/68/701], and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) [A/68/782/Add. 5].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/68/926], adopted resolution 68/290 without vote. [agenda item 156].

Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1244(1999) of 10 June 1999 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo,

Recalling also its resolution 53/241 of 28 July 1999 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/276 of 28 June 2013,

Acknowledging the complexity of the Mission,
Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfill its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Mindful also of the need to ensure coordination and cooperation with the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 32.9 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 95 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. Expresses concern at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. Emphasizes that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. Also emphasizes that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

11. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

12. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo the amount of 46,325,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 42,971,600 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 2,780,600 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 573,200 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

13. Decides to apportion among Member States the amount of 46,325,400 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

14. Also decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 4,095,600 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 3,867,900 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 176,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 51,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

15. Further decides that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 3,329,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

16. Decides that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 3,329,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 15 above;

17. Also decides that the decrease of 60,000 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2015 shall be set off against the credits in the amount of 3,329,000 dollars referred to in paragraphs 15 and 16 above;

18. Emphasizes that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

19. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

20. Invites voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;
21. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo”.

On 29 December, the Assembly decided that the item on UNMIK financing would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (decision 69/554).

KFOR

In accordance with resolution 1244 (1999) [YUN, 1999, p. 353], the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council reports on the activities during 2014 of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) covering the periods from 1 January to 31 March [S/2014/371]; 1 April to 30 June [S/2014/587]; 1 July to 30 September [S/2014/830]; and 1 October to 31 December [S/2015/106]. On 31 December, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre remained at approximately 4,500.

During the year, KFOR, in close cooperation with the Kosovo police and EULEX, continued to contribute to maintaining a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement in Kosovo. The situation in the northern part of Kosovo remained reasonably stable, with the ongoing implementation of the EU-facilitated agreement on the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina of 19 April 1999, p. 353] the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council reports on the activities during 2014 of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) covering the periods from 1 January to 31 March [S/2014/371]; 1 April to 30 June [S/2014/587]; 1 July to 30 September [S/2014/830]; and 1 October to 31 December [S/2015/106]. On 31 December, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre remained at approximately 4,500.

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In 2014, no major developments took place in regard to refugees and IDPs exercising their right to return and no new displacements were registered. The Ministry for Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia conducted a comprehensive registration of 262,704 IDPs. Although the main registration ended in December 2013, re-registration by the Ministry continued at its central office in Tbilisi until 31 May 2014, and thereafter as required. The generational aspects of displacement in the absence of durable solutions remained a concern. The largest numbers of IDPs were registered in Tbilisi and Zugdidi.

Georgia

In 2014, international efforts continued to advance the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process, based on the 2001 Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competences between Tbilisi (Georgia’s Government) and Sukhumi (the Abkhaz leadership) [YUN 2001, p. 386]. That document was intended to serve as a framework for negotiations on the status of Abkhazia as a sovereign state within the State of Georgia. Following the termination of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) in June 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 418], the United Nations had continued to support the Geneva international discussions on security and stability and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees.

Geneva talks. In accordance with the 12 August 2008 six-point ceasefire plan between Georgia and the Russian Federation [YUN 2008, p. 456], and the provisions of the 8 September 2008 ceasefire implementation plan [ibid., p.457], international discussions under the leadership of the EU and OSCE to address security, stability and humanitarian issues in Georgia were held throughout the year. At the twenty-seventh (26 March) [A/68/824-S/2014/231], twenty-eighth (18 June) [A/68/916-S/2014/441], twenty-ninth (8 October) [A/69/555-S/2014/737], and thirtieth (10 December) [A/69/672-S/2014/900] sessions, participants met in two parallel groups.

Working Group I focused on security and stability in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, especially the key issues of the non-use of force and international security arrangements, and the security situation on the ground. Participants engaged in drafting a statement on the non-use of force; nonetheless, it was clearly stressed that such a statement should not substitute for a legally binding commitment from the Russian Federation to the non-use of force. Working Group II addressed the situation of IDPs, including their right of return and other durable solutions, and humanitarian and human rights issues, especially the violation of social, economic and cultural rights, the restriction of the freedom of movement and the right to education in the native language. The Geneva discussions remained the only forum for stakeholders to address the issues identified in resolution 68/274 (see below) on IDPs.

IDPs and refugees. In response to General Assembly resolutions 67/268 [YUN 2013, p. 365] and 68/274 (see below), the Secretary-General submitted reports on the status of IDPs and refugees from Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, covering the periods from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 [A/68/868] and 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 [A/69/909]. The reports focused on the right to return of all refugees and IDPs and their descendants; prohibition of forced demographic changes; humanitarian access; the importance of preserving the property rights of refugees and IDPs; and the development of a timetable to ensure the prompt voluntary return of all refugees and IDPs to their homes.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 5 June [meeting 90], the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/274 [draft: A/68/L. 47] by recorded vote (69-13-79) [agenda item 34].
Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/ South Ossetia, Georgia

The General Assembly,


Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions on Georgia relating to the need for all parties to work towards a comprehensive peace and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin, and stressing the importance of their full and timely implementation,

Recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as the key international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons,

Concerned by forced demographic changes resulting from the conflicts in Georgia,

Concerned also by the humanitarian situation caused by armed conflict in August 2008, which resulted in the further forced displacement of civilians,

Mindful of the urgent need to find a solution to the problems related to forced displacement in Georgia,

Underlining the importance of the discussions that commenced in Geneva on 15 October 2008 and of continuing to address the issue of the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of internally displaced persons and refugees on the basis of internationally recognized principles and conflict-settlement practices,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of resolution 67/268,

1. Recognizes the right of return of all internally displaced persons and refugees and their descendants, regardless of ethnicity, to their homes throughout Georgia, including in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;

2. Stresses the need to respect the property rights of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the conflicts in Georgia and to refrain from obtaining property in violation of those rights;

3. Reaffirms the unacceptable of forced demographic changes;

4. Underlines the urgent need for unimpeded access for humanitarian activities to all internally displaced persons, refugees and other persons residing in all conflict-affected areas throughout Georgia;

5. Calls upon all participants in the Geneva discussions to intensify their efforts to establish a durable peace, to commit to enhanced confidence-building measures and to take immediate steps to ensure respect for human rights and create favourable security conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin;

6. Underlines the need for the development of a timetable to ensure the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the conflicts in Georgia to their homes;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 68/274:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Vanuatu.

Against: Armenia, Belarus, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nauru, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam.

Abstaining: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cyprus, Democratic Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Suriname, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia.


Armenia and Azerbaijan

In 2014, Armenia and Azerbaijan maintained their positions with regard to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. The conflict, which began in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 388], was followed by a ceasefire
in May 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 577]. Both sides addressed communications to the Secretary-General regarding the conflict. The OSCE Minsk Group (France, Russian Federation, United States) continued to mediate the dispute between the two countries.


In a letter dated 12 February [A/68/752-S/2014/94], Azerbaijan condemned the surge of violence and provocation by Armenia in disregard of the appeal by the Presidents of the UN General Assembly and the International Olympic Committee to all warring parties in conflicts around the world to observe a truce during the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russian Federation. On 18 February [A/68/760-S/2014/110], Armenia stated that it had accepted the truce willingly and abided by it, and accused Azerbaijan armed forces of ignoring the calls for the truce. On 24 February [A/68/768-S/2014/124], Azerbaijan requested the international community to play a more proactive role in ending the impunity of those responsible for the crimes committed against the Azerbaijani population during the conflict between the two countries, including in Khoyjaly [YUN 1992, p. 388]. On 9 April [A/68/835-S/2014/261], Armenia recalled the offensive by Azerbaijani armed forces in 1992 against the Armenian population in Maragha and paid tribute to the victims of that massacre, while drawing attention to the fact that Azerbaijan continued its policy against Armenia and Armenians based on xenophobia, racism and hate speech. On 24 April [A/68/853-S/2014/298], Azerbaijan refuted Armenia’s assertions, stressing that Armenian officials had not brought up the so-called “Maragha question” until recently, and accused Armenia of expelling all non-Armenians, including Azerbaijanis, in furtherance of its policy of creating ethnically homogenous areas in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

On 1 August [A/68/960-S/2014/564], Azerbaijan welcomed the adoption of Assembly resolution 68/303 of 31 July (see p. 000) entitled “Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution” and stressed that Azerbaijan supported the promotion of mediation as a way to settle disputes and to prevent and resolve conflict. On 7 August [A/68/968-S/2014/577], Armenia expressed alarm at the escalation of tension and increase in ceasefire violations. It underlined the need for political will to accelerate the peace process and expressed its commitment to an early and lasting settlement of the dispute. In response, Azerbaijan, on 22 August [A/68/979-S/2014/616], listed a number of facts to refute the claims by Armenia, accusing it of disregarding resolutions of the Security Council and other international organizations by continuing its illegal occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan. On 12 November [A/69/583-S/2014/813], Armenia condemned the shooting down of an Armenian helicopter by Azerbaijan, stating that such action undermined the negotiation process for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

By decision 68/660 of 15 September, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item on the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and to include it in the draft agenda if its sixty-ninth session. On 29 December (decision 69/554), the Assembly decided that the item on the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan would remain for consideration during its sixty-ninth (2015) session.

**Cyprus**

During 2014, the United Nations continued its sponsorship of the Cyprus peace talks. The Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Cyprus, with the support of the Special Representative, assisted the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders in implementing the 8 July 2006 Set of Principles and Decision [YUN 2006, p. 487], which included commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bizonal, bicommunal federation and political equality, and an agreement to meet regularly on issues affecting the day-to-day life of the Cypriot people. Discussions centred on core issues relating to governance and power-sharing, citizenship, property and territory.

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), established to prevent the recurrence of fighting between the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities and to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions, continued to assist in the restoration of normal conditions and in humanitarian functions, with its mandate extended until 31 January 2015 by the Security Council. The Secretary-General
submitted two reports covering UNFICYP activities for the periods from 16 December 2013 to 20 June 2014 [S/2014/461] and 21 June to 15 December [S/2015/17].

**Political and security developments**

**Communications.** Throughout the year, the Secretary-General received letters from the Government of Cyprus, and from Turkish Cypriot authorities containing charges and counter-charges, protests and accusations, and explanation of positions regarding the question of Cyprus. Letters from the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” were transmitted by Turkey.


On 31 January [A/68/740-S/2014/77], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” refuted allegations made by Cyprus in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 368] on the operation of a shooting range of the Turkish army near the castle of Saint Hilarion, and emphasized that the protection of the island’s cultural heritage was of great importance to the Turkish Cypriot side. On 20 January [S/2014/39], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” expressed concern at the delaying tactics by Cyprus in drafting a joint statement that would be issued after the first leaders’ meeting and its disappointment that the Greek Cypriot side had attempted to discredit the draft negotiated by the United Nations, in consultation with all relevant parties, including the Greek Cypriot leader, Nicos Anastasiades.

On 12 June [A/68/909-S/2014/406], Cyprus transmitted the 12 May judgement by the European Court of Human Rights awarding monetary just satisfaction in the case of Cyprus v. Turkey with respect to missing persons and lost property. On 4 September [A/68/993-S/2014/683], Cyprus expressed concern over the visit by the newly elected President of Turkey, Recep Erdogan, to the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”. On 27 October [A/69/558-S/2014/782], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” stated that the Turkish President’s visit was a well-established tradition and the statements by the President were in support of a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus.

On 6 October [A/69/425-S/2014/723], Cyprus denounced the decision of the Turkish Government to illegally interfere in the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus, and consequently announced the suspension of its participation in the meetings to negotiate the settlement of the Cyprus problem scheduled for 9 and 10 October under the auspices of the Secretary-General’s Special Advisor. On 16 October [A/69/543-S/2014/751], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” expressed dismay and disappointment at the decision by Cyprus.

On 18 November [A/69/603-S/2014/834], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” refuted allegations made by the Greek Cypriot administration at a September plenary meeting of the General Assembly concerning violations of human rights. On 15 December [A/69/675-S/2014/915], the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” rejected allegations made by the Greek Cypriot administration contained in a 13 November note verbale [A/69/582] to the United Nations of violation of its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf by the Government of Turkey.

**UNFICYP**

The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), established in 1964 [YUN, 1964, p. 165], continued to monitor the ceasefire lines between the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces on the northern side of the island and the Cypriot National Guard on
the southern side; maintain the military status quo and prevent recurrence of fighting; and undertake humanitarian and economic activities. Lisa Buttenheim (United States) continued to serve as the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Cyprus and head of UNFICYP. In August, Espen Barth Eide (Norway) replaced Alexander Downer (Australia) as the Secretary-General’s Special Advisor on Cyprus [S/2014/618] and in May, Major General Kristin Lund (Norway) replaced Major General Chao Liu (China) as UNFICYP Force Commander [S/2014/328]. As at 15 December, UNFICYP comprised 860 troops and 66 civilian police.

Activities

The Security Council considered the Secretary-General’s report [S/2013/78] on UNFICYP covering developments from 21 June to 15 December 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 372].

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 30 January [meeting 7106], the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2135(2014). The draft [S/2014/60] was submitted by the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 30 December 2013 on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus has agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions on the island it is necessary to keep the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus beyond 31 January 2014,

Noting also the intention of the Secretary-General to report on his good offices in the next reporting period, echoing the Secretary-General’s firm belief that the responsibility for finding a solution lies first and foremost with the Cypriots themselves, and reaffirming the primary role of the United Nations in assisting the parties to bring the Cyprus conflict and division of the island to a comprehensive and durable settlement,

Acknowledging the efforts made so far to restart talks, expressing disappointment that formal negotiations have not yet resumed, and calling upon the parties to agree on a substantive way forward as soon as possible,

Recalling the importance that the international community attaches to all parties engaging fully, flexibly, and constructively in the negotiations, noting that the move towards a more intensive phase of negotiations has not yet resulted in an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions, encouraging the sides to resume the substantive negotiations on the core issues, and stressing that the status quo is unsustainable,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to stimulate progress during his meetings with the two leaders on 30 and 31 October 2011 and 23 and 24 January 2012, and expressing continued support for his efforts,

Noting the need to advance the consideration of and discussions on military confidence-building measures, and calling for renewed efforts to implement all remaining confidence-building measures and for agreement on and implementation of further steps to build trust between the communities,

Reaffirming the importance of continued crossings of the Green Line by Cypriots, and encouraging the opening by mutual agreement of other crossing points,

Convinced of the many important benefits, including economic benefits, for all Cypriots that would flow from a comprehensive and durable Cyprus settlement, urging the two sides and their leaders to foster positive public rhetoric, and encouraging them clearly to explain the benefits of the settlement, as well as the need for increased flexibility and compromise in order to secure it, to both communities well in advance of any eventual referendums,

Considering that undermining the credibility of the United Nations undermines the peace process itself,

Highlighting the importance of the supporting role of the international community, and in particular that of the parties concerned, in taking practical steps towards helping the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to exploit fully the current opportunity,

Taking note of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island and along the Green Line remains stable, and urging all sides to avoid any action which could lead to an increase in tension, undermine the progress achieved so far or damage the goodwill on the island,

Recalling the Secretary-General’s firm belief that the situation in the buffer zone would be improved if both sides accepted the 1989 aide-memoire used by the United Nations,

Noting with regret that the sides are withholding access to the remaining minefields in the buffer zone, and that demining in Cyprus must continue, noting also the continued danger posed by mines in Cyprus, and urging rapid agreement on facilitating the recommencement of demining operations and clearance of the remaining minefields,

Highlighting the importance of the activities of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, urging the opening up of access to all areas to allow the Committee to carry out its work, and trusting that this process will promote reconciliation between the communities,

Agreeing that active participation of civil society groups, including women’s groups, is essential to the political process and can contribute to making any future settlement sustainable, recalling that women play a critically important role in peace processes, welcoming all efforts to promote bidental contacts and events, including on the part of all United Nations bodies on the island, and urging the two sides to promote the active engagement of civil society and the encouragement of cooperation between economic and commercial bodies and to remove all obstacles to such contacts,

Stressing the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations under close review to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, including a review of the Force when appropriate, and noting the importance of contingency planning in relation to the settlement, including recommendations, as appropriate, for further adjustments to the mandate, force levels and other resources and concept
of operations of the Force, taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties.

Welcoming also the continued efforts of Mr. Alexander Downer as the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus with a mandate to assist the parties in the conduct of fully fledged negotiations aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement, and the efforts of Ms. Lisa Buttenheim as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus,

Echoing the Secretary-General’s gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of the Force and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations, and expressing its appreciation to Member States that contribute personnel to the Force,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. Acknowledges the progress made so far in the fully fledged negotiations, but notes that this has not been sufficient and has not yet resulted in a comprehensive and durable settlement, and urges the sides to continue their discussions to reach decisive progress on the core issues;
2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General,
3. Recalls Security Council resolution 2026(2011) of 14 December 2011, and calls upon the two leaders:
   (a) To put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on the core issues;
   (b) To continue to work with the technical committees with the objective of improving the daily lives of the Cypriots;
   (c) To improve the public atmosphere for the negotiations, including by focusing public messages on convergences and the way ahead and delivering more constructive and harmonized messages;
   (d) To increase the participation of civil society in the process, as appropriate;
4. Urges the implementation of confidence-building measures, and looks forward to agreement on and implementation of further such steps, including military confidence-building measures and the opening of other crossing points;
5. Welcomes all efforts to accommodate the exhumation requirements of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, and calls upon all parties to provide full access;
6. Reaffirms all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251(1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;
7. Expresses its full support for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and decides to extend its mandate for a further period ending 31 July 2014;
8. Calls upon both sides to continue to engage, as a matter of urgency and while respecting the mandate of the Force, in consultations with the Force on the demarcation of the buffer zone and on the United Nations 1989 aide-memoire, with a view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues;
9. Calls upon the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;
10. Calls upon both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone, and urges both sides to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone;
11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on contingency planning in relation to the settlement, by 10 July 2014 and to keep the Council updated on events as necessary;
12. Welcomes the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General’s zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action, including conducting predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;
13. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

Report of Secretary-General. In his July report [S/2014/461] covering UNFICYP activities from 16 December 2013 to 20 June 2014, the Secretary-General reported that the situation in the buffer zone remained calm and stable, with minor incidents and challenges. Concerning the Secretary-General’s mission of good offices, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders concluded, on 11 February, a joint declaration marking the official relaunch of high-level negotiations on a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. Following the resumption of high-level negotiations, the two sides met regularly and the two leaders met on 31 March and 2 June. On 22 May, the leaders agreed to meet at least twice a month to speed up the negotiation process. At the 2 June meeting, they discussed the revitalization of technical committees, confidence-building measures and other issues. On 27 February, the Greek Cypriot negotiator visited Ankara and the Turk Cypriot negotiator went to Athens, in a first exchange of its type in the Cyprus peace talks.

UNFICYP continued to maintain the integrity and stability of the buffer zone. The level of military violations by opposing forces remained low, and cooperation between UNFICYP and the opposition forces was good. However, challenges to UNFICYP authority continued, as the opposing forces questioned the extent of the buffer zone in certain areas. In a new development, Turkish forces deployed 28 closed-circuit television cameras along the ceasefire line in central Nicosia and failed to remove them despite repeated protests by UNFICYP. While no progress was made with respect to military-related confidence-building measures, neither of the opposing forces conducted any major military exercises. During the reporting period, the two sides continued to withhold access to the four known mined areas in the buffer zone. The Committee on Missing Persons reported that the remains of 520 individuals were
returned to their families, including 46 individuals during the reporting period. The number of missing persons identified in 2014, stood at 43. The United Nations continued to contribute to restoring normal conditions. UNFICYP issued more than 900 permits for farming and other civilian activities and facilitated the maintenance of utility infrastructure and the provision of basic services. As UNFICYP continued to play an essential role on the island, including in support of the good offices mission, the Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the Force’s mandate until 31 January 2015.

**Year-end developments.** In a later report [S/2015/17] covering the period from 21 June to 15 December, the Secretary-General noted that the situation along the ceasefire lines remained calm and stable because of UNFICYP regular patrolling and liaison with the opposing forces. Despite minor military violations committed by both forces, which resulted in occasional altercations with UNFICYP, relations between UNFICYP and the opposing forces remained good. For the seventh consecutive year, the Turkish Forces and the Cypriot National Guard did not conduct their annual military exercises. Efforts were ongoing at all levels to encourage both sides to advance demining inside and outside the buffer zone, including through the exchange of information on the whereabouts of minefields.

To help facilitate a return to normal conditions, UNFICYP continued to provide humanitarian support to 345 Greek Cypriots and 116 Maronites residing in the north. For Turkish Cypriots residing in the south, UNFICYP remained in contact with local authorities to ensure access to health, welfare and educational support. UNFICYP police assisted and facilitated investigations conducted by the respective police services into criminal matters within the buffer zone, and facilitated meetings of the Technical Committee on Crime and Criminal Matters. Contacts with various stakeholders continued in order to improve the situation in old town Nicosia. In cooperation with international and local partners, UNFICYP also supported 77 bicomunal civil society events involving around 2,870 individuals, and facilitated 65 religious services, involving more than 23,000 individuals, which were held in the buffer zone or required crossings to the other side.

The Committee of Missing persons continued with the exhumations, identification and return of the remains of missing persons. As at 18 December, the Committee’s bicomunal teams of archaeologists had exhumed the remains of 948 missing persons on both sides of the island. The remains of 564 individuals were returned to their respective families, including 135 individuals during the reporting period. The total number of missing persons identified in 2014 stood at 157, the highest in any given year. UNFICYP also facilitated the post-mortem transfer of six Greek Cypriots for burial in the north. The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the UNFICYP mandate until 31 July 2015. ((38))

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 30 July [meeting 7229], the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2168(2014). The draft [S/2014/536] was submitted by France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Security Council, Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 9 July 2014 on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, Noting that the Government of Cyprus has agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions on the island it is necessary to keep the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus beyond 31 July 2014, Noting also the intention of the Secretary-General to report on his good offices in the next reporting period, echoing the Secretary-General’s firm belief that the responsibility for finding a solution lies first and foremost with the Cypriots themselves, and reaffirming the primary role of the United Nations in assisting the parties to bring the Cyprus conflict and division of the island to a comprehensive and durable settlement, Welcoming the resumption of negotiations and the joint declaration adopted by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders on 11 February 2014 and the cross-visits of the chief negotiators to Ankara and Athens, and expressing its support for the ongoing efforts of the leaders and negotiators to reach a comprehensive settlement as soon as possible, Recalling the importance that the international community attaches to all parties engaging fully, flexibly and constructively in the negotiations, noting that the move towards a more results-oriented phase of negotiations has not yet resulted in an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions, encouraging the sides to intensify the substantive negotiations on the unresolved core issues interdependently, and stressing that the status quo is unsustainable, Noting the need to advance the consideration of and discussions on military confidence-building measures, and calling for renewed efforts to implement all remaining confidence-building measures and for agreement on and implementation of further steps to build trust between the communities, Reaffirming the importance of continued crossings of the Green Line by Cypriots, and encouraging the opening by mutual agreement of other crossing points, Convinced of the many important benefits, including economic benefits, for all Cypriots that would flow from a comprehensive and durable Cyprus settlement, urging the two sides and their leaders to foster positive public rhetoric, and encouraging them clearly to explain the benefits of the settlement, as well as the need for increased flexibility and compromise in order to secure it, to both communities well in advance of any eventual referendums, Highlighting the importance of the supporting role of the international community, and in particular that of the parties concerned in taking practical steps towards helping...
the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to exploit fully the current opportunity.

Taking note of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island and along the Green Line remains stable, and urging all sides to avoid any action, including violations of the military status quo, which could lead to an increase in tension, undermine the progress achieved so far or damage the goodwill on the island,

Recalling the Secretary-General’s firm belief that the situation in the buffer zone would be improved if both sides accepted the 1989 aide-memoire used by the United Nations,

Noting with regret that the sides are withholding access to the remaining minefields in the buffer zone, and that demining in Cyprus must continue, noting the continued danger posed by mines in Cyprus, noting also recent proposals and discussions on demining, and urging rapid agreement on facilitating the recommencement of demining operations and clearance of the remaining minefields,

Commending the work of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, highlighting the importance of intensifying its activities, urging the opening up of access to all areas expeditiously to allow the Committee to carry out its work, and trusting that this process will promote reconciliation between the communities,

Agreeing that active participation of civil society groups, including women’s groups, is essential to the political process and can contribute to making any future settlement sustainable, recalling that women play a critically important role in peace processes, welcoming all efforts to promote bicommunal contacts and events, including on the part of all United Nations bodies on the island, and urging the two sides to promote the active engagement of civil society and the encouragement of cooperation between economic and commercial bodies and to remove all obstacles to such contacts,

Stressing the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations under close review to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, including a review of the Force when appropriate, and noting the importance of contingency planning in relation to the settlement, including recommendations, as appropriate, for further adjustments to the mandate, force levels and other resources and concept of operations of the Force, taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Ms. Lisa Buttenheim as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and acting Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, thanking the outgoing Force Commander, Major General Chao Liu, welcoming the incoming Force Commander, Major General Kristin Lund, thanking Mr. Alexander Downer for his efforts over the last six years as Special Adviser, and encouraging the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Adviser in the near future,

Echoing the Secretary-General’s gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of the Force and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations, and expressing its appreciation to Member States that contribute personnel to the Force,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. Acknowledges the progress made so far in the fully fledged negotiations, but notes that this has not been sufficient and has not yet resulted in a comprehensive and durable settlement, and urges the sides to continue their discussions to reach decisive progress on the core issues;

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. Recalls Security Council resolution 2026(2011) of 14 December 2011, and calls upon the two leaders:

(a) To put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on the core issues;

(b) To continue to work with the technical committees with the objective of improving the daily lives of the Cypriots;

(c) To improve the public atmosphere for the negotiations, including by focusing public messages on convergences and the way ahead and delivering more constructive and harmonized messages;

(d) To increase the participation of civil society in the process, as appropriate;

4. Urges the implementation of confidence-building measures, and looks forward to agreement on and implementation of further such mutually acceptable steps, including military confidence-building measures and the opening of other crossing points, that can contribute to a conducive environment for a settlement;

5. Welcomes all efforts to accommodate the exhumation requirements of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, and calls upon all parties to provide full access to all areas expeditiously, given the need to intensify the work of the Committee;

6. Reaffirms all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251(1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;

7. Expresses its full support for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and decides to extend its mandate for a further period ending 31 January 2015;

8. Calls upon both sides to continue to engage, as a matter of urgency and while respecting the mandate of the Force, in consultations with the Force on the demarcation of the buffer zone and on the United Nations 1989 aide-memoire, with a view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues;

9. Calls upon the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;

10. Calls upon both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone, and urges both sides to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on contingency planning in relation to the settlement, by 10 January 2015 and to keep the Council updated on events as necessary;

12. Welcomes the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General’s zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code
of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action, including conducting predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

Decide to remain seized of the matter.

On 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the question of Cyprus would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (decision 69/554).

Financing

In June, the General Assembly considered the Secretary-General’s report on UNFICYP financial performance for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/584], the proposed UNFICYP budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/68/700] and the related ACABQ report [A/68/782/Add.7].

A/68/923, adopted on 29 December, the General Assembly decided that voluntary contributions were insufficient to cover all the costs of the Force, including those incurred by troop-contributing Governments prior to 16 June 1993, and regretting the absence of an adequate response to appeals for voluntary contributions, including that contained in the letter dated 17 May 1994 from the Secretary-General to all Member States,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 19.3 million United States dollars, representing some 4 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 53 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. Emphasizes that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

5. Also emphasizes that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

7. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy:

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

10. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

11. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus the amount of 62,531,500 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 58,004,500 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 3,753,300 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 773,700 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;
Financing of the appropriation

12. Notes with appreciation that a one-third share of the net appropriation, equivalent to 19,949,267 dollars, will be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus and the amount of 6.5 million dollars from the Government of Greece;

13. Decides to apportion among Member States the amount of 3,006,852 dollars for the period from 1 to 31 July 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

14. Also decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 223,641 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 198,033 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 19,850 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 5,758 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

15. Further decides to apportion among Member States the amount of 33,075,381 dollars for the period from 1 August 2014 to 30 June 2015, at a monthly rate of 3,006,852 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

16. Decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,460,059 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,178,367 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 218,350 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 63,342 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

17. Also decides that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 6,5 million dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

18. Further decides that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 68,101 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

19. Decides that the increase of 183,200 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 68,101 dollars referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

20. Also decides, taking into account its voluntary contribution for the financial period ended 30 June 2013, that one third of the net unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 388,333 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be returned to the Secretariat-General to continue his efforts in appealing for voluntary contributions to the account;

21. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the security and safety of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;
Situation in Crimea

On 29 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNFICYP would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (decision 69/554).

Ukraine

In 2014, following months of mass protests in Kiev that culminated in violence, the crisis in Ukraine emerged as a major new concern of the Security Council. The situation came to a head on 28 January when the Government of Ukraine resigned. Negotiations to settle the conflict were held between the parties, with the participation of EU representatives and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of France, Germany and Poland, and a Special Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation. On 21 February, Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovych and opposition leaders signed, in Kiev, the “Agreement on the Settlement of the Crisis in Ukraine.” The Agreement, transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Russian Federation on 23 February [S/2014/121], provided for the restoration of the 2004 Ukrainian Constitution, the creation of a national unity government, constitutional reforms to be completed in September, presidential elections to be held no later than December, and an investigation of the crisis. On 24 February [S/2014/122], Ukraine reported that on 22 February, President Yanukovych renounced the Agreement and refused to sign the law restoring the 2004 Constitution adopted by the Parliament. He left Kiev for an unknown destination, thus removing himself from his constitutional authority. On the same day, the Parliament adopted decrees on the removal of the president and early presidential elections which were set for 25 May. On 26 February [S/2014/132], Ukraine rejected allegations made by the Russian Federation of “threats to civil rights, particularly of minorities and religious confessions” in Ukraine as false and baseless.

Situation in Crimea

Following a request by Ukraine [S/2014/136], due to the deterioration of the situation in Ukraine’s Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the Security Council met on 28 February [S/PV.7123] in closed session to hear a briefing by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Taranco, and in open session on 1 March [S/PV.7124] by Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliason who said that since briefing the Council the previous day by Mr. Fernández-Taranco, reports continued of serious developments in Ukraine, especially in Crimea, where key sites, including the regional parliament, reportedly continued to be blocked by unidentified armed men. Armed personnel took control also of regional administration buildings in several cities in the East and South of Ukraine. He recalled the Secretary-General’s statement of the same day reiterating his call for the full respect for and preservation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Meanwhile, Ukraine reported that Russian troops had illegally entered Crimea to allegedly protect the Russian-speaking population of the peninsula. It called on the Council to do everything possible to stop the aggression against Ukraine. The Russian Federation, for its part, contended that the Russian troops were deployed in Crimea at the request of local authorities, and submitted, on 3 March [S/2014/146], a statement by Mr. Yanukovych appealing to the Russian Federation to use its armed forces to restore law and order in the country.

At the Council’s meeting on 3 March [S/PV.7125], Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Taranco reported a continuing build-up of Russian troops in Crimea and that a number of Ukrainian military bases were surrounded by Russian troops. In addition, the situation in Eastern Ukraine remained fluid, with reports of demonstrations in certain cities and attempts by local groups to seize control of some official buildings. On 2 March, Ukraine’s Parliament urged Russia to fulfil the terms of the agreement on its Black Sea Fleet’s temporary presence in Ukraine and to withdraw its troops. Following the Council’s consultation, and in the light of developments on the ground, the Secretary-General asked the Deputy Secretary-General to travel to Ukraine so that he could brief the Secretary-General on next steps.

On 4 March [S/2014/152], Ukraine asserted that since Mr. Yanukovych was no longer a legitimate President of Ukraine, his request to the Russian Federation to use its military forces in Ukraine might not be regarded as an official request. It further informed the Council President on 7 March [S/2014/164], that the Crimean Parliament had decided to hold a referendum on 16 March on the issue of “reuniting Crimea with the Russian Federation.” At its meeting on 13 March [S/PV.7134], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman informed the Council that on 11 March, reports were received that Crimean authorities had closed down the airspace of the peninsula to all commercial flights, except those from Moscow, and Crimea’s Parliament had adopted a “declaration of independence of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea”. The Parliament of Ukraine adopted a resolution urging the Parliament of Crimea to reconsider its decision of 6 March and to bring it in line with Ukraine’s constitution; if it failed to do so by 12 March, the Parliament of Ukraine would initiate the early termination of its powers.
The Secretary-General continued efforts to speak to all relevant parties with the aim of seeking a peaceful resolution of the crisis. However, local authorities denied the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic access to Crimea. The human rights monitoring mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was set to become operational in Ukraine. On 13 March [S/2014/186], Ukraine, invoking Article 51 of the UN Charter, requested States and the regional security systems to assist in restoring its sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability. It also informed the Council President, on 15 March [S/2014/193], that its Constitutional Court had found that the 6 March Decree of the Parliament of Crimea on the holding of a referendum on 16 March had violated Ukraine’s territorial integrity and breached Ukraine’s constitution.

On 15 March [S/PV.7138], the Council had before it for consideration a draft resolution [S/2104/189] proposed by 42 States by which the Council would have noted with concern the intention to hold a referendum on the status of Crimea on 16 March, and would have declared that the referendum would have no validity and could not form the basis of altering the status of Crimea, and would have called on all States and international organizations and agencies not to recognize such change. The draft resolution was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council viz., the Russian Federation. On 17 March [S/2014/196], Ukraine noted that four days earlier it had referred to the European Court of Human Rights a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights by the Russian Federation and lodged an inter-State application Ukraine v. Russia under article 33 of that Convention.

Meanwhile, the crisis appeared to have deepened, the Deputy Secretary-General reported to the Council on 19 March [S/PV.7144]. The Crimean authorities announced that close to 97 per cent of those who voted in the 16 March referendum did so in favour of Crimea’s secession from Ukraine. Subsequently, Crimea declared its independence, which was recognized by the Russian Federation. On 17 March, the EU and the United States applied targeted sanctions against Russian and Crimean officials. The next day, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin signed a treaty to make Crimea part of the Russian Federation. At the same time, the Government in Kiev committed to never accept Crimea’s independence or annexation. In other developments, reports emerged that two Ukrainian naval bases in Crimea were taken over by pro-Russian forces or unidentified groups. According to the Deputy Secretary-General, the latest events had heightened tensions and added new layers of complexity to an already precarious situation.

In an 18 March address to the State Duma [A/68/803-S/2014/201], President Putin defended his country’s response to the crisis in Ukraine and indicated that he was submitting to the Federal Assembly a request to consider a constitutional law creating two new constituent entities within the Russian Federation: the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and to ratify the treaty admitting them.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 27 March [meeting 80], the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/262 [draft A/68/L.39 & Add.1] by recorded vote (100-11-58) [agenda item 33(b)].

Territorial integrity of Ukraine

The General Assembly,
Reaffirming the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of the rule of law among nations,
Recalling the obligations of all States under Article 2 of the Charter to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means,
Recalling also its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970, in which it approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the principles contained therein that the territory of a State shall not be the object of acquisition by another State resulting from the threat or use of force, and that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of a State or country or at its political independence is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter,
Recalling further the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975, the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine’s Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum) of 5 December 1994, the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 31 May 1997 and the Alma-Ata Declaration of 21 December 1991,
Stressing the importance of maintaining the inclusive political dialogue in Ukraine that reflects the diversity of its society and includes representation from all parts of Ukraine,
Welcoming the continued efforts by the Secretary-General and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations to support de-escalation of the situation with respect to Ukraine,
Noting that the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014 was not authorized by Ukraine,
1. Affirms its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;
2. Calls upon all States to desist and refrain from actions aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including any attempts to modify Ukraine’s borders through the threat or use of force or other unlawful means;

3. Urges all parties to pursue immediately the peaceful resolution of the situation with respect to Ukraine through direct political dialogue, to exercise restraint, to refrain from unilateral actions and inflammatory rhetoric that may increase tensions and to engage fully with international mediation efforts;

4. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations to assist Ukraine in protecting the rights of all persons in Ukraine, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

5. Underscores that the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014, having no validity, cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol;

6. Calls upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the above-mentioned referendum and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 68/262:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Against: Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Comoros, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Guyana, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia.

On 14 December [S/2014/895], Ukraine issued a statement on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) entitled “Definition of Aggression.”

Security and human rights situations

On 16 April [S/PV.7157], Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonović told the Security Council that during his visit to Crimea (21–22 March) he interacted with a wide range of interlocutors, including local authorities and civil society, and especially the victims themselves. The media manipulation contributed to a climate of fear and insecurity in the period preceding the referendum. The presence of paramilitary and so-called self-defence groups, as well as soldiers in uniform without insignia, was not conducive to an environment in which voters could freely exercise their right to hold opinions and to freedom of expression during the referendum on 16 March. There were credible allegations of harassment, arbitrary arrests and torture by those groups targeting activists and journalists who did not support the referendum.

Meanwhile, the security situation deteriorated significantly. Reportedly, armed pro-Russian activists established the People’s Republic of Donetsk, taking control of Government buildings. In Luhansk, pro-Russian protesters continued to occupy the local security services building. In Kharkiv, participants in a pro-Ukrainian rally were attacked and beaten by pro-Russian demonstrators, resulting in some 50 persons being injured. While reports indicated that the number of protesters, including some allegedly from outside the region, had not significantly increased, the level of violence and the proportion of armed protesters had, with significant human rights implications.

The Council met again on 29 April [S/PV.7165], and was informed by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman that there was a glimmer of hope for the outcome of the four-party talks between Ukraine, the Russian Federation, the United States and the EU held in Geneva on 17 April, aimed at de-escalating the crisis. The resulting Geneva agreement called for all sides to refrain from violence, intimidation and provocative actions; for all illegal armed groups to be disarmed; and for all illegally seized buildings, occupied streets and public places to be vacated. However, the emerging spirit of compromise of the 17 April talks appeared to have evaporated. The implementation of the Geneva agreement stalled as parties sought to give different interpretations of what had been agreed upon. Unhelpful rhetoric further escalated the already high tensions. Meanwhile, the situation in parts of eastern and southern Ukraine continued to deteriorate. On 25 April, a group of OSCE military monitors and accompanying Ukrainian staff...
were captured and detained. There were increasing reports of torture, kidnappings and violent clashes. On 27 April, the mayor of Kharkiv was shot by unknown assailants and remained in critical condition. On the same day, self-declared separatists seized a local government building in Kostiantynivka, in Donetsk oblast, while in Donetsk itself a pro-unity rally turned violent when separatist elements reportedly attacked the group with clubs and chains. Also, on 27 April, in Kharkiv, clashes between opponents and supporters of a unitary Ukraine broke out resulting in a number of injuries. On 29 April, self-declared separatist groups reportedly began an operation to take control of Lugansk.

On 14 May [A/68/879-S/2014/340], the Russian Federation transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of comments by its Deputy Defence Minister concerning assertions made by NATO and the United States on the lack of withdrawal of Russian troops from the border with Ukraine. According to the Deputy Defence Minister, no formal protest had been presented to the Russian Federation that it had failed to fulfil, or had directly violated its international obligations regarding conventional weapons. In the interest of preventing further provocation, the Russian Federation had withdrawn from the border. Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces continued to mass on the Russia-Ukraine border, where there was a 15,000-strong concentration of Ukrainian troops. There was a simultaneous build-up of NATO forces in Eastern Europe. He called on NATO and United States officials to refrain from misleading the international community regarding the real situation along the Russia-Ukraine border.

As to Ukraine's early presidential election, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman informed the Council, at its 28 May meeting [S/PV.7185], that reports indicated that 60 per cent of Ukraine's eligible voters had voted, but the numbers varied considerably across the country. In parts of eastern Ukraine, eligible voters were denied their right to vote due to the seizure or blocking of polling stations, the destruction of electoral equipment, intimidation and violence. According to preliminary results, Petro Poroshenko won in the first round with 55 per cent of the vote. The Secretary-General welcomed President-elect Poroshenko's stated intention to engage immediately in dialogue and de-escalation. However, both Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts experienced a dramatic increase in deadly fighting. The Secretary-General was concerned by reports of scores of casualties; by suggestions regarding the circulation and use of heavier weaponry in the east; and by allegations of arms, fighters and trucks entering Ukraine. On 22 May, dozens of Ukrainian servicemen were killed and many wounded in an ambush by unknown armed persons at a military checkpoint in Volnovakha, and on 26 May, fierce fighting ensued when armed militia attempted to seize control of the Donetsk international airport.

In a 17 June press statement [SC/11442], Council members expressed their condolences to the families of all journalists killed while covering the crisis in Ukraine, encouraged a thorough investigation of all incidents of violence involving journalists and expressed concern about reported cases of detention and harassment of journalists covering the crisis in Ukraine.

Meeting again on 24 June [S/PV.7205], the Council was informed by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Tayé-Brook Zerihoun that, due in large part to the initiative by President Petro Poroshenko since his inauguration on 7 June, and the efforts of the international community, there were encouraging signs of a de-escalation of the conflict in Ukraine. On 20 June, Ukraine provided the Secretary-General with an official copy of President Poroshenko's peace plan [S/2014/431], which included de-escalatory measures, such as amnesty for those who did not participate in serious crimes, disarmament, the decentralization of power and early local and parliamentary elections, and a programme for creating jobs in the region. Simultaneously, he announced the start of a one-week unilateral ceasefire to give armed militia an opportunity to disarm. Government forces were ordered to withdraw from their engagements, allowing rebels a chance to lay down their weapons. According to the plan, all rebels who surrendered peacefully and had not committed grave crimes would be granted amnesty. Also, with a view to engaging with Ukraine's eastern regions, the President travelled on 19 June to the Donbass region, and the following day, to Donetsk and Lugansk. The Secretary-General was pleased that peace talks had reportedly started with representatives of the armed groups in eastern Ukraine, led by former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. He also noted that the armed militia groups had agreed to reciprocate the ceasefire, despite previously rejecting the President's plan. In a welcome development, President Putin asked the Russian Parliament to revoke the authorization given to him to send troops to Ukraine. President Poroshenko's office welcomed the move as the first practical step after President Putin expressed support for the peace plan. Nevertheless, even after President Poroshenko's announced ceasefire, the armed groups publicly rejected the offer and continued their assault on Ukrainian forces. Other reports indicated that Ukrainian forces also continued their security operations. On 14 June, a Ukrainian Ilyushin-76 military transport airplane was shot down in Luhansk by armed militia, killing all 49 people on board (see p. 000). On 1 July [S/2014/460], Ukraine informed the Council President of President Poroshenko's decision not to continue the
unilateral ceasefire as at 30 June, as insurgents had violated it over 100 times. However, the peace plan remained in force.

**Downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17**

At its 18 July meeting [S/PV.7219], the Security Council expressed its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of those who had lost their lives aboard the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17 on 17 July over Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, and to the people and Governments of all the countries that had lost their citizens in the crash. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman told the Council that, while the United Nations had at that point no independent verification of the circumstances regarding the tragic crash, reports suggested that a sophisticated surface-to-air missile was used. Nearly 300 people were killed, two-thirds of them from the Netherlands, including 80 children. The Secretary-General stated that there was clearly a need for a full and transparent international investigation. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) offered to put together an international team.

Also, in an 18 July press statement [SC/11480], Council members called for a full and thorough international investigation into the incident and on all parties to grant access to the crash site to determine the cause of the incident.

**SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION**

On 21 July [meeting 7221], the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2166(2014). The draft [S/2014/510] was submitted by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chad, Chile, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet Nam.

The Security Council,

_Expressing serious concern_ that armed groups in Ukraine have impeded immediate, safe, secure and unrestricted access to the crash site and the surrounding area for the appropriate investigating authorities, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and representatives of other relevant international organizations assisting the investigation in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization and other established procedures,

1. _Condemns in the strongest terms the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 on 17 July 2014 in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, resulting in the tragic loss of 298 lives;
2. _Reiterates its deepest sympathies and condolences_ to the families of the victims of this incident and to the people and Governments of the victims’ countries of origin;
3. _Supports efforts to establish_ a full, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines;
4. _Recognizes the efforts under way by_ Ukraine, working in coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization and other international experts and organizations, including representatives of the States of Occurrence, Registry, Operator, Design and Manufacture, as well as States that have lost nationals on MH17, to institute an international investigation of the incident, and calls upon all States to provide any requested assistance to civil and criminal investigations related to this incident;
5. _Express grave concern_ at reports of insufficient and limited access to the crash site;
6. _Demands_ that the armed groups in control of the crash site and the surrounding area refrain from any actions that may compromise the integrity of the crash site, including by refraining from destroying, moving or disturbing wreckage, equipment, debris, personal belongings or remains, and immediately provide safe, secure, full and unrestricted access to the site and the surrounding area for the appropriate investigating authorities, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and representatives of other relevant international organizations according to International Civil Aviation Organization and other established procedures;
7. _Also demands_ that all military activities, including by armed groups, be immediately ceased in the immediate area surrounding the crash site to allow for security and safety of the international investigation;
8. _Insists on the_ dignified, respectful and professional treatment and recovery of the bodies of the victims, and calls upon all parties to ensure that this happens with immediate effect;
9. _Calls upon_ all States and actors in the region to cooperate fully in relation to the international investigation of the incident, including with respect to immediate and unrestricted access to the crash site as referred to in paragraph 6 above;
10. _Welcomes, in this regard, the statement made on_ 17 July 2014 by the Tri lateral Contact Group of senior representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and demands that the commitments outlined in that statement be implemented in full;
Part One: Political and security questions

11. Demands that those responsible for this incident be held to account and that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability;

12. Urges all parties to the Convention on International Civil Aviation to observe to the fullest extent applicable the international rules, standards and practices concerning the safety of civil aviation, in order to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, and demands that all States and other actors refrain from acts of violence directed against civilian aircraft;

13. Welcomes the full cooperation of the United Nations offered by the Secretary-General in this investigation, and requests the Secretary-General to identify possible options for United Nations support to the investigation and to report to the Security Council on relevant developments;

14. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

On 22 July [A/68/954-S/2014/524], the Russian Federation transmitted to the Secretary-General the transcript of the special briefing held the previous day by its Ministry of Defence on the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17. On 7 August [S/2014/576], Ukraine clarified the decision of its President to maintain a ceasefire in the immediate area surrounding the crash site. The Netherlands, on 28 August [S/2014/639], informed the Council that, at the request of Ukraine, it had taken the lead in coordinating international efforts regarding the incident with flight MH17. The approach was twofold: recovery of the remains of the victims and their repatriation to their respective home countries; and an international technical investigation into the cause of the crash coordinated by the independent Dutch Safety Board, in accordance with annex 13 of the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation [YUN 1946-1947, pp. 728-740]. As at 22 August, 173 of the 298 victims had been identified. Regrettably, efforts to recover remains and belongings were severely hampered by the volatile security situation on the ground. Continuing armed clashes in the area prevented any resumption of activities on site in the immediate future.

At the Council’s session on 19 September [S/PV.7269], convened at the request of the Russian Federation [S/2014/264], Under-Secretary-General Jeffrey Feltman updated the Council on developments related to the investigation of the crash. He recognized the pivotal role of the Netherlands in leading the investigation, with contributions by a number of countries, ICAO and the European Aviation Safety Agency. On 9 September, the Dutch Safety Board submitted its preliminary report [S/2014/657] containing the first actual findings based on various sources, including the cockpit voice recorder, the flight data recorder, air traffic control data, and radar and satellite images. While the report was preliminary, it asserted that the plane broke apart due to penetration by a large number of “high-energy objects from outside the aircraft.” There was no indication that the plane had any technical or operational issues and no distress signal was received.

Also, on the same day [S/2014/690], the Russian Federation informed the Council President of issues that it considered should be examined during further investigation of the crash of the Malaysia Airlines plane.

The Netherlands, on 16 December [S/2014/903], updated the Council on steps it had taken regarding the repatriation and recovery efforts, the technical investigation and the accountability process. After the decision on 6 August to suspend the recovery mission owing to the volatile security situation on the ground, the Netherlands maintained daily contact with the OSCE mission in Ukraine. So far, 294 of the 298 victims had been identified. For the purposes of the investigation by the Dutch Safety Board, pieces of debris relevant to the investigation were recovered from the crash site between 16 and 23 November. The Board aimed to deliver its final public report by mid-2015.

Further developments

At the request of the Russian Federation [S/2104/264], the Council met on 5 August [S/PV.7234] on the situation in Ukraine. John Ging, Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that efforts to find a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine had borne little fruit. Insecurity and violence prevailed in conflict areas, resulting in a steadily worsening humanitarian situation. An estimated 3.9 million people lived in areas directly affected by violence. Fighting caused significant damage to infrastructure. Health supplies were running low and an estimated 70 per cent of health personnel had fled the area, leaving access to medical care significantly reduced. Damage to housing had so far affected 1,600 families. Supply routes were increasingly disrupted, and coping mechanisms among the affected populations were deteriorating. The OHCHR human rights monitoring mission and the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that at least 1,367 people, both civilians and combatants, had been killed and 4,087 wounded in eastern Ukraine since mid-April. An additional 58,000 people had fled their homes since the start of July. Currently, 117,910 people were registered as internally displaced throughout Ukraine, 87 per cent of whom were from the east of the country. The Russian Federation reported that 740,000 people had crossed its borders since the start of the year. UNHCR was reaching hosting areas for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and areas to which people were able to return, while OCHA deployed a humanitarian advisory team to Ukraine to assess needs and support the coordination of the response. On 11 August [S/2104/581], Ukraine informed that President Petro Poroshenko was sending an international humanitarian aid mission to the Luhansk region.
Chapter V: Europe and the Mediterranean

Updating the Council on 8 August [S/PV.7239] on the situation in Ukraine, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović reported that since April, 924 people had been abducted and 113 servicemen, military border guards and security personnel detained. In Crimea, UNHCR estimated that 15,200 people had left the Republic while tens of thousands continued to flee the fighting in the east of Ukraine, bringing the number of IDPs to over 117,910 as at 5 August.

On 11 August [S/2014/580], Ukraine informed the Council of the closure, beginning on 15 July, of the seaports of Kerch, Sevastopol, Feodosia, Yalta and Yevpatoria, located in Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, owing to the temporary occupation of those territories. On 15 August [S/2014/599, S/2014/602], Ukraine protested against Russian Federation attempts to establish its national jurisdiction over Ukrainian nuclear facilities located in Crimea, and on the continued aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. On 22 August [S/2014/612], Ukraine also protested the illegal crossing of its border by a Russian Federation convoy.

As the crisis escalated, on 28 August [S/PV.7253] Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman reported to the Council that Presidents Putin and Poroshenko met officially on 26 August and multilateral talks were initiated. The Secretary-General called for the continuation of those talks, with a view to forging a peaceful way out of the conflict, based on President Poroshenko's peace plan (see p. 000). However, those events were overshadowed by reports of intensified fighting in southeastern Ukraine. Illegal armed groups operating in the Donetsk region reportedly had intensified their activities, spreading violence along Ukraine's southern coast in the direction of the strategic port of Mariupol. The town of Novoazovsk was seized by the armed groups. The southward spread of fighting along the border with the Russian Federation and the Sea of Azov marked a dangerous escalation in the conflict. The battle for Luhansk continued, and hostilities in Donetsk were spreading. The United Nations had no way of verifying information of Russian military involvement in that new wave of escalation, and the Russian Federation had rejected those reports.

On 3 September [S/2014/647], the Russian Federation forwarded to the Council President the ‘Putin Plan’ for the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine, which proposed that the parties to the conflict should agree on ending offensive operations by armed units and militia groups in southeast Ukraine in the Donetsk and Lugansk areas; the withdrawal of Ukraine forces to a safe distance from populated areas; allowing international monitoring of compliance with the ceasefire; excluding use of all military aircraft against civilians; organizing the exchange of those detained; opening humanitarian corridors; and repairing and rebuilding facilities.

President Poroshenko, in a 5 September statement [S/2014/652], said that, taking into account the Russian President’s call for a ceasefire addressed to illegal armed groups of the Donbas and the signing of the protocol at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on the implementation of the peace plan of the President of Ukraine, he had ordered a ceasefire starting that same day. On 17 September [S/2014/677], Ukraine expressed concern over a statement by the Russian defence minister concerning the deployment of full-scale and self-sufficient military force in Crimea, and on 25 September [S/2014/704], drew the Council President’s attention to the discovery of a mass grave on 23 September in a coal mine in Komunar, near the village of Nyzhnia Krynka, sixty kilometres from Donetsk. On 3 October [SC/11588], Council members condemned the killing of a staff member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Laurent DuPasquier, in Donetsk, Ukraine, on 2 October, and stressed the need for an objective investigation into the tragic death.

On 24 October [S/PV.7287], Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Tarango told the Council that efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine remained mixed. On 5 September, under the auspices of the Trilateral Contact Group, the Minsk protocol to halt the conflict in eastern Ukraine was signed, and the Minsk memorandum, which clarified implementation of the ceasefire agreement, was signed on 19 September. The Secretary-General joined other leaders in welcoming those agreements and in urging their full implementation. Initial steps were undertaken to implement the Minsk protocol and memorandum, including, the implementation of the ceasefire, the exchange of detained persons and Ukrainian Government’s steps [S/2014/755] toward decentralization, including by the adoption of a special status, or interim self-governance, for certain areas in Donetsk and Luhansk. However, violation of the ceasefire agreement was a daily occurrence, with regular loss of life. The OSCE special monitoring mission, charged with monitoring and verifying the ceasefire and other provisions of the Minsk protocol, was doing its utmost to carry out its mandate in the face of logistical challenges. The United Nations engaged continuously with the mission and the OSCE secretariat to identify specific areas where its expertise and resources could be of assistance. There were reports also on the alleged widespread use of internationally banned cluster munitions. In the run up to the elections, reports were received of alleged violence against parliamentary candidates and representatives of various parties, as well as inflammatory statements by armed rebel groups threatening to disrupt voting in areas of eastern Ukraine and to hold their own elections on 2
November. International election monitoring efforts, led by osce, as well as international observers and domestic ngos would be critical.

The Parliamentary elections were held on schedule on 26 October, Assistant Secretary-General ad interim for Political Affairs Jens Anders Toyyberg-Frandzen reported to the Council on 12 November [S/PV.7311]. Although there was no voting in Crimea and those parts of Donbas under rebel control, elections were held throughout the rest of Ukraine. On 11 November, the Central Electoral Commission announced the official results of the elections. On 2 November, rebels in Donetsk and Luhansk held their own elections, in defiance of the Ukrainian Government. Following the elections, the rebels declared themselves as de facto independent from Ukraine and threatened to expand the territory under their control. A full mobilization, including the creation of local armies and security forces, was also announced. In response, President Poroshenko proposed that Parliament revoke the law providing for three years of greater autonomy or special status for the rebel-controlled areas that had been offered as fulfillment of a key tenet of the Minsk Protocol. On 5 November, Prime Minister of Ukraine Arsenii Yatsenyuk announced that pensions and subsidies would be halted to areas under rebel control.

On 3 November, hostilities in the east reignited. Citing credible threats from the rebel leadership that it would launch a new offensive, on 4 November, President Poroshenko ordered army reinforcements to key cities in southern and eastern Ukraine. Reaffirming that Kiev saw no military solution to the conflict and that it would not attempt to retake rebel areas held by rebel forces, the President’s stated objective was to protect Ukraine’s territory from any further incursions [S/2014/792, S/2014/798]. On 9 November, hostilities were reported to be at their worst, with a heavy exchange of artillery and shelling in and around Donetsk. The upsurge in fighting came amidst regular reports from osce of an influx of large convoys of heavy weapons, tanks and troops flowing into rebel-held areas. With the onset of winter, the number of idps was expected to increase.

Other issues

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative

The General Assembly, in resolution 69/8 of 11 November on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative (see p. 000), valued the continuing contribution of the Initiative to the political dialogue and its project management support, providing its member States with a flexible and pragmatic platform for regional cooperation.

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/67 [YUN 2013, p. 375], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/169] containing replies received from Colombia, Lebanon, Portugal and Spain to his 7 February note requesting the views of States on ways to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [62 meeting], the General Assembly adopted, on the recommendation of the First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee [A/69/445], adopted resolution 69/80 without vote [agenda item 101].

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,
Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 68/67 of 5 December 2013,
Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,
Welcoming the efforts deployed by the Euro-Mediterranean countries to strengthen their cooperation in combating terrorism, in particular through the adoption of the Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 27 and 28 November 2005,
Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,
Recalling, in this regard, the adoption on 13 July 2008 of the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, which launched a reinforced partnership, named the “Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean”, and the common political will to revive efforts to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation and prosperity,
Welcoming the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) as a contribution to the strengthening of peace and security both regionally and internationally,
Recognizing the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,
Recognizing also the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminating the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security, as well as their growing awareness of the need for further joint efforts to strengthen

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economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region.

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,2

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Expressing concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,3

1. Reaffirms that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. Commends the Mediterranean countries for their efforts in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity, encourages them to strengthen such efforts through, inter alia, a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region, and recognizes the role of the United Nations in promoting regional and international peace and security;

4. Recognizes that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and other obstacles, as well as respect and greater understanding among cultures in the Mediterranean area, will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

5. Calls upon all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the conditions necessary for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

6. Encourages all States of the region to favour the conditions necessary for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, inter alia, in the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;

7. Encourages the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the possible resort by terrorists to weapons of mass destruction, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and in combating international crime and illicit arms transfers and illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation and which jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”.

Maintenance of international security-good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe.

On 2 December, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first (2016) session the item entitled “Maintenance of international security-good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe” (decision 69/514).

Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM

The Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), a regional cooperation organization established by the 2006 Kyiv Declaration [YUN 2006, p. 486], was headquartered in Kyiv, Ukraine. On the issue of conflict settlement, GUAM emphasized respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of its members States.

On 29 December (decision 69/554), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the protracted conflicts in the guam area and their implications for international peace, security and development would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.