



NEWSLETTER

December 2004

Permanent Mission of Romania to UNOG

Romanian positions on issues under debate in the UN Security Council

- 09.12.2004 Public debate of the UNSC on the first report of the Committee 1540 on non-proliferation**
- 14.12.2004 Public debate of the UNSC, on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict**
- 17.12.2004 Open Briefing of UNSC on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts"**

On **9 December 2004**, during a public debate of the UN Security Council, ambassador Mihnea Motoc, the Permanent Representative of Romania in New York, presented the first report of the Committee 1540 on non-proliferation.

In his speech, Romanian representative underlined the efforts made since his election as president of the 1540 Committee (June, 2004) on the efficiency of this subsidiary organ of the Council. Moreover, he referred to the close cooperation with other international bodies (e.g. International Agency for Atomic Energy, International Organization for the Banning of Chemical Weapons).

Consistent with its policy on combating proliferation of mass destruction weapons, Romania has co-authored resolution 1540 in April 2004, favoring a coherent and comprehensive approach, at UN level, of the risks and direct threats to peace and global security, generated by WMD.

On **14 December 2004**, during a public debate of the UN Security Council, on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Mr. Mihnea MOTOC welcomed the performance and progress in the humanitarian work made by the United Nations and its partners since the Secretary General's report of 28 May. It is clear that in many parts of the world the situation remains disturbing; combatants increasingly target civilians, in particular women, children and other vulnerable groups. There are situations when the UN and NGO humanitarian workers have become a direct target, as a tactical move frequently used by the factions engaged in conflicts. Therefore, although the protection of civilians in armed conflict stayed at the core of the activity of the Security Council, it is obvious that there is need for stronger action.

This Council has already acted in respect to the protection of civilians in armed conflict. It has made an important number of commitments and identified certain priorities that were addressed to an important extent. The Security Council must make sure that parties in

conflict are pressured to comply fully with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and with the rules and principles of international law, in particular international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. Further, there is need to step up efforts to ensure that all states live up to their commitments to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of humanitarian law.

Romania considers that special attention should still be given to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, as well as in Northern Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, to name only the most tragic examples of situations where civilians suffer from armed conflicts. Romania has had an active involvement in encouraging the inter-Sudanese peace process and in finding solutions for the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. The Security Council must continue to be active in this respect, Romania being ready to support the development of new instruments designed to calibrate properly the response to protect civilians in armed conflict in an ever-changing security context. Safe and unhindered access of the personnel of humanitarian agencies and organizations is sometimes crucial even for the very survival of the civilians affected by armed conflict. Therefore, the Council should make sure that the security and freedom of movement of the humanitarian personnel is guaranteed by all parties engaged in armed conflict, while acknowledging the importance for all the actors involved in humanitarian activities to respect the principles of neutrality, impartiality, humanity and independence. At the same time, the establishment of democratic institutions, the respect of human rights and ensuring the material condition for a sustainable development in societies shaken by conflicts are of no less importance.

The regional dimension of certain armed conflict is a matter of evidence. Romania has always been a strong supporter of UN entrusting the regional organizations with the mandate to take up this agenda and bring the tasks attached to it to their fulfillment. In order to better calibrate our answer to the evolving environment of conflicts and to build a viable system of protection of refugees and internally displaced persons, the UN Security Council must also think regional and engage the UN in a mutually beneficial cooperation with regional organizations. The development of a regional protection strategy should be the most important step in this direction. It must be taken into account the Secretary General's recommendations regarding the establishment of a framework within which the UN could engage with regional organizations in a more systematic way in addressing humanitarian aspects of various crises at regional level.

On **17 December 2004**, during the UN Security Council **Open Briefing on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts"**, ambassador Mihnea Motoc underlined the fact that ensuring full implementation of the sanctions regime is crucial for countering the activity of Al-Qaeda. It is, therefore, imperative for Member States to provide 1267 Committee with all necessary inputs that would allow it to have clear picture on the concrete problems that they have faced in implementing sanctions. Submission of the reports by all Member States and enhanced dialogue, including through on-site visits, represents an obligatory pre-requisite in this regard.

As recent experience has shown, on-site visits by both the Chairman of the 1267 Committee and the Monitoring Team are invaluable modalities to learn the difficulties encountered by different Member States in implementing the sanctions regime and to properly determine their assistance needs. As vice-chairman of the Committee, Romania participated in the recent visit to a number of countries. Better coordination

and cooperation between 1267 Committee and the CTC in preparing those visits is needed in order to avoid possible overlapping. Joint visits by representatives of the two Committees should be also considered.

The today's world is confronted with the proliferation of WMDs and terrorist acts. Both the CTC and the 1267 Committee with the 1540 Committee should therefore seek increased cooperation.

Available on the internet at: <http://missions.itu.int/~romania>

Permanent Mission of Romania to
UNOG

6 Chemin de la Perriere, 1223 Cologny -
Geneva

Tel +41.22.752.10.90

Fax +41.22.752.29.76

E-mail: mission.romania@ties.itu.int