



NEWSLETTER

February 2004

Permanent Mission of Romania to UNOG

Romanian positions on issues under debate in the UN Security Council

06.02.2004	Secretary General's report on Kosovo
17.02.2004	Security Council Mission in Central Africa
18.02.2004	Report of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
20.02.2004	Secretary General's special report on the UN presence in Timor Leste (UNMISET)
25.02.2004	Situation in Somalia and Haiti
26.02.2004	Public meeting of the Security Council on Haiti
29.02.2004	Emergency meeting of the Security Council on Haiti

On **6 February 2004**, the Security Council held a public meeting dedicated to the discussion of the Secretary General's report on Kosovo. The Romanian delegation welcomed the efforts of the Special Representative and Head of UNMIK, Harri Holkeri, on initiating the dialogue between the authorities in Belgrade and Pristina, expressing its support for the resolution 1244 (1999), whose aims are the establishment of a stable, democratic and tolerant society in Kosovo. Romania stated that the Security Council should not discuss the status of the province before the standards on democracy, rule of law, dialogue, tolerance, established by the international community are met. Romania affirmed the necessity of countering organized crime in Kosovo, stressing the importance of the cooperation of the South-East European countries in this field.

On **17 February 2004**, the Security Council held a public meeting to discuss the **Secretary General's Interim Report on the recommendations made by the Security Council mission to Central Africa**, headed by the French Ambassador to the United Nations Jean-Marc de La Sabliere. Romania's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Mihnea Motoc, welcomed the progress registered in this sub-region. Romania supports regional approaches, considering them to be top-efficient and capable to provide durable solutions for stability and peace in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, affected by drawn-out armed conflicts. Ambassador Motoc underscored the special importance of European Union's support for this African sub-region which has a remarkable development potential.

The Security Council gathered on 18 February 2004, in an open meeting, to hear the report of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Terje

Roed-Larsen, who is at the same time the personal representative of UN Secretary General in this matter. One of the main points of the report was stressing that the situation in the Middle East should be treated in a regional context, considering the concerns and wishes of both parties, Israelis and Palestinians. The Security Council members were briefed with the last developments in the region, focusing on renewed violence and deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The report stated the importance of the "Road Map" re-launching, which stipulates a negotiated solution between the parties, in order to achieve the existence of two states - Israeli and Palestinian - living together in peace and security, within safe and recognized borders. The Romanian Permanent Representative to the UN underlined the necessity of adopting measures meant to stop the violence, re-start the dialogue between the parties and insert any initiative towards peace in the framework offered by the "Road Map".

The Security Council's public meeting of **20 February 2004**, debated on the **Secretary General's special report on the UN presence in Timor Leste (UNMISSET)**. The report contains recommendations about the means to follow on the international support in Timor Leste, beyond the present UNMISSET mandate, which expires on May 20th 2004. Romania, as our Permanent Representative, Ambassador Mihnea MOTOC stated, supports the ongoing UN presence in Timor Leste, after May 20th. The progress achieved to date must be consolidated and expanded, to secure their irreversibility. A modest additional effort will definitely make a crucial difference and contribute, decisively, to consolidate East Timor as a successful UN peace-building and peace-keeping action. Secretary General recommends the prolonging of the UNMISSET mandate for another year with a modified mandate that will focus on assuring legal and administrative assistance; support for the National Timorese Police; contribution in maintaining security and stability in Timor Leste. The Security Council will decide the way for offering ongoing support of the international community in Timor Leste around May 20th, when the present mandate will expire.

On **25 February 2004**, the **Security Council held consultations on the situation in Somalia and Haiti**. Romania expressed the conviction that the Presidential Declaration on Somalia shall illustrate the support of the international community and stand for an encouraging signal to the parties involved in speeding up the peace process. Regarding the Haiti crisis, the Permanent Representative of Romania said that there must be found a negotiated solution for the present crisis, through dialogue, between the government and the opposition forces. At the same time, Romania considered that a lasting solution to the problems of this country requires a long-term approach, a joint effort and a coherent planning of the international support.

On **26 February 2004**, at the **public meeting of the Security Council on Haiti**, the Romanian Representative stated its firm support for the regional initiatives aiming at restoring peace in Haiti. Romania is of the view that the CARICOM/OAS Plan of Action provides good elements for building confidence and fostering political dialogue among the Haitian parties. Its basic tenets should be pursued as they carry a real potential for bringing about a peaceful and constitutional settlement of the crisis. The international community cannot afford to ignore the risks entailed by the violent disruption of the constitutional process. In this context, we commend the initiatives taken by the US, France and Canada, alongside the regional actors. It would be

appropriate and wise to refine and complement the Plan of Action, already presented to the Haitian Government and the political opposition, with other ideas aimed at strengthening global support for a political settlement in accordance with the UN Charter. In this manner, it is possible to consider an accelerated timetable for the political process in Haiti. Romania continues to believe that an inclusive political agreement is possible, and its achievement should be of utmost priority.

Convened on an emergency session on **29 February 2004**, the Security Council discussed **developments in Haiti**, in the context of the country's degrading political, security and humanitarian situation and of President Aristide's stepping down, followed by his flight from the country. The **Council members unanimously passed Resolution 1529**, which authorizes the immediate deployment in Haiti of an interim multinational force. A UN stabilization force will subsequently take over in Haiti, supporting the continuation of the constitutional political processes and ensuring inland stability. During the Security Council's reunion, the Romanian delegation highlighted the potential threat to regional and international peace and security, pointing out the need to join efforts at global level and in the Caribbean area for the durable settlement of the crisis. The structural instability faced by Haiti calls for a comprehensive long-term approach which, apart from the restoration of security, should also include institutional consolidation, economic and social development. Romania intends to further get involved in the definition, within the UN Security Council, of the processes aimed at stabilizing of the Haitian State, using for such approaches its own experience accumulated during its constant actions for peace and security in the region of the Balkans.

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