

Chapter 2 Issues in the International Community

Section 1 Disputes in the Middle East and Africa and the Response from the International Community

1 General Situation

Disputes recently observed in different parts of the world cannot always be characterized in the same way. They are derived from a variety of factors including ethnicity, religion, territory, and resources and it has also been pointed out that disputes can be triggered by such global issues as climate change¹. The forms disputes can take are also varied; from armed conflicts through to military standoffs. Furthermore, violations of human rights, refugees, famine, poverty, and terrorism occurring during disputes may further develop into international issues. This means that we face a greater risk in that problems and security issues that occur in one country or region immediately turn into security issues and instability factors impacting the overall international community.

In particular, the Middle East and Africa include a variety of destabilizing factors and see disputes in different areas. States with unstable political situations and insufficient governance capabilities cannot adequately control their national borders, which allows terrorists and weapons as well as narcotics that are the source of funds of terrorist organizations to trespass into their territory and causes regional threats. There are also cases in this region in which a dispute restarts after a ceasefire has been tentatively reached through a peace treaty or other arrangements between stakeholders. The “Arab Spring”², which grew into a full-fledged movement in 2011, prompted Middle Eastern and North African countries to shift into a democratic social structure. In some countries, political turmoil triggered by political change created chasms between different tribes as well as religious and political groups. These developments seem to have been backed by dissatisfaction among local citizens, especially

¹ The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) released by the U.S. Department of Defense in March 2014 regards climate change as a key factor that will shape the future security environment. It claims that climate change may accelerate instability and conflict by causing water scarcity, the rise of food prices, and so on. In addition, the Summary for Policymakers in the Working Group II report on impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability of the Fifth Assessment Report which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in the same month described that climate change could indirectly increase the risk of conflict by exacerbating poverty and other causes of conflict.

² The Arab Spring is a term generally used to refer to the series of democratization movements that were undertaken on a full-fledged basis in Middle Eastern and North African countries starting in early 2011, causing political regime changes in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya. In 2011, Tunisia held National Constituent Assembly elections for creating a new constitution, which was adopted by the assembly in January 2014. Libya held National Assembly elections for the establishment of a new constitution in July 2012, but still faces a variety of issues through its democratization processes (e.g. formulation of a new constitution).

younger generations, with economic and social gaps as well as high unemployment rates. In such countries as Mali, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, conflicts are triggered by political and economic dissatisfaction of citizens under a fragile governance structure as well as confrontation over territories and resources.

It has become increasingly important for the international community to discern the character of such complex and diverse conflicts, to consider international frameworks and involvements in accordance with their particular circumstances, and then to seek out appropriate responses.

The end of the Cold War was accompanied by rising expectations for the peacekeeping effort as an alternative to collective security measures by the United Nations, which up to that time had not functioned adequately, and, as a result, many U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO) were established. Their mission has recently come to include a wide range of activities including those by civilians and police, encompassing such traditional roles as the monitoring of a ceasefire or military withdrawal as well as the monitoring of demilitarization, the reform of security organizations, the monitoring of elections and administrative activities, and humanitarian support (e.g. return of refugees to their homeland). In this situation, the importance of roles related to the protection of civilians and peace-building increases, leading to activities with greater authorization granted by Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter³. U.N. PKO, on the other hand, faces challenges including the availability of required equipment, the protection of personnel safety, and the improvement of troop capabilities⁴.

See ► *Fig. I-2-1-1 (List of Presently Progressing Peacekeeping Operations)*

We also see scenarios where multinational forces and regional organizations authorized by the U.N. Security Council work on conflict prevention, peace-keeping, and peace-building, in addition to the PKO framework. In Africa, such regional organizations as the African Union (AU)⁵ roll out their activities based on resolutions by the U.N. Security Council and their activities are sometimes handed over to U.N. PKO later. The international community also

³ As of the end of May 2014, there are currently 16 PKOs globally, involving about 99,000 military and police personnel and about 17,000 civilian personnel from 122 countries. Out of these PKOs, there are 12 PKOs in the Middle East and Africa. Ten PKOs are granted robust authorization by Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter. (See Fig. I-2-4-1)

⁴ “A New Partnership Agenda Charting a New Horizon For U.N. Peacekeeping” was published in July 2009 to evaluate major policy and strategic dilemmas faced by U.N. PKO and discuss solutions among stakeholders.

⁵ The largest regional organization involving 54 countries and regions in Africa. It was established in July 2002 as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), established in May 1963, was enhanced and reorganized. Its objectives include achieving the integration and solidarity of African nations and people, accelerating political, economic, and social integration of Africa, and promoting peace, security, and stability in Africa

offers recommendations and training assistance and supplies equipment from a long term perspective of prompting African nations to help themselves so that they can enhance local governance organizations and improve the capabilities of their military and security organizations⁶.

2 Present Situation of Regional Conflicts and the Response from the International Community

1 Situation in Afghanistan

The ongoing initiatives in Afghanistan include the operation to mop up the Taliban conducted as part of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and activities to maintain security conducted by the International Security Assistance Forces⁷ and the Afghan National Security Forces. The security situation in many parts of Afghanistan continues to remain unpredictable, and security in the eastern, southern and southwestern part, which borders with Pakistan, are still a matter of concern.

Although the Taliban's attack capability is diminishing because of the activities of the ISAF and ANSF, the group is presumed to have secured safe havens in Northwest Pakistan and other areas and to be crossing the border into Afghanistan to conduct terrorist activities there⁸.

At the NATO Summit Meeting in Lisbon in 2010, it was agreed that the responsibility for security should be transitioned from the ISAF to the ANSF by the end of 2014. The transition of the security authority has been implemented in five phases by region. The first phase commenced in July 2011. President Karzai announced the areas for the transition of the responsibility for security for the second phase in November 2011, the third phase in May 2012, the fourth phase in December 2012, and the fifth phase in June 2013, respectively. At present the transition of the responsibility for security from the ISAF to the ANSF is being implemented to ensure that the ANSF assumes full responsibility for maintaining the security of the whole of Afghanistan in 2015.

The ISAF will shift from a combat mission to a new training, advising and assistance mission for the ANSF, and it is scaling back its size gradually towards the end of 2014. In July 2011, the

⁶ For example, organizations such as the U.N. and the EU are implementing initiatives in countries including Somalia and Mali.

⁷ As of June 2014, around 50,000 personnel from 48 countries, mainly NATO members, were being deployed.

⁸ Based on the "Report on Progress Towards Security and Stability in Afghanistan" (November 2013) by the U.S. Department of Defense, etc. As for the relationship between Pakistan and the United States with regard to the situation in Afghanistan, see Part I, Chapter 1, Section 6-2

U.S. Forces started withdrawing from Afghanistan, and by June 2014, around 67,000 troops withdrew⁹. Furthermore, in May 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama unveiled the withdrawal schedule of reducing the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan to around 9,800 by the beginning of 2015, to half this number by the end of 2015, and draw down to a normal embassy presence with a security assistance component by the end of 2016. Moreover, while Canada, France and Australia have already completed the withdrawal of their combat units, other major NATO countries also announced their policies for withdrawal of their combat units.

After the transition of the responsibility for security, the ANSF will have full security responsibility in Afghanistan. The ANSF is approaching its target size, and its capabilities are continuing to improve. However, there are many problems, including illiteracy, deficiency of logistical capabilities, and soldiers deserting their posts. The ISAF currently provides assistance focusing on these areas as the ANSF's capabilities for maintaining their forces on a long term basis are still limited. Moreover, while the cost of maintaining the ANSF is funded almost entirely through international donations, the ANSF is scheduled to reduce its size after the end of 2014¹⁰.

An agreement has been reached to continue the international community's support for Afghanistan beyond the end of 2014, and the United States and NATO decided to support the ANSF and continue to deploy troops in charge of education beyond 2015. At the NATO Chicago Summit held in May 2012, commitment to Afghan security beyond the end of 2014 was reaffirmed. In addition, at the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan in July 2012, the international community, including Japan, announced the provision of over 16 billion dollars in financial aid. Moreover, countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom and France concluded a Strategic Partnership Agreement with Afghanistan¹¹, which called for continued support beyond 2014.

President Karzai has announced that he would not sign the U.S.-Afghanistan Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA)¹², which will provide the legal framework for the presence of the U.S. Forces

⁹ As of June 2014, the number of U.S. troops dispatched to ISAF was 32,800.

¹⁰ The current target size of ANSF is 352,000 personnel, with the cost of maintaining them estimated at approximately \$6 billion. At the NATO Summit Meeting in Chicago in May 2012, it was decided to reduce the size to 228,500 personnel and the cost of maintaining them to approximately \$4.1 billion by 2017 in order to continue fiscal support in the long term.

¹¹ The Afghan-U.S. Enduring Strategic Partnership Agreement mentions the possibility that U.S. troops may stay in Afghanistan beyond 2014.

¹² The BSA defines how the U.S. Forces implement activities and use facilities in Afghanistan after 2014. This agreement has been discussed since 2012.

in Afghanistan after 2014, until the ongoing Presidential election is completed¹³. Meanwhile, U.S. President Barack Obama identifies the signing of the agreement as a condition for the presence of U.S. Forces after 2014. The success or failure of the agreement will likely have a considerable impact on the prospects of the presence of the U.S. Forces after the withdrawal of the ISAF.

This agreement is positioned as the foundation for the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) enabling the NATO forces to implement activities to support Afghanistan after 2014. The United States and NATO consider that they need to execute this agreement at an earliest convenience.

Afghanistan faces not only security problems but also a mountain of challenges related to reconstruction, including preventing corruption, enhancing the rule of law, strengthening the crackdown on narcotics trafficking and promoting regional development. Ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan is a common challenge of the international community, which needs to continue engagement with the country.

2 Situation over the Middle East Peace Efforts

In the Middle East, there have been wars four times between Israel and Arab countries since the foundation of Israel in 1948. Between Israel and Palestine, the Oslo Agreement concluded in 1993 marked the beginning of a peace process through comprehensive negotiations. In 2003, the Israelis and the Palestinians agreed on a “Roadmap” that laid out a course leading to the establishment of a Middle East peace initiative based on the principle of the peaceful coexistence between the two nations. However, the Roadmap has yet to be implemented. In response to rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip against Israel, large-scale Israeli military operations, such as air strikes and deployment of ground forces to the Gaza Strip, took place from the end of 2008 through early 2009. Furthermore, in November 2012, the Israeli military conducted air strikes on the region. In both cases, they reached a cease-fire agreement through the mediation by Egypt, and others.

In July 2013, Israel and Palestine restarted Middle East peace negotiations for the first time in almost three years under strong guidance by the United States. However, in March to April 2014, while the deadline of the nine-month-long negotiations approaching, they had no choice but to

¹³ President Karzai attended the loya jirga (national assembly) in November 2013 and announced that he would not sign the agreement at least until after the coming Presidential election in April 2014. After this statement, he proposed conditions for the closure of this agreement to the U.S., including cessation of house searches targeting Afghani citizens, non-intervention into the Presidential election in April 2014, and return of Afghan citizens held in Guantanamo prison camp.

suspend peace negotiations due to several issues including the cancellation of prisoners release by Israel, Palestinian applications to international treaties, and agreements between the PLO¹⁴ dominated by Fatah and Hamas¹⁵, which is efficiently controlling Palestinian Gaza Strip, on the formation of a national unity government and a national reconciliation cabinet, and prospects on the resumption of talks remain unclear.

Israel has yet to sign peace treaties with Syria and Lebanon. Israel and Syria disagree on the return of the Golan Heights which Israel has occupied since the 1967 Arab-Israel War. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) has been deployed in the Golan Heights region to observe the implementation of the ceasefire and military disengagement between the two parties¹⁶. Concerning Israel and Lebanon, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) increased its presence following the 2006 clash between Israel and Hezbollah, a Shiite Muslim organization.

3 Situation in Syria

Since March 2011, anti-government demonstrations calling for democracy and the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad have taken place all over the country, leading to large casualties through clashes with security forces. The Syrian government, in response to this situation, deployed military and security forces in a number of cities, and conflicts between military forces and opposition forces continued in various areas¹⁷.

In August 2013, chemical weapons were used in the suburbs of the capital city Damascus, killing a large number of citizens. In response to this incident, U.S. President Obama, who had traditionally said that the use of chemical weapons crosses a red line, evaluated the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government¹⁸ and stated his decision to implement military actions against the Assad administration, which resulted in heightened military tension. However, Russia was opposed to military actions and advocated the transfer of Syrian chemical weapons to the control of the international community, which was accepted by the Syrian government. In September 2013, U.S. Secretary of State Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister

¹⁴ In these peace negotiations, Hamas, the dominant faction, conducted negotiations with Israel.

¹⁵ Hamas does not recognize Israel.

¹⁶ Military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) are also active within this region.

¹⁷ The U.N. Secretary-General announced on July 25, 2013 that the death toll resulting from fighting in Syria outnumbered 100,000. Some point out that the death toll as of February 2014 is greater than 140,000.

¹⁸ The U.S. analyzed all sources based on human intelligence, communication-based information, and published information and stated in August 2013 that the country had “high confidence” that the Assad administration had attacked using chemical weapons.

Lavrov had negotiations until the United States and Russia reached an agreement on a framework requiring the Syrian government to report its chemical weapon inventory and accept international inspections as a move toward scrapping of all of its chemical weapons. The Syrian government took measures based on the framework, including submitting the list of its chemical weapon inventory to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and joining the Chemical Weapons Convention, which averted military action against the Assad administration by the United States and others. International efforts are currently underway toward the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons based on the decision made by the OPCW and related U.N. resolutions¹⁹.

The United States, the European Union (EU), and other countries are requesting President Assad to step down and imposing successive sanctions against Syria, including an oil embargo. On the other hand, some anti-government groups involved in clashes with the Syrian forces do not participate in the "Syrian National Coalition," established in November 2012. Such groups include the "Al-Nusra Front," and the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)" specified by the United States as terrorist organizations due to its relations with Al-Qaeda. Western countries are hesitant towards offering weapons to anti-government groups since there is concern that weapons may proliferate in such organizations. Clashes among anti-government groups are also found such as attacks by the ISIL on the arsenals of other anti-government groups.

In the midst of this situation, in January 2014, while an international conference on Syria was held in Switzerland, offering the first opportunity for the Syrian government to engage in dialogue with anti-government groups since the situation deteriorated in Syria, both parties were unable to reach an agreement. In June of that year, a presidential election was held, and President Assad took overwhelming victory. Based on the election results, the Syrian government is expected to strengthen its attacks against anti-government groups, leaving the situation in Syria still unpredictable going forward.

¹⁹ In November 2013, the OPCW decided the following for Syria's chemical weapons. (1) Unloaded bombshells will be destroyed inside Syria by January 31, 2014. (2) Mustard agents and major binary substances (ingredients of chemical agents) including sarin and VX will be moved outside Syria by December 31, 2013. (3) Other chemical agents will be moved outside Syria by February 5, 2014. (4) Residual mustard located in the containers used for mustard agents will be destroyed by March 1, 2014. The OPCW also specified the schedule for destroying chemical weapons moved outside Syria as follows. (1) Mustard agents and major binary substances including sarin and VX will be processed for destruction at an earliest timing so that the process will be completed by March 31, 2014. Resulting compounds will be destroyed by the date approved by the Executive Committee based on the recommendation by the Director General. (2) Other chemical agents will be process for destruction at an earliest timing so that the process will be completed by June 30, 2014.

4 Situation in Egypt

In January 2011, democratization movements triggered by “the Arab Spring”²⁰ spread to Egypt, where large scale anti-government demonstrations occurred and President Mubarak, who had controlled the country as a despotic leader for 30 years, resigned. Mr. Mursi, who used to belong to the Muslim Brotherhood²¹, was elected as a new President through the Presidential election in June 2012, but large-scale demonstrations demanding that President Mursi resign occurred in June 2013 due to an economic impasse and the chasm between Islamic groups and liberal, secular groups, which resulted in a large number of victims from clashes between some demonstrators and groups supporting the President. While this sort of disorder spread in the country, the Egyptian forces intervened in July 2013 and dismissed President Mursi, establishing a provisional government by temporarily setting the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as the President. In May 2014, a presidential election was held in line with the comprehensive democratization roadmap created by the provisional government for national reconciliation²², and former Defense Minister Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi was elected.

As the democratically-elected Egyptian administration collapsed through the intervention of national forces, the United States prompted the provisional government to proceed further with democratization initiatives by freezing some military assistance to Egypt in October 2013.

In November 2013, the first “2+2” meeting was held between Egypt and Russia, which saw some movements to enhanced bilateral relations including a statement by the Egyptian foreign minister on the consideration of purchase of weapons from Russia.

5 Situation in Sudan and South Sudan

In Sudan, a North-South civil war has continued since 1983 between the government composed of Arab Muslims in the north and the anti-government group composed of African Christians in the south. In 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was reached under the mediation of neighboring countries, the U.S. and others which put an end to the civil war. In January 2011, a referendum on the separation and independence of South Sudan was held under the rules of the CPA, leading to the independence of the Republic of South Sudan on July 9, 2011. On the same day, the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)

²⁰ See Part I, Chapter 2, Section 1-1, footnote 2

²¹ A Sunni political organization established in Egypt in 1928 as an organization targeting the general public to “revive Islam.” In the 1950s, it became a target of a clampdown for plotting the assassination of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. However, by the 1970s, the organization became moderate to the extent of conducting political activities through parliament. Meanwhile, radical organizations were derived with Muslim Brotherhood serving as the parent organization.

²² Egypt plans to hold National Assembly elections in 2014.

was established based on the Resolution 1996 adopted by the U.N. Security Council in order to support the establishment of an environment contributing to maintaining peace and stability and helping South Sudan to develop further²³. After the independence of this state, negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan have been going on regarding unresolved issues between north and south, which include the definition of the national border (e.g. the treatment of the Abyei area²⁴) and the profit allocation of oil production²⁵, assisted by the mediation of the international community including the AU. Starting in late March 2012, military tension in the border area between north and south was heightened between the two countries, but both sides stopped hostile behavior based on the recommendation by the U.N. Security Council by August 2012. Both countries also signed a series of agreements regarding security measures in the border area, oil production, and other issues in September 2012 and a document specifying an agreement implementation schedule in March 2013.

The President of South Sudan dismissed the Vice President in July 2013, bringing to the surface a political conflict between the two groups. On December 15 of the same year, fighting broke out among the President's security forces in the capital city of Juba, which led to an intensification of factional struggles within the government's ruling party. Subsequently, following an outbreak of clashes between the South Sudanese government and the anti-government group, fighting and violent acts targeting specific ethnic groups spread to different areas, resulting in a large number of casualties, refugees, and internally displaced persons. On December 19, 2013, UNMISS facilities where civilians took refuge were attacked by insurgents in Akobo County of Jonglei State, killing two PKO personnel and resulting in some casualties. Under these situations, on December 24, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2132 and decided to enhance the UNMISS by increasing the maximum military

²³ The initial mandate period was one year with up to 7,000 military personnel and up to 900 police personnel. Specifically, the mandate of UNMISS is as follows: (1) support for peace consolidation and thereby fostering long-term state building and economic development, (2) support the government of the Republic of South Sudan in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution and protect civilians, and (3) support the government of the Republic of South Sudan in developing its capacity to provide security, to establish rule of law, and to strengthen the security and justice sectors.

²⁴ The Abyei area was one of the bloodiest battlefields during the North-South civil war. Both the North and the South claim sovereignty over the area due to its abundant oil resources. Whether the area belongs to the North or the South remains uncertain, as a referendum that will settle the territorial issue has not yet been held. In May 2011, immediately before the independence of South Sudan, a battle began between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which was a major military organization in Southern Sudan. In June 2011, the Security Council established under its Resolution 1990 the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in the region.

²⁵ A vast majority of oil wells are located in South Sudan, while most pipelines and ports for export are located in Sudan.

personnel by 5,500. In addition, the “Intergovernmental Authority on Development” (IGAD)²⁶ assisted by the U.N. and the AU initiated efforts to start dialogues among South Sudanese leaders and enable reconciliation. The IGAD helped both parties to sign an agreement in Ethiopia on January 23, 2014 on ceasing hostile activities in South Sudan. Furthermore, in March of the same year, the report of the U.N. Secretary-General proposed a shift in UNMISS activities from those dedicated to peacebuilding and government capacity-building, to those aimed at ensuring strict impartiality in its relations with both parties. Based on the report, on May 27 of the same year, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2155, which stipulated that the mandate of the UNMISS would be restricted to the four areas of the protection of civilians, monitoring and investigating human rights, creating the conditions for delivery of humanitarian assistance, and supporting the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

Since around 2003, the Darfur region in the west of Sudan has experienced heightened conflicts between the Arab Sudanese government and African anti-government groups. In response to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) entered between the government and some anti-government groups in 2006, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 1769 in order to establish the AU/UN Hybrid Operation Darfur (UNAMID) in 2007. In 2011, the government and an anti-government group, “Liberation and Justice Movement” (LJM), signed the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). However, other anti-government groups rejecting the implementation of this document still continue to fight against the government forces.

6 Situation in Somalia

Somalia has been in a state of anarchy since its government collapsed in 1991²⁷. In 2005, the “Transitional Federal Government” (TFG) was established based on the mediation of neighboring countries, but fighting was escalated with such groups as the “Union of Islamic Courts” (UIC) denying this framework. In 2006, Ethiopian forces intervened with assistance from the U.S. and drove away the UIC. In 2007, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)²⁸ was established based on the approval of the U.N. On the other hand, radical insurgents derived from the UIC, “Al-Shabaab”²⁹, enhanced their activity levels in central and

²⁶ The IGAD was established in 1996. Its members are East African nations including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda.

²⁷ “Somaliland” located in the Northwest declared its independence in 1991. “Puntland” located in the Northeast declared the establishment of an autonomous government in 1998.

²⁸ Composed mainly of troops from Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, and Sierra Leone, joined by Ethiopia in January 2013. U.N. Security Council Resolution 2124 decided to increase the number of troops from 17,731 to 22,126.

²⁹ See Part I, Chapter 1, Section 3-2

southern parts of the country and resisted the TFG. In response to this, neighboring countries dispatched troops to the AMISOM and other organizations and seized Kismayo, a major stronghold of Al-Shabaab, but fighting still continues mainly in central and southern areas. The U.N. Security Council adopted the Resolution 2124 in November 2013 and decided to increase AMISOM troops and enhance logistic support by the U.N.

In addition, Somalia, especially its northeastern part of the country, is considered to include bases for pirates who are active off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. The international community is implementing a series of initiatives to enhance the security capabilities of Somalia based on the perception that instability of Somalia triggers piracy issues³⁰.

Somalia saw the end of transitional governance period of the TFG as of August 2012 and convened a new federal assembly. A new President was elected in September 2012 and a new Cabinet was formed in November 2012. This newly-integrated government established for the first time in 21 years is working on stabilizing the situation in the country.

7 Situation in Mali

In Mali, an anti-government Tuareg³¹ insurgent group, the “National Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad” (MNLA), triggered a riot in January 2012, joined by other groups including “Ansar al-Dine”³², an Islamic radical group. In March of the same year, some soldiers rioted in the capital city of Bamako, prompting the MNLA to conquer northern cities and announce the independence of the northern region in April 2012. Subsequently, radical Islamic groups including Ansar al-Dine that expelled the MNLA, “Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa” (MUJAO), and “al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb” (AQIM), governed the country based on Islamic laws, aggravating humanitarian and security situations in northern Mali.

In response to this situation, in December 2012 the U.N. Security Council adopted the Resolution 2085 to approve the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA)³³, which focuses on revitalizing the capabilities of Malian troops and security organizations and helping Malian authorities to seize the northern area and reduce threats from

³⁰ See Part III Section 3 for anti-piracy initiatives implemented by the MOD and the SDF and other countries

³¹ The Tuareg Tribe is a nomadic ethnic minority in the Sahara Desert. It is pointed out that the tribe has been in conflict with the government of Mali seeking for autonomy in the Northern Mali.

³² See Part I, Chapter 2, Section 3-2

³³ The AFISMA receive troops from member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), including Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, and Nigeria.

terrorist organizations. In January 2013, France dispatched its troops to the country based on the request from the Malian provisional government in order to respond to attacks into central and southern regions by terrorists including Ansar al-Dine. Subsequently, the Malian provisional government recaptured its major cities in the northern part of the country, assisted by the deployment of the AFISMA. While some cities are reported to have been attacked by suicide bombers, France started to withdraw its troops in April 2013 as most of its missions were completed, reducing its maximum 4,000-strong troops into around 1,600 as of March 2014. In April 2013, the U.N. Security Council adopted the Resolution 2100 to determine the deployment of United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)³⁴, which works on the stabilization of densely-populated areas and the reconstruction of national capabilities. This resolution enabled the MINUSMA, which had its authority delegated by the AFISMA, to start its activities in July 2013. The MINUSMA helped Mali to hold a Presidential election in a peaceful manner and establish a new government in September of the same year³⁵. Furthermore, the EU decided to establish a 500-strong mission for training Malian troops in December 2012 so that it can offer training and education to Malian troops.

8 Situation in the Central African Republic

The Central African Republic has been facing political turmoil since its independence in 1960, afflicted by successive military coups and activities by anti-government insurgents. In December 2012, Seleka³⁶, an anti-government Islamic insurgent group, conquered several cities in the northeastern part of the country, based on their dissatisfaction over the execution status of an agreement signed in 2008 with the government. In January 2013, the Economic Community of Central African State (ECCAS)³⁷ and other organizations helped the Central African Republic government and Seleka to reach a peace agreement. However, Seleka recommenced their attacks in March 2013 based on its assertion that the government failed in conforming to the agreement, and conquered the capital city of Bangui. Subsequently, the country's security

³⁴ The initial mandate period of MINUSMA is one year from July 2013. The mission is implemented by a maximum of 11,200 military personnel and a maximum of 1,440 policing personnel. In case the MINUSMA is exposed to imminent danger, based on a request from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, French forces are given authorization to intervene for the purpose of assisting the mission.

³⁵ In June 2013, the provisional government and the MNLA reached an agreement on such issues as allowing the northern area to participate in the presidential election and approving the dispatch of Mali troops to northern cities.

³⁶ Seleka means "alliance" in the local language. The organization was created by combining two major anti-government groups and other anti-government groups in December 2012. Its stronghold is located in the northeastern part of the country where diamond mines are concentrated.

³⁷ The ECCAS was established in December 1981. Its member states are Angola, Gabon, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, the Central African Republic, and Burundi.

and humanitarian situations were rapidly aggravated, as murders and looting of citizens by multiple insurgent groups, including Seleka and “Anti-balaka,” a mostly Christian vigilante group established to counter Seleka, became widespread.

To respond to these situations, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2127 in December 2013 to approve the dispatch of “African-led International Support Mission” (MISCA) led by the AU and the enhancement of French troops supporting this mission. This resolution also requested the authority of the “Mission for the consolidation of peace in Central African Republic” (MICOPAX), a mission implemented in the country by the leadership of the ECCAS, to be transferred to the MISCA, and suggested that the MISCA could eventually develop into a U.N. PKO. In April 2014, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 2149 to establish the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), which focuses on the protection of civilians³⁸. Moreover, the EU decided to dispatch its security forces in January 2014, and the forces commenced operations in April of the same year. The forces are expected to have a maximum of 1,000 personnel.

³⁸ The initial mandate period was set to one year, with the maximum dispatch level set for 10,000 military personnel and 1,800 police personnel. The MINUSCA is set to have its authority regarding military and police activities delegated from the MISCA on September 15, 2014.