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Statement by Ambassador John R. Bolton, U.S. Representative to the United Nations, on the Extension of Multinational Force, in the Security Council, November 8, 2005

We are pleased that the Council was able to come together quickly and unanimously to respond positively to the Iraqi Government's request for continued support.

The constructive dialogue through which this text was developed demonstrates further the strengthened resolve of the UN Security Council to work together for a democratic, secure and prosperous Iraq, and for the lasting and permanent benefit of the Iraqi people.

The unanimous adoption of this resolution [1637] is a vivid demonstration of broad international support for a "federal, democratic, pluralist and unified Iraq."

This resolution draws heavily from [resolution 1546](#), which remains the cornerstone of Security Council consensus for Iraq. It addresses those elements in resolution 1546 that expire at the end of the political transition process set out in that resolution, namely the mandate for the [Multinational Force](#) and arrangements for the [Development Fund for Iraq](#) and the [International Advisory and Monitoring Board](#).

Addressing these issues now will facilitate continued international support for Iraq's security, and will give the newly elected Iraqi Government time to assume office, address constitutional questions, and consolidate its authority before confronting issues such as those addressed in this resolution. Should it choose to do so, the new Iraqi Government could act on those matters at any time.

Most importantly, the text responds directly to the request of the Government of Iraq as stated in the letter of Prime Minister Ja'afari to the UN Security Council. It is notable that the Iraqi Mission not only joins us in the Council today, but also that it played a visible and substantial role in the negotiation of this resolution.

As stated in the letter from U.S. Secretary of State Rice, "substantial progress has already been made in helping to build and train the Iraqi Security Forces, allowing them to take on increasing security responsibilities." That said, there is still much work to be done on that front. And the Multinational Force will continue to pursue this important task as well as all other aspects of its mandate as it works with the Iraqi Government for the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq.

The Iraqi people continue to demonstrate the courage that we have seen throughout the transition process. They went to the polls in extraordinary numbers last month and approved a new constitution last month, offering inspiration to other countries new to democracy, and other parts of the Arab world.

Iraq is quickly approaching another major milestone in its transition – there will be a new election on December the 15th. It is important this be a transparent, participatory, and inclusive process for all Iraqi communities. We welcome the efforts of the Iraqis, the United Nations, and other members of the international community that enable Iraqi citizens to participate in their political process.

We urge the international community, especially the Arab world, to come forward and support the Iraqi people. That support comes in many forms – participation in the Coalition, contribution to Iraq’s humanitarian and reconstruction activities, increased diplomatic engagement, and compliance with relevant resolutions. Support is critical at this time. Such support helps to consolidate Iraq’s democratic progress, consistent with resolution 1546, and to demonstrate solidarity with the Iraqi people in the face of terror.

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