

Table 2  
**Videoconferences: the situation in Mali**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
13 January 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/47</a>	Letter dated 15 January 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
6 April 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/336</a>	Letter dated 8 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

## Americas

### 12. The question concerning Haiti

During the period under review, the Council held four meetings, adopted one resolution and adopted one presidential statement under the item entitled “The question concerning Haiti”. Two meetings took the form of briefings, one was a private (closed) meeting<sup>479</sup> and one meeting was convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>480</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in table 1 below. Council members also held one open videoconference in connection with the item, more information on which is provided in table 2 below.<sup>481</sup> In addition to meetings and an open videoconference, Council members held a closed videoconference and informal consultations of the whole in connection with the item.<sup>482</sup>

In 2021, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) gave three briefings<sup>483</sup> to Council members in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General on the Mission’s

activities<sup>484</sup> and once following the assassination of the President of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse, on 7 July 2021.<sup>485</sup> The Council also heard briefings by three representatives of Haitian civil society.<sup>486</sup> At the meetings and videoconferences, Haiti was represented by its President, Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In her statements to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported on the political crisis in the country involving the further postponement of legislative, municipal, local and presidential elections, the security situation in the context of increased levels of gang violence, efforts by the Government and stakeholders in Haiti to address the root causes of the crisis, and the socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the earthquake of 14 August 2021.

At the open videoconference held on 22 February,<sup>487</sup> in the presence of the President of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse, the Special Representative stated that the institutional crisis into which the country had plunged since the Parliament had ceased to function in January 2020 risked growing deeper as relations between the executive and the judicial branches of power appeared increasingly fraught and Mr. Moïse continued to govern by decree. The efforts of part of

<sup>479</sup> See [S/PV.8815](#).

<sup>480</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>481</sup> For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II, sect. I, and *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. I.

<sup>482</sup> See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 7. See also [S/2021/1060](#). In 2021, some informal consultations of the Council were held in the form of closed videoconferences. See also [S/2021/1032](#).

<sup>483</sup> See [S/2021/174](#), [S/PV.8799](#) and [S/PV.8871](#).

<sup>484</sup> [S/2021/133](#), [S/2021/559](#) and [S/2021/828](#).

<sup>485</sup> See [S/PV.8815](#).

<sup>486</sup> See [S/2021/174](#), [S/PV.8799](#) and [S/PV.8871](#).

<sup>487</sup> See [S/2021/174](#).

the opposition to unseat the President, as well as the actions taken by the executive branch in reaction to an alleged coup attempt on 7 February 2021 and to the opposition's announcement of the appointment of a Supreme Court judge as the interim Head of State, had further hardened the positions of the principal actors in the crisis. She maintained that, above all else, a minimal consensus among relevant political stakeholders would greatly contribute to creating an environment conducive to the holding of the constitutional referendum and subsequent elections. Moreover, while consensus existed among stakeholders and the general population on the need to change the country's charter, the process chosen by the Government was perceived by some as lacking legitimacy. She added that all sectors of society should be provided with the opportunity to debate and contribute to the draft text and that the Haitian people deserved the opportunity to express themselves through the ballot box in an appeased climate and actively to decide on the direction their country would take, free from the fear of intimidation and political violence. In that regard, noting that meeting the security challenges associated with the referendum and the elections represented a crucial test for the Haitian National Police, the Special Representative expressed confidence that, with strategic advice from the United Nations and support from both national authorities and international partners, the police force would continue to develop its capacity in accordance with international human rights and policing standards. She expressed deep concern, however, about the resurgence in kidnappings and the persistent impunity and lack of accountability for serious crimes, adding that the authorities must demonstrate their commitment and capacity to arrest and prosecute both criminals and perpetrators of human rights violations, as well as to take concrete actions to protect citizens. In her remarks at the open videoconference, the Director of Plurielles Haiti, a Haitian non-governmental organization, described her personal experience with insecurity in the country and the work of her organization on helping young people and communities to build independence to solve socioeconomic and environmental problems. She emphasized the importance of establishing rehabilitation centres for young prisoners, the development of social and educational programmes, strengthening controls against trafficking in illicit arms and substances, setting up support centres for victims of gang violence, establishing a call centre for and providing funding to women suffering domestic violence, providing funding for organizations that worked towards more sustainable

peace and establishing protection networks for young peacebuilders at the local level.

In his remarks after the briefers and Council members, Mr. Moïse noted the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General in his report<sup>488</sup> regarding the fragile political environment, the security situation and financial difficulties and stated that his Government intended to make every effort to improve the sociopolitical climate to ensure that the elections were held under optimal conditions with the broadest possible participation of candidates and voters.

At the meeting held on 17 June,<sup>489</sup> the Special Representative noted the deteriorating situation in Haiti with the postponement of the constitutional referendum, which had been scheduled to take place at the end of June 2021, following a resurgence in COVID-19 cases, inter-gang violence in Port-au-Prince and the absence of an agreement on how to resolve the deep-rooted political crisis among political leaders. Regarding the new electoral cycle, she stated that the debate over the constitutional referendum should not detract from the timely organization and holding of the overdue polls in 2021, so that an orderly democratic transfer of power to the duly elected representatives of the people could occur in February 2022. She noted that it was the duty of the Haitian authorities to end the violence, protect the population, ensure unfettered humanitarian access, provide emergency assistance to displaced persons and hold perpetrators of human rights abuses accountable. Progress had been made in the review of the national strategy to address gang violence and headway had been made by the executive in revising weapon and ammunition management legislation. Incremental progress had also occurred in the judicial realm with the instalment of the Board of the Legal Aid Council and the opening of legal aid offices in the jurisdictions of Les Cayes and Petit-Goâve, which would contribute to enhancing access to justice for the least privileged and signalled the start of a systemic push to reduce prolonged pretrial detention and overcrowding in prisons. Nonetheless, efforts to fight impunity remained woefully inadequate and the Special Representative commented that it would behove the authorities to provide judicial actors with the means required to accomplish their mission.

In her statement, Chantal Hudicort Ewald, a member of the Port-au-Prince Bar Association and a former member of the Haitian National Assembly from 1986 to 1987, expressed the view that the ongoing constitutional reform process was not legitimate and

<sup>488</sup> S/2021/133.

<sup>489</sup> See S/PV.8799.

that the full participation of civil society was required. In the absence of a parliament since January 2020, the Government could have instead drawn on the procedure used in 1986, which provided for the holding of elections and the establishment of a constituent assembly to conduct the reform process and allowed for a broad participation of the population. The sociopolitical context, with a precarious financial and security situation, was making it very difficult – if not impossible – to motivate the population to participate in any form of electoral process. People residing in underprivileged and densely populated neighbourhoods were the main victims of gang violence and the gangs were well supplied with heavy weapons and ammunition in a country, in principle, under a weapons embargo. The political marginalization of women and their exclusion from all positions of responsibility in public administration continued to perpetuate their lack of participation in the country's governance system. In closing, she noted that there was no trust in the State or political class and that, aware of the State's chronic weakness, civil society was supporting care centres and displaced populations.

Further to the private meeting held on 8 July<sup>490</sup> following the assassination of Mr. Moïse on 7 July, on 4 October<sup>491</sup> the Special Representative provided a briefing in which she informed Council members that, already reeling from the assassination of its President, Haiti had been struck on 14 August by a devastating earthquake that had affected over 800,000 people in its south-western peninsula. The two events had led to the further postponement of the long-awaited national and local elections. After assuming office on 20 July 2021, the Prime Minister ad interim, Ariel Henry, had spared no effort to reach a political agreement with the various factions of the Haitian polity, resulting in the conclusion of an agreement on 11 September 2021 that captured key demands expressed by national stakeholders, such as the formation of a new provisional electoral council and the inclusion of the diaspora, and that foresaw the holding of elections no later than the second half of 2022. The Special Representative stated that the draft constitution submitted to the Prime Minister by the Independent Consultative Committee on 8 September 2021 should provide for further constructive and inclusive debate on ways to reshape the Haitian political system. Furthermore, she noted that Haitian citizens had unanimously condemned the assassination of Mr. Moïse and had called for a thorough investigation

that followed due process and the rule of law. The Special Representative stated that, even as relief operations were still ongoing, early recovery and the restoration of livelihoods must be strongly supported in areas affected by the earthquake. She therefore urged Member States to contribute to the flash appeal launched on 25 August to respond to the needs of those affected by the earthquake, as well as the 2021–2022 humanitarian response plan.

The Executive Director of *Policité*, a Haitian civil society organization, reported that the ongoing political crisis had deepened since the assassination, as there was no president, the acting Prime Minister had little to no popular legitimacy, the Parliament had been non-functional since 2020 and the judiciary was effectively non-functional, with courts operating three to four months a year. She recommended that elections should occur when they could be fair, not imposed by arbitrary timelines, and that the constitutional referendum be abandoned. Member States and the Council should break with traditional ways of intervening in Haiti and support nationally led initiatives to create conditions for free, fair and inclusive elections, strengthen the police, work with the judiciary to end impunity and fight corruption, and direct funding to qualified and capable civil society groups. Finally, she called on BINUH to work with civil society to promote dialogue, reforms and accountability and reduce gang violence.

In their statements at the meetings and the open videoconference held in 2021, Council members expressed concern regarding the deteriorating political, security and humanitarian situation in Haiti, including in the aftermath of the assassination of Mr. Moïse and the earthquake and tropical storm Grace in August 2021. They called on political stakeholders to engage in an inclusive dialogue to determine the way forward on the holding of peaceful, free and fair legislative and presidential elections and on the constitutional referendum, with several of their statements highlighting the importance of the participation of women<sup>492</sup> and youth.<sup>493</sup> Council members condemned the rising levels of human rights violations and abuses and gang violence, including kidnappings and sexual and gender-based violence, with many of them urging

<sup>490</sup> See [S/PV.8815](#). The Council issued a statement to the press on 7 July.

<sup>491</sup> See [S/PV.8871](#).

<sup>492</sup> See [S/2021/174](#) (Ireland, Norway and Viet Nam); [S/PV.8799](#) (Norway, Viet Nam and Ireland); and [S/PV.8871](#) (Mexico, Norway, Viet Nam, India, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia) and Ireland).

<sup>493</sup> See [S/2021/174](#) (Estonia, Ireland and Viet Nam); [S/PV.8799](#) (Viet Nam and Ireland); and [S/PV.8871](#) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia) and Ireland).

the Government of Haiti to protect civilians and ensure security and accountability for such acts.<sup>494</sup> Multiple Council members emphasized the need to protect women and children.<sup>495</sup> Speakers also addressed the importance of judicial reform, strengthening the Haitian National Police and the full implementation of the national strategy on community violence reduction and the national action plan on human rights. Noting the socioeconomic and humanitarian challenges, including the impact of the earthquake, tropical storm and the COVID-19 pandemic, speakers highlighted the need for the international community to increase humanitarian assistance to Haiti.<sup>496</sup> The representative of Norway underscored the need to prioritize disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Haiti.<sup>497</sup> In the lead-up to the renewal of the mandate of BINUH, the representative of China expressed the view that the existing model of United Nations support to Haiti appeared to be unsustainable and expressed the readiness of his delegation to join Council members in addressing the systemic and structural impediments to peace and development in Haiti and to consider adopting a novel approach in order to help the country.<sup>498</sup>

With regard to decisions, in the presidential statement adopted on 24 March the Council expressed deep concern regarding the protracted political, constitutional and security crises in Haiti and stressed the primary responsibility of the Government to address the underlying drivers of instability.<sup>499</sup> The Council stressed that the democratic will of the Haitian people must be respected, urged that all preparations be made for free, fair, transparent and credible elections in 2021 and urged all political stakeholders to engage constructively to enable their organization and to ensure that they take place in a peaceful

environment.<sup>500</sup> The Council stressed in the presidential statement the importance of an independent judiciary, urged the Government to step up its efforts against corruption and emphasized the need for an immediate and coordinated response by Haitian authorities to address the deteriorating security situation.<sup>501</sup> The Council furthermore stressed the urgency of accountability for human rights violations and noted its concern regarding the humanitarian situation, including growing food insecurity and malnutrition exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>502</sup> Finally, the Council encouraged continued close collaboration and coordination between BINUH and the United Nations country team in Haiti with a view to helping the Government to take responsibility to realize the long-term stability, development and economic self-sufficiency of the country.<sup>503</sup>

On 15 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2600 \(2021\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of BINUH for a period of nine months until 15 July 2022, without introducing changes to the Mission's tasks.<sup>504</sup> The Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment of the mandate of BINUH, including whether and how it could be adjusted to address the ongoing challenges faced by Haiti, to increase the effectiveness of the Mission and its efforts to support engagement between Haitian national authorities, civil society and other stakeholders, to strengthen the rule of law and to promote respect for human rights, and to convey to the Council the findings of that assessment within six months of the adoption of the resolution.<sup>505</sup> Furthermore, the Council condemned in the strongest terms the assassination of the President, Mr. Moïse, and urged the Government to hold the perpetrators accountable in a timely manner.<sup>506</sup> The Council also urged all Haitian stakeholders to commit to an inclusive inter-Haitian national dialogue to address longstanding drivers of instability by creating a sustainable and commonly accepted framework to permit the organization of inclusive, peaceful, free, fair and transparent legislative and presidential elections as soon as technically feasible and with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women.<sup>507</sup> At the

<sup>494</sup> See [S/2021/174](#) (France, Ireland, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia), United States and Viet Nam); [S/PV.8799](#) (United States, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia), Norway, United Kingdom, Viet Nam and Estonia); and [S/PV.8871](#) (United States, Norway, Estonia and France).

<sup>495</sup> See [S/2021/174](#) (Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom and Viet Nam); [S/PV.8799](#) (Norway and Viet Nam); and [S/PV.8871](#) (Norway and Viet Nam).

<sup>496</sup> See [S/2021/174](#) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia)); [S/PV.8799](#) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia) and India); and [S/PV.8871](#) (United States, United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia), Ireland and China).

<sup>497</sup> [S/PV.8799](#) and [S/PV.8871](#).

<sup>498</sup> [S/PV.8799](#) and [S/PV.8871](#).

<sup>499</sup> [S/PRST/2021/7](#), second paragraph.

<sup>500</sup> *Ibid.*, third paragraph.

<sup>501</sup> *Ibid.*, fourth, fifth and sixth paragraphs.

<sup>502</sup> *Ibid.*, eighth and ninth paragraphs.

<sup>503</sup> *Ibid.*, twelfth paragraph.

<sup>504</sup> Resolution [2600 \(2021\)](#), para. 1. For further information on the mandate of BINUH, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>505</sup> Resolution [2600 \(2021\)](#), paras. 2–3.

<sup>506</sup> *Ibid.*, fourth preambular paragraph.

<sup>507</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 5.

meeting,<sup>508</sup> in his statement after the vote the representative of China noted that in his latest report the Secretary-General stated that the huge aid efforts made by Haiti's international partners had yet to deliver the expected results and that a novel approach was required to address the challenges that were holding Haiti back. The renewal of the mandate of the Mission provided an opportunity to discuss how to help Haiti more effectively. He specifically credited the joint efforts of China, the Russian Federation and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for substantive improvements to the text, in particular the requested

assessment, which had created an opportunity to update the Mission's mandate in the light of changing circumstances on the ground. While stating that the assessment provided an opportunity to further strengthen the mandate and effectiveness of BINUH in helping to address the ongoing challenges facing Haiti, the representative of the United States said that it was not the time for the Council to walk away from Haiti and stressed the need to ensure that the country received the assistance and support that it needed. The representative of Mexico maintained that the mandate renewal provided the mission with certainty and that the assessment would allow States to effectuate the changes necessary to make it more effective.

<sup>508</sup> See [S/PV.8881](#).

**Table 1**  
**Meetings: the question concerning Haiti**

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8799</a> 17 June 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) ( <a href="#">S/2021/559</a> )		Haiti	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of BINUH, practising lawyer of the Port-au-Prince Bar Association and former member of the 1986–1987 Haitian Constitutional Assembly (Chantal Hudicort Ewald)	12 Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8815</a> 8 July 2021 (closed)			Haiti	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	12 Council members, <sup>c</sup> all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8871</a> 4 October 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on BINUH ( <a href="#">S/2021/828</a> )		Haiti	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Executive Director of Pôlicité	12 Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8881</a> 15 October 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on BINUH ( <a href="#">S/2021/828</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Mexico, United States ( <a href="#">S/2021/877</a> )			Four Council members (China, Kenya, Mexico, United States)	Resolution <a href="#">2600 (2021)</a> 15-0-0

<sup>a</sup> China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia), United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

<sup>b</sup> Haiti was represented by its Prime Minister ad interim.

<sup>c</sup> China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Mexico, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Norway, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

<sup>d</sup> Haiti was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.



Table 2

**Videoconferences: the question concerning Haiti**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
22 February 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/174</a>	Letter dated 24 February 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
24 March 2021	No record (see <a href="#">A/76/2</a> , part II, chap. 7)		<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/7</a>

### **13. Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2016/53](#))**

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings and adopted two resolutions under the item entitled “Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2016/53](#))”. Two of the meetings took the form of a briefing and one was convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>509</sup> More information on the meetings is provided in table 1 below. Council members also held three open videoconferences in connection with the item. More information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below.<sup>510</sup> In addition, Council members held a closed videoconference in connection with the item.<sup>511</sup>

In 2021, Council members heard briefings on a quarterly basis by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General.<sup>512</sup> The Council also heard briefings by three representatives of Colombian civil society. At the meetings and videoconferences, Colombia was

represented by its Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In his statements to the Council, the Special Representative reported on the progress made on the five priorities of the Secretary-General for the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia in support of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace of 2016, namely: (a) ensuring protection and security for former combatants, conflict-affected communities and social leaders and human rights defenders; (b) ensuring the sustainability of the reintegration process; (c) consolidating the integrated presence of the State in conflict-affected areas; (d) reinforcing constructive dialogue between the parties; and (e) strengthening conditions for reconciliation.<sup>513</sup> In his first briefing of the year, at the open videoconference held on 21 January,<sup>514</sup> the Special Representative described the violence against former combatants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP), social leaders, human rights defenders and communities as the most serious threat to peacebuilding in the country. He underlined the need to address budget shortfalls and vacancies in the Specialized Subdirector for Security and Protection of the National Protection Unit, which provided collective and individual close-protection schemes for former combatants, and to ensure that women former combatants had equal access to close protection. He

<sup>509</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>510</sup> For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II, sect. I, and *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. I. See also [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 41.

<sup>511</sup> See [S/2021/1014](#). The closed videoconference was held on 21 January. In 2021, some informal consultations of the Council were held in the form of closed videoconferences.

<sup>512</sup> [S/2020/1301](#), [S/2021/298](#), [S/2021/603](#) and [S/2021/824](#).

<sup>513</sup> See [S/2020/1301](#).

<sup>514</sup> See [S/2021/77](#).