

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](#).

also stressed that it was essential to support the Special Investigations Unit of the Office of the Attorney-General to bring to justice those responsible for such crimes. On the reintegration process, the Special Representative noted the promising developments concerning the purchase of land for the former territorial area for training and reintegration in Dabeiba and the Government's announcement of purchases in five additional areas by mid-February 2021. He underscored the need to ensure the same level of institutional support and productive opportunities for former combatants located outside the territorial areas, including those remaining in areas that had been or would be relocated owing to threats from illegal armed groups.

Regarding the consolidation of State presence in conflict-affected areas, the Special Representative stated that the national authorities must remain firm in the continued implementation of development programmes with a territorial focus, the National Comprehensive Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops and the comprehensive security and protection programme for communities and organizations in the territories. He underlined that sustained dialogue between the parties was fundamental to the implementation of all aspects of the Final Agreement, including through the Commission for the Follow-up, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Agreement, and called on all actors to lend their full support to the work of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition.

On 21 April, at an open videoconference,<sup>515</sup> the Special Representative said that the meeting held on 10 March 2021 between the President of Colombia, Iván Duque Márquez, and the leader of the Comunes party, Rodrigo Londoño, was a welcome development, and encouraged the parties to continue to move forward in defining the road map for the implementation of the Final Agreement that had been agreed upon at that meeting. Regarding reintegration, he informed Council members that, as a result of the Government's efforts, 7 of the 24 former territorial areas had land and that close to 50 per cent of former combatants were participating in collective and individual projects. It was necessary to complement those efforts with other fundamental aspects of the agreement, such as the coordinated implementation of the national sectoral plans for comprehensive rural reform, and to take concrete steps to bring sustainable productive opportunities to more families in the National Comprehensive Programme for the

Substitution of Illicit Crops. It would also be necessary for the parties to accelerate the implementation of the gender measures in the agreement and for all actors to enhance the role of women's organizations in peacebuilding.

At the meeting held on 13 July,<sup>516</sup> in reference to the indictment issued by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Case 01, regarding hostage-taking and other serious deprivations of liberty, the Special Representative stated that the official acceptance of responsibility for crimes against humanity and war crimes in April 2021 by seven former FARC-EP combatants was a milestone in the peace process and a benchmark for transitional justice in the world. Furthermore, in July 2021, the Special Jurisdiction had charged 11 persons, including some army officers and a third-party civilian, with war crimes and crimes against humanity in Case 03, regarding killings and disappearances. Noting that fulfilling the rights of victims was a necessary condition for the success of the Final Agreement, the Special Representative said that the task entrusted to the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia to verify compliance with and the implementation of the sanctions imposed by the Special Jurisdiction would decisively contribute to reconciliation efforts. He also signalled that the persistence of violence and insecurity highlighted the urgent need for enhanced prevention and protection measures, as well as for additional and more solid steps to dismantle illegal organizations, bring perpetrators to justice and extend State institutions, public services and development opportunities as quickly as possible to conflict-affected communities.

On 14 October, at the last meeting of the year held under the item,<sup>517</sup> the Special Representative noted the achievements made in the implementation of the Final Agreement since its signing in 2016, adding that making progress on pending tasks and overcoming challenges to implementation depended, to a large extent, on the ability of the parties to implement all aspects of the agreement. A total of 296 men and women who had laid down their arms in good faith had lost their lives, primarily owing to actions of illegal armed groups and criminal organizations, with Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities disproportionately affected. He called for the urgent and simultaneous implementation of all provisions of the agreement pertaining to security guarantees and the better use by the Government and State entities of the mechanisms established therein, such as the National

<sup>515</sup> See [S/2021/401](#).

<sup>516</sup> See [S/PV.8818](#).

<sup>517</sup> See [S/PV.8879](#).

Commission on Security Guarantees, to devise effective measures to curb violence.

The civil society briefers in 2021 focused on the importance of inclusivity in the country's peacebuilding process, in particular from the standpoint of women, youth and indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. In her statement at the meeting held on 13 July,<sup>518</sup> the founder and Director of the Latin American foundation Viva la Vida noted that women in Colombia had made great progress in the context of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, and had promoted the inclusion of a gender approach in the Final Agreement. As a representative of the young people of Colombia, she made several proposals to the Council, including adding specific indicators on the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda in the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, dedicating a section of Council meetings to youth issues from a gender perspective and for the Council to visit the country and hold consultations with youth representatives in all their diversity. She also called on the Government to increase the participation of young people in decision-making at all levels and to protect their lives, to advance investigations into cases of violence against women and young people and to develop strategies to demobilize and reintegrate youth.

At the meeting held on 14 October,<sup>519</sup> the representative of Afro-Colombian women at the Special Forum on Gender and coordinator of Butterflies with New Wings, a non-profit organization from Buenaventura, expressed concern about the lack of safety for peace signatories and leaders and that no progress had been made on the "ethnic chapter" of the Final Agreement, in particular in relation to the country's indigenous black peoples. She underlined the need for armed groups to leave the territory of indigenous black peoples, for the rights and territorial autonomy of the authorities of black and indigenous peoples to be recognized and for a specific path to be defined for reincorporating former combatants and peace signatories from those communities. The coordinator called on the Council to continue to support the communities and, above all, women, so that they could continue to make progress on the "ethnic chapter" and ensure its comprehensive implementation from an anti-racist gender perspective. At the same meeting, the youth leader of the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca expressed concern that compliance with the agreement's points on rural reform, the substitution of illicit crops, the "ethnic

chapter" and gender had been minimal, which increased inequality and violence in territories, particularly in Cauca. She underlined the need for women peacebuilders to enjoy the necessary security guarantees, for support to be provided to indigenous and Afro-Colombian women leaders and for constructive ventures and projects to be encouraged to address economic inequality. The youth leader expressed the hope that the Council would continue to urge full compliance with the Final Agreement, with particular focus on its ethnic dimension and the integral gender approach.

In their discussions in 2021, Council members noted the important achievements made since the signing of the Final Agreement in 2016, with several members expressing support for the priority implementation areas outlined by the Secretary-General as a framework for future progress.<sup>520</sup> Council members noted their concern regarding the continued threats, attacks and killings of former FARC-EP combatants, human rights defenders, community and social leaders, women and indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. As a means of curbing that trend, they discussed the need for increased State presence in rural areas and the implementation of the security and protection measures envisioned under the agreement, including the public policy for the dismantling of illegal armed groups, and for ensuring accountability for those crimes. Other outstanding aspects of the agreement discussed included the purchase of land for housing and productive projects, in particular for combatants residing outside the former territorial areas, equal access to those programmes for women, rural reform, illicit crop substitution and the gender and ethnic provisions of the agreement.

Council members paid particular attention to the progress made in the work of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition. In that regard, they welcomed the acknowledgment of responsibility by former commanders of FARC-EP for crimes against humanity and war crimes before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace<sup>521</sup> and widely expressed support for the expansion of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia to verify compliance

<sup>518</sup> See [S/PV.8818](#).

<sup>519</sup> See [S/PV.8879](#).

<sup>520</sup> See [S/2021/77](#) (India, Ireland, Mexico and United Kingdom); [S/2021/401](#) (India, Russian Federation and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia)); [S/PV.8818](#) (India); and [S/PV.8879](#) (Mexico).

<sup>521</sup> See [S/PV.8818](#) (United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia), Norway, United States and France).

with the sanctions measures imposed by the Special Jurisdiction.<sup>522</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation was of the view that, while some progress in the Government's commitments under the Final Agreement had been made, a great deal more needed to be done. He added that sustainable peace and reconciliation could not be achieved without the inclusion of all actors in the process, including the National Liberation Army, and would be helped by establishing relations with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.<sup>523</sup>

More generally, Council members welcomed and encouraged further dialogue between the Government and the People's Alternative Revolutionary Force political party and its successor, the Comunes party, through the Commission for the Follow-up, Promotion and Verification of the Implementation of the Final Agreement.<sup>524</sup> They took note of the nationwide protests and social unrest that took place from April to July 2021, with some members expressing concern regarding reports of human rights violations and the excessive use of force by national police forces.<sup>525</sup> Looking ahead, Council members welcomed the establishment of 16 special transitional electoral districts for peace by the Government in preparation for the 2022 congressional elections to ensure the participation of historically excluded populations in conflict-affected regions.<sup>526</sup> In their statements to the Council, the representatives of Colombia provided an overview of the progress and the efforts made by the

Government in the implementation of the Final Agreement, in particular in the context of its "Peace with legality" strategy launched in 2018.<sup>527</sup> At the meeting held on 14 October,<sup>528</sup> on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the agreement, the Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia noted that, with one third of the 15-year implementation period having elapsed, it was important not to backslide with regard to what had already been achieved.

By resolutions [2574 \(2021\)](#) of 11 May and [2603 \(2021\)](#) of 29 October, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia for periods of, respectively, five months and one year, the latter until 31 October 2022.<sup>529</sup> By resolution [2574 \(2021\)](#), following the request of the Government of Colombia, the Council expanded the Mission's mandate to include the verification of compliance with and implementation of the sentences issued by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.<sup>530</sup> By resolution [2603 \(2021\)](#), the Council urged the parties, with the support of relevant State institutions and security forces, as well as civil society, to work together to build upon the progress made and address the ongoing challenges, in particular the continued violence in conflict-affected areas, through the comprehensive implementation of the agreement, including rural reform, inclusive political participation, its ethnic and gender provisions, and countering illicit drugs, including through crop substitution programmes.<sup>531</sup>

<sup>522</sup> See [S/2021/77](#) (Estonia, Ireland, Mexico and United Kingdom); and [S/2021/401](#) (China, France, India, Ireland, Mexico, United Kingdom and Viet Nam).

<sup>523</sup> See [S/PV.8879](#). See also [S/PV.8818](#).

<sup>524</sup> See [S/2021/77](#) (Norway); [S/2021/401](#) (China, Ireland, Russian Federation and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia)); [S/PV.8818](#) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia) and Ireland); and [S/PV.8879](#) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia), Ireland and France).

<sup>525</sup> See [S/PV.8818](#) (United Kingdom, Norway, Russian Federation and United States).

<sup>526</sup> See [S/PV.8818](#) (Mexico and Estonia); and [S/PV.8879](#) (United Kingdom, Mexico, India, Viet Nam, Russian Federation, Ireland, China and France).

<sup>527</sup> See [S/2021/77](#), [S/2021/401](#), [S/PV.8818](#) and [S/PV.8879](#).

<sup>528</sup> See [S/PV.8879](#).

<sup>529</sup> Resolutions [2574 \(2021\)](#), para. 4, and [2603 \(2021\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of the Mission, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>530</sup> Resolution [2574 \(2021\)](#), para. 1. See the letter dated 15 January to the Secretary-General and the President of the Council, in which the representative of Colombia transmitted the request of the Government of Colombia for the expansion of the mandate of the Mission ([S/2021/147](#)). See also the letter dated 24 February to the President of the Council, in which the Secretary-General provided recommendations on how the additional tasks would be carried out and any implications for the configuration of the Mission ([S/2021/186](#)).

<sup>531</sup> Resolution [2603 \(2021\)](#), third preambular paragraph.

Table 1

**Meetings: 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)**

<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.8818</a> 13 July 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2021/603)		Colombia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, Founder, Director of the Latin American foundation Viva la Vida	12 Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8879</a> 14 October 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2021/824)		Colombia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, coordinator of Butterflies with New Wings and representative of Afro-Colombian women at the Special Forum on Gender, youth leader of the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca	12 Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>c</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8891</a> 29 October 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2021/824)	Draft resolution submitted by Mexico, United Kingdom (S/2021/902)				Resolution <a href="#">2603 (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> Colombia was represented by its Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Founder and Director of the Latin-American foundation Viva la Vida participated in the meeting by videoconference.

<sup>c</sup> Colombia was represented by its Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs. The coordinator of Butterflies with New Wings and the youth leader participated in the meeting by videoconference.



Table 2

**Videoconferences: 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)**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
21 January 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/77</a>	Letter dated 25 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	
21 April 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/401</a>	Letter dated 23 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	
11 May 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/449</a>	Letter dated 11 May 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2574 (2021)</a> 15-0-0 <a href="#">S/2021/457</a>

## Asia

### 14. The situation in Afghanistan

During the period under review, the Council held six meetings under the item entitled “The situation in Afghanistan”. Two meetings were convened for the adoption of a decision, three took the form of a briefing and one took the form of a debate.<sup>532</sup> More information on the meetings, including on the participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in table 1 below. Council members also held two open videoconferences in connection with the situation in Afghanistan.<sup>533</sup> More information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below. In addition, Council members held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the item.<sup>534</sup>

In 2021, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) provided quarterly briefings in meetings and open videoconferences in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.<sup>535</sup> Against the backdrop of the takeover of the country by the Taliban in August, the

Council heard additional briefings by the Special Representative and the Chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission at one meeting,<sup>536</sup> and by the Secretary-General at another.<sup>537</sup> In addition, Council members heard a briefing by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in an open videoconference<sup>538</sup> and briefings by five civil society representatives in meetings and open videoconferences.<sup>539</sup> A representative of Afghanistan also delivered statements in four meetings and two videoconferences.<sup>540</sup>

At the outset of 2021, on 23 March, Council members held an open videoconference.<sup>541</sup> In addition to the briefing by the Special Representative, Council members heard a briefing by the Chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. During her briefing, the Special Representative reported

<sup>532</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, including high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>533</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>534</sup> See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 8.

<sup>535</sup> [S/2021/252](#), [S/2021/570](#), [S/2021/759](#) and [S/2021/759/Corr.1](#).

<sup>536</sup> See [S/PV.8831](#).

<sup>537</sup> See [S/PV.8834](#).

<sup>538</sup> See [S/2021/601](#).

<sup>539</sup> The Council heard briefings by the Chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission on 23 March (see [S/2021/291](#)); the Executive Director of the Afghan Women’s Network on 22 June (see [S/2021/601](#)); the founder of the Women and Peace Studies Organization and the co-founder and Board Chair of the Malala Fund on 9 September (see [S/PV.8853](#)); and the Director of Charmaghz on 17 November (see [S/PV.8908](#)).

<sup>540</sup> See [S/2021/291](#), [S/2021/601](#), [S/PV.8831](#), [S/PV.8834](#), [S/PV.8853](#) and [S/PV.8908](#).

<sup>541</sup> See [S/2021/291](#).