



*Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

**22<sup>nd</sup> Supplement**

**2019**

Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division  
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

## **Part I**

# **Consideration of questions under the responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security**

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## Africa

### 1. The situation concerning Western Sahara

During 2019, the Security Council held two meetings and adopted two resolutions on the situation concerning Western Sahara. The two meetings under this item were convened to adopt a resolution, namely resolutions [2468 \(2019\)](#) and [2494 \(2019\)](#), both extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).<sup>1</sup> In 2019, the Council also met twice with countries contributing troops to MINURSO.<sup>2</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition to these meetings, in 2019, the Council also held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Western Sahara.<sup>3</sup>

On 30 April 2019, the Council adopted resolution [2468 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of MINURSO for a period of six months, until 31 October 2019.<sup>4</sup> The resolution was adopted with 13 votes in favour and two abstentions. In the resolution, the Council emphasized the need to achieve a realistic, practicable and enduring political solution to the question of Western Sahara and expressed its full support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to sustain the renewed negotiations process, noting the intention of the Personal Envoy to invite Morocco, the Frente Polisario, Algeria, and Mauritania to meet again in the same format.<sup>5</sup> In that connection, the Council called upon the parties to resume negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account the efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments with a view to achieving a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution, which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For further information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>2</sup> Held on 9 April 2019 and on 8 October 2019, under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B”; see [S/PV.8505](#) and [S/PV.8637](#).

<sup>3</sup> See [S/2019/910](#) and [S/2020/29](#).

<sup>4</sup> Resolution [2468 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. For further information on the mandate of MINURSO, see part X, sect. I.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution [2468 \(2019\)](#), paras. 2 and 3.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 4.

Further to the vote, Council members reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the Personal Envoy as well as the Council's support for the political process launched in Geneva in December 2018, bringing the parties to the conflict for the first time since 2012. Regarding MINURSO's mandate extension, some Council members were of the view that the extension should have been renewed for a period of 12 months instead of six months.<sup>7</sup> The representative of the United States expressed his disappointment regarding the abstention of some members despite sincere efforts to underscore the Council's unity towards the ongoing political process.<sup>8</sup> The representative of South Africa explained his abstention expressing his concerns regarding the adopted text as not providing "a true reflection of the efforts undertaken by the two parties" and stating that the mandate, as approved, tended to favour one party over the other, which was not conducive to a neutral political process. He further stated that the Council must reaffirm its commitment to the right to self-determination for the people of Western Sahara in an unqualified manner. The representative of South Africa also regretted the lack of a human rights monitoring mandate for MINURSO, despite the fact that such mechanisms were proposed for other missions and added that the lack of consistency undermined the Council's credibility.<sup>9</sup> Having also abstained in the voting, the representative of the Russian Federation expressed regret in relation to the amendments that had been introduced in the recent years into the resolutions extending MINURSO's mandate which, in his view, undermined the Council's impartial and objective approach to the issue of Western Sahara. He added that eroding previously approved parameters was unacceptable as they defined the parties to the conflict and provided for ultimately reaching a mutually acceptable solution that guaranteed the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. He further stated that in the same way that his delegation had disagreed with the artificial modification of those parameters in prior years, they were unable to support such an approach on that occasion with regard to resolution [2468 \(2019\)](#).<sup>10</sup>

On 30 October 2019, the Council adopted resolution [2494 \(2019\)](#), extending again the mandate of MINURSO this time for one year, until 31 October 2020, as it had been the

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<sup>7</sup> [S/PV.8518](#), France, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait and Dominican Republic.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

practice prior to 2018.<sup>11</sup> The resolution was adopted with 13 votes in favour and two abstentions. Paying tribute to the former Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General and commending his efforts in holding the roundtable process which had created new momentum in the political process, in this resolution, the Council continued to express full support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General and his incoming Personal Envoy to sustain the renewed negotiations process in order to achieve a solution to the Western Sahara question.<sup>12</sup>

After the vote, Council members paid tribute to the former Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, further to his resignation, for advancing the political process and stressed the need for the Secretary-General to appoint a successor soon in order to maintain the momentum and build on the progress achieved.<sup>13</sup> Most speakers expressed support for the return to the 12-month mandate renewal cycle.<sup>14</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation explained the abstention of his delegation due to the disagreement with the modifications that had been made to the resolutions extending MINURSO's mandate.<sup>15</sup> The representative of South Africa explained his country's abstention on a variety of grounds. He first took issue with some elements of the text of resolution [2494 \(2019\)](#), including that the text was not balanced and that the language used undermined the principle of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara. He also expressed his country's preference for a 6-month instead of a 12-month mandate renewal period, which would have allowed the Council to regularly meet to consider the progress made on the appointment of the Special Envoy and the status of the political process. He also raised serious concerns about the Council's working methods on the matter, questioning the delegation of responsibility to the Group of Friends of Western Sahara.<sup>16</sup> With respect to the working methods of the Council, the representative of China expressed hope that in future the consultations in the Council on draft resolutions renewing MINURSO's mandate would be more adequate to arriving at a more balanced text and reaching consensus. The representative of South Africa also welcomed the reference to human rights in the preambular paragraphs of resolution [2494 \(2019\)](#), but reiterated the need

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<sup>11</sup> Resolution [2494 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., second preambular paragraph and para. 3. For more information on the mandate of MINURSO, see *Repertoire, Supplements 1989-2018*.

<sup>13</sup> [S/PV.8651](#), United States, United Kingdom, China, Peru, Indonesia, Germany and South Africa.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., United Kingdom, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Kuwait, Indonesia, France, Germany and Poland.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

for a formal human rights mandate for MINURSO in order to strengthen the monitoring of possible human rights violations on all sides.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

## Meetings: The situation concerning Western Sahara

<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.8518</a> 30 April 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara ( <a href="#">S/2019/282</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/349</a> )			12 Council members <sup>a</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2468 (2019)</a> 13-0-2 <sup>b</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8651</a> 30 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara ( <a href="#">S/2019/787</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/847</a> )			14 Council members <sup>c</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2494 (2019)</a> 13-0-2 <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>b</sup> *For*: Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States. *Against*: None. *Abstaining*: Russian Federation, South Africa.

<sup>c</sup> China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>d</sup> *For*: Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States. *Against*: None. *Abstaining*: Russian Federation, South Africa.



## **2. The situation in Somalia**

In 2019, the Security Council held nine meetings and adopted four resolutions on the situation in Somalia, three of which were under Chapter VII of the Charter. Four meetings under the item were convened to adopt a decision; all others took the form of briefings.<sup>18</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition to these meetings, in 2019, the Council also held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Somalia.<sup>19</sup>

During the period under review, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General as well as by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). In early January 2019, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General was declared persona non grata by the Federal Government of Somalia and, on 3 January, the Council heard his last briefing during which he focused on the political and security situation in the country as well as mentioning the humanitarian and human rights situation.<sup>20</sup> He stated that the continuing political turbulence could throw off course the positive trajectory maintained by the country, noting that the stalemate between the Federal Government and the Federal Member States continued to impede concrete progress in defining the federal model and in building institutions of a State, as well as in the implementation of the national security architecture. He also noted that Al-Shabaab remained the biggest source of insecurity in Somalia, explaining its shift from conventional attacks to the use of improvised explosive devices and targeted assassinations. On 22 May 2019, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) had been resetting its relations with the Federal Government of Somalia and making good progress with mandate implementation further to the expulsion of the former Special Representative.<sup>21</sup> On 21 August 2019, during

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<sup>18</sup> For further information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>19</sup> See [S/2019/910](#), [S/2019/1015](#), [S/2019/744](#).

<sup>20</sup> [S/PV.8440](#), Informal consultations on this matter were held on 3 January and 7 February 2019, see [S/2019/910](#) and [S/2019/1015](#).

<sup>21</sup> [S/PV.8533](#).

his first briefing to the Council, the new Special Representative underlined the importance of genuine cooperation among all parties in preparation for the national electoral cycle in 2020 and 2021. He also observed that the humanitarian crisis in Somalia remained among the most protracted in the world with 2.2 million Somalis facing acute food insecurity, and 2.6 million internally displaced, fleeing conflict and drought.<sup>22</sup> During his last briefing of the year, the Special Representative spoke about the preparations and challenges for the 2020 election, underscoring the need for Somalis to forge a broad political consensus. He also acknowledged that insecurity remained a major challenge to making progress in Somalia, with Al-Shabaab continuing to execute deadly terrorist attacks against civilians and military targets.<sup>23</sup> The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission focused in his four briefings on the progress of AMISOM's transition plan, reporting on the drawdown of 1,000 troops between February and April and noting that in light of the upcoming elections, AMISOM had realigned itself to better support the national authorities during the electoral cycle. On 25 October, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia, who stressed the importance of streamlining the long-standing arms embargo first imposed in 1992 and simplifying and updating it to better reflect the current realities of the counterinsurgency in Somalia. In this regard, he noted the strengthening of the monitoring of certain chemical components and precursors, including commercial explosives, which could be used by Al-Shabaab for the construction of improvised explosive devices.<sup>24</sup>

During 2019, the Council's discussions focused on Somalia's political situation in preparation for the election cycle in 2020-2021 as well as on the deteriorating human rights, humanitarian and security situation. Council members strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in the region by Al-Shabaab, posing a serious threat to the fragility of the country's security situation. Council members welcomed the progress made in the constitutional review process and the Federal Government of Somali's reform agenda, while expressing concern

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<sup>22</sup> [S/PV.8601](#). See also the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council on his appointment, [S/2019/435](#) and [S/2019/436](#). For further information on Special Advisers, Envoys and Representatives, see part IX, sect. VI.

<sup>23</sup> [S/PV.8671](#).

<sup>24</sup> [S/PV.8647](#). For further details on the developments of the sanctions measures concerning Somalia, see part VII, sect. III.

about the deadlock between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States and regretting that the political and governance reforms had not yet been finalized.<sup>25</sup> Council members also underlined the importance of the Somali Government's restoration of cooperation with the United Nations and the international community.<sup>26</sup> In that connection, the representatives of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, regretted the lack of full cooperation of the Federal Government of Somalia with the Panel of Experts and encouraged the Government to engage with the Panel.<sup>27</sup>

The Council deliberations in 2019 also focused on the role of UNSOM, the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) and AMISOM and on their respective mandates. The deliberations at the Council focused on the conditions-based transfer of AMISOM's security responsibilities to Somalia's national security forces in line with the drawdown plan for AMISOM and its eventual exit strategy. Council member underlined that AMISOM's drawdown plan should include specific steps and a realistic timetable for the transfer of responsibilities,<sup>28</sup> as well as the humanitarian consequences and impact on the protection of civilians.<sup>29</sup> Other Council members called for a comprehensive approach to security, with joint planning by AMISOM, the Federal Government, UNSOM, UNSOS and international partners while underlining the significance of the Government and the Federal Member States resolving their differences through sustained and inclusive dialogue.<sup>30</sup> Speakers also noted the importance of observing the commitment to meeting the deadlines set out in resolution [2472 \(2019\)](#), adopted on 31 May, including with regard to the reduction of the troop ceiling by 1,000 military personnel by 28 February 2020, noting that while the reconfiguration of AMISOM had to take place gradually in the most stable areas of the country, it was "imperative" that the decisions of the Council be respected.<sup>31</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation maintained that AMISOM continued to play a key role in addressing security challenges in Somalia and therefore, its reconfiguration had to go

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<sup>25</sup> See for example, [S/PV.8601](#), United Kingdom, United States, Equatorial Guinea, Dominican Republic, France, Peru and Belgium; [S/PV. 8671](#), France, Belgium, China, Poland, Germany and Indonesia.

<sup>26</sup> See for example, [S/PV.8533](#), United Kingdom and Indonesia.

<sup>27</sup> [S/PV.8647](#), United Kingdom, Germany and United States; [S/PV.8533](#), United States.

<sup>28</sup> [S/PV.8533](#), Poland.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., Peru, Indonesia.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., South Africa, Germany.

<sup>31</sup> [S/PV.8601](#), France.

hand in hand with the establishment of Somali military and law-enforcement structures; noting that the reduction of African peacekeepers would not only be counterproductive but also dangerous.<sup>32</sup> Council members also reiterated the importance of providing stable, predictable and sustainable financial support for AMISOM to combat Al-Shabaab more effectively.<sup>33</sup>

In 2019, the decisions of the Council also focused on the issues outlined above and renewed the mandates of UNSOM and AMISOM. On 27 March 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2461 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of UNSOM until 31 March 2020.<sup>34</sup> The Council also urged the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Member States to accelerate the Somali Government-led inclusive political settlement and the resumption of the dialogue between the Federal government and Somaliland.<sup>35</sup> The Council emphasized the need for reconciliation, including inter-and intra-clan reconciliation, across the country as the basis of a long-term approach to stability.<sup>36</sup> The Council also urged the Federal Government of Somalia and the parliament to finalise and adopt the electoral law by mid-2019 and to ensure the upcoming Federal Member States' elections were conducted in accordance with Somalia's international obligations and commitments.<sup>37</sup>

On 31 May 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2472 \(2019\)](#), under Chapter VII of the Charter, authorising the Member States of the African Union to maintain the deployment of AMISOM until 31 May 2020, including a minimum of 1,040 AMISOM police personnel including five Formed Police Units, and to reduce the level of uniformed AMISOM personnel by 1,000 to a maximum level of 19,626, by 28 February 2020, in line with the Transition Plan, and the handover to Somali security forces.<sup>38</sup> By this resolution, the Council also urged the Federal Government of Somalia to focus on the generation of able, accountable, acceptable and affordable Somali forces which would allow for the progressive transfer of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security institutions and

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> See for example, [S/PV.8601](#), China, Indonesia, and Russian Federation.

<sup>34</sup> Resolution [2461 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. For further information on the mandate of UNSOM, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>35</sup> Resolution [2461 \(2019\)](#), paras. 5 and 6.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., para. 6.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., para 7.

<sup>38</sup> Resolution [2472 \(2019\)](#), para. 7. For further information on the mandate of AMISOM, see part VIII, sect. IV.

create critical security for elections in 2020/2021.<sup>39</sup> The Council also underlined that the threat of Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups would not be defeated by military means alone and in this regard, called on the Federal Government of Somalia, Federal Member States, AMISOM, the United Nations and Member States to work together to take a comprehensive approach to security and called for increased coordination and collaboration at all levels, including through the Senior Leadership Coordination Forum and the Comprehensive Approach to Security (CAS) mechanism.<sup>40</sup> By this resolution, the Council further requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide AMISOM with a logistical support package in full compliance of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on the basis set out in operative paragraph 2 of resolution [2245 \(2015\)](#).<sup>41</sup>

On 15 November 2019, the Council adopted resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#), under Chapter VII of the Charter, with the abstention of China, Equatorial Guinea and the Russian Federation. By this resolution, the Council reaffirmed the arms embargo and renewed for one year, until 15 November 2020, the exemptions on deliveries of weapons and military equipment or the provision of technical advice, financial and other assistance, and training related to military activities intended solely for the development of the Somali National Security Forces or Somalia security sector institutions.<sup>42</sup> The Council also recalled previous decisions regarding the targeted sanctions as well as the ban on charcoal.<sup>43</sup> By this resolution, the Council decided to impose a ban on components of improvised explosive devices calling on Member States to undertake appropriate measures to promote the exercise of vigilance by their nationals, persons subject to their jurisdiction and firms incorporated in their territory or subject to their jurisdiction that were involved in the sale, supply, or transfer of explosive precursors and materials to Somalia that may be used in the manufacture of improvised explosive devices.<sup>44</sup> In addition, the Council renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 15 December 2020.<sup>45</sup> In explaining their abstention, the representatives of the Russian

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<sup>39</sup> Ibid., para. 6.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., paras. 2 and 4.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., para. 19.

<sup>42</sup> Resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#), paras. 6 to 8 and 9 to 18.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., paras. 20 to 22 and 23 to 25.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., paras. 26 to 28.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., para. 29. For further information on the mandate of the Committee and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.

Federation, China and Equatorial Guinea expressed regret about the negotiation process.<sup>46</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation, pointing out the artificially created time pressure in the drafting process, emphasized that the situation of the relations between Asmara and Djibouti did not pose a threat to international peace and security and that these issues did not come under the direct purview of either the Security Council or the Committee pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia.<sup>47</sup> Echoing similar concerns, the representative of China noted the efforts of the penholder and the improvements made to the text, but indicated that some of the proposals made were not adopted and his delegation was compelled to abstain in the voting. He added that the Council was not the appropriate forum to discuss human rights issues, and hoped that the Council would conduct extensive consultations on draft resolutions in future and avoid hastily putting them to a vote in order to achieve maximum consensus.<sup>48</sup> The representative of Equatorial Guinea said that his delegation's request had sought to achieve a balanced text that reflected the various proposals and was in line with the political situation in the Horn of Africa and that it would have liked that issues not directly related to the resolution not be mentioned in it.<sup>49</sup>

On 4 December 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2500 \(2019\)](#), under Chapter VII of the Charter renewing for a further period of 12 months the authorizations as set out in paragraph 14 of resolution [2442 \(2018\)](#) granted to States and regional organizations cooperating with Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> [S/PV.8665](#).

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Resolution [2500 \(2019\)](#), para. 14. See also resolutions [1846 \(2008\)](#), para. 10, and [2246 \(2015\)](#), para. 14.

## Meetings: The situation in Somalia

<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.8440</a> 3 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia ( <a href="#">S/2018/1149</a> )		Somalia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)	All invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8494</a> 27 March 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/266</a> )	Somalia		One Council member (United States), Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2461 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8533</a> 22 May 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia ( <a href="#">S/2019/393</a> )		Somalia	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Officer-in-Charge of UNSOM, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of AMISOM, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	All Council members, all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8537</a> 31 May 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/444</a> )	Somalia		Five Council Members (South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, United Kingdom, Indonesia), <sup>c</sup> Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2472 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

<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.8601</a> 21 August 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia ( <a href="#">S/2019/661</a> )		Somalia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNSOM, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of AMISOM; Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; Executive Director of the Somali Women Development Centre	All Council members, all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8647</a> 25 October 2019					Six Council members (Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany, United States, France, Kuwait) <sup>e</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8665</a> 15 November 2019	Letter dated 1 November 2019 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution <a href="#">751 (1992)</a> concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/858</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/880</a> )	Somalia		Five Council members (Russian Federation, China, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Belgium), invitee	Resolution <a href="#">2498 (2019)</a> 12-0-3 <sup>f</sup> (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8671</a> 21 November 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia ( <a href="#">S/2019/884</a> )		Somalia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNSOM, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of AMISOM; Chair of the National Independent Electoral Commission of Somalia, Executive Director of Somalia Youth Development Network	13 Council members, <sup>g</sup> all invitees <sup>h</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8678</a> 4 December 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia ( <a href="#">S/2019/867</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United States of America ( <a href="#">S/2019/916</a> )	Somalia		Two Council members (Russian Federation, China), invitee	Resolution <a href="#">2500 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)



<sup>a</sup> The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia participated in the meeting via videoconference from Dar es Salaam.

<sup>b</sup> The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Officer-in-Charge of UNSOM, and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of AMISOM participated in the meeting via videoconference from Mogadishu.

<sup>c</sup> The representative of South Africa took the floor more than once in order to make a further statement.

<sup>d</sup> The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of AMISOM and the Executive Director of the Somali Women Development Centre participated in the meeting via videoconference from Mogadishu.

<sup>e</sup> The representative of Belgium spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia.

<sup>f</sup> For: Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, South Africa and United Kingdom, United States; Against: None; Abstaining: China, Equatorial Guinea and Russian Federation.

<sup>g</sup> Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa (speaking on behalf of the three African members of the Security Council: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa), United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>h</sup> The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the AMISOM and the Executive Director of Somalia Youth Development Network participated in the meeting via videoconference from Mogadishu.

### **3. The situation in Burundi**

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings in connection with the situation in Burundi, and all meetings took the form of briefings.<sup>51</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition to these meetings, in 2019, the Council also held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Burundi.<sup>52</sup>

In 2019, the briefings under this item were delivered by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi, the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security and the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. Invitations to those meetings under rule 37 were limited to Burundi.<sup>53</sup> The briefings during this period focused on the political developments before the holding of general elections in 2020, the human rights and humanitarian situations in the country, and the status of the inter-Burundian dialogue process led by the East African Community.

During his briefings, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi focused on the activities carried out on behalf of the Secretary-General, including efforts to resolve the political crisis before the holding of the presidential election in 2020. He reiterated that an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue remained the only viable option for a lasting political settlement for the country's future, and ascertained the lack of progress which he said was due to the lack of political will on the part of the parties or the firm commitment by States of the subregion. In both briefings, the Special Envoy expressed concern at the humanitarian situation as well as the deteriorating socioeconomic situation in the country. While acknowledging that the security situation had improved, he mentioned that abuses and other human rights violations continued to be reported.<sup>54</sup> The Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission reiterated that the Commission would continue to focus on

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<sup>51</sup> For further information on format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>52</sup> See [S/2019/744](#) and [S/2019/1015](#).

<sup>53</sup> For further information on participation in meetings of the Council, see part II, sect. VII.

<sup>54</sup> [S/PV.8465](#) and [S/PV.8652](#).

elections and the persistent socioeconomic challenges facing Burundi. During his briefing in February, in reference to the Government's request for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to terminate its activities in the country and withdraw its staff, the Chair of the Burundi configuration emphasized that human rights were an important element of peacebuilding and encouraged building capacity for the protection of human rights.<sup>55</sup> During his briefing on 14 June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support also mentioned that the human rights situation remained worrying in view of many violations of fundamental civic and political freedoms against the backdrop of Burundi's election plans.<sup>56</sup> The Permanent Observer of the African Union as well as the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security also addressed their assessment of the political, humanitarian, human rights situation and socioeconomic situations in the country reiterating the African Union's commitment to continue supporting all efforts aimed at finding a lasting, peaceful and consensual solution to the situation in Burundi.<sup>57</sup>

Further to the briefings, Council deliberations focused on the need to find a consensus-based and inclusive roadmap in preparation for the general elections in 2020 and to uphold the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement. Council members held divergent views on the approach to the elections. While most Council members encouraged the Burundian authorities to continue the inter-Burundian political dialogue led by the East African Community and engage with its partners, others affirmed the sovereignty of Burundi, emphasizing the Burundian Government's prerogative to take charge of managing the country's domestic affairs, and cautioned against outside interference and hoped for assistance to the Government, as needed.<sup>58</sup>

Divergent views were also expressed with respect to the continuation of the situation of Burundi as an item on the agenda of the Council. While some Council members called on the Council to seriously consider removing Burundi from its agenda, arguing that the situation in the country was generally calm and normal and did not pose a threat to

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<sup>55</sup> [S/PV.8465](#).

<sup>56</sup> [S/PV.8550](#).

<sup>57</sup> [S/PV.8465](#), Permanent Observer of the African Union; and [S/PV.8550](#) African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security.

<sup>58</sup> [S/PV.8465](#), Russian Federation and China; [S/PV.8550](#), China and Russian Federation; and [S/PV.8652](#), Russian Federation and China.

international or regional peace and security,<sup>59</sup> others considered that Burundi had to remain on the Council's agenda due to the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis amid an unresolved domestic political crisis and regional tensions with the impending elections in 2020.<sup>60</sup>

Concerning the human rights situation, some Council members expressed concern and called on the Government to fully cooperate with the United Nations human rights protection mechanisms.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> [S/PV.8465](#), Equatorial Guinea; and [S/PV.8550](#), Equatorial Guinea, China and Russian Federation.

<sup>60</sup> [S/PV.8465](#), United States and United Kingdom; and [S/PV.8550](#), Germany.

<sup>61</sup> [S/PV.8465](#), France and Poland; and [S/PV.8550](#), Poland.

## Meetings: The situation in Burundi

<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>Decisions and vote (for- against- abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8465</a> 19 February 2019			Burundi	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi; Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations; Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8550</a> 14 June 2019			Burundi	Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support; African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security <sup>a</sup> ; Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8652</a> 30 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Burundi ( <a href="#">S/2019/837</a> )		Burundi	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> The African Union Commissioner joined the meeting via video-teleconference from Montreal.

<sup>b</sup> South Africa was represented by its Minister for International Relations and Cooperation.

#### **4. The situation in the Great Lakes region**

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings on the situation in Great Lakes region, both in the form of briefings.<sup>62</sup> The Council did not adopt any decision on this item in 2019. More information on the meetings, including on invitees and speakers, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the briefings under this item were delivered by the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, further to the two reports of the Secretary-General.<sup>63</sup> In his briefings to the Council, the Special Envoy focused on the activities of his office in supporting the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, including the facilitation of voluntary repatriation, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants and the security cooperation to neutralizing negative forces.

In 2019, the Secretary-General appointed a new Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region.<sup>64</sup> On 26 March, the outgoing Special Envoy delivered his last briefing and emphasized the importance of political will among regional leaders in addressing protracted challenges in security and humanitarian challenges in the Great Lakes region. He also noted the office's close cooperation with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in operationalizing the security and confidence-building mechanisms and developing a regional strategy and action plan for the refugee situation. He explained that during his tenure, he had focused on key priority areas to support the signatory countries in the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. Among them, he mentioned the strengthening of regional ownership of the implementation process, which he sought to achieve among other strategies by reinvigorating the Regional Oversight Mechanism. He also mentioned the issue of maintaining regional and international focus on the need to strengthen cooperation on countering the negative forces and building confidence among all countries, promoting regional cohesion and international attention with regard to the situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi and promoting women's participation in political and

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<sup>62</sup> For further information on format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>63</sup> [S/2019/229](#) and [S/2019/783](#).

<sup>64</sup> See [S/2019/67](#) and [S/2019/68](#). For more information on Special Advisers, Envoys and Representatives, see part IX, sect. VI.

peace processes in the region. In closing, he also addressed the issue of encouraging a political conversation on ways to transform natural resources into vehicles of shared prosperity, as well as the promotion of the rule of law and respect for human rights.<sup>65</sup>

On 3 October, the Council heard the briefing of the new Special Envoy who, at the outset, noted the significant steps taken in the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework thanks in particular to the peaceful transfer of power in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the restated willingness of the region's leaders to face together the challenges that hindered its development. He also addressed during his briefing his Office's latest initiatives to support the implementation of the Framework, such as undertaking consultations with the countries concerned on the issue of non-military measures to complement military operations. He also highlighted the importance of implementing cross-border development projects to create employment opportunities for young people and revitalizing regional cooperation and integration. He also added that the Office had been supporting the preparation of the second iteration of the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference to be held in Kigali in March 2020, and called on the Council members to support the initiative.<sup>66</sup>

During the discussions Council members welcomed recent political developments, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the continuing efforts of the regional leaders to achieve political stability in the Great Lakes region. Council members reaffirmed the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region as the cornerstone mechanism to address regional challenges.<sup>67</sup> They also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation through regional arrangements like the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community, and the African Union and urged further cooperation in addressing protracted problems of armed groups, the humanitarian situation and Ebola, and socioeconomic development.<sup>68</sup> Some Council members also noted their concern over the continued violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Ebola outbreak, the

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<sup>65</sup> [S/PV.8491](#).

<sup>66</sup> [S/PV.8630](#).

<sup>67</sup> [S/PV.8491](#), Russian Federation, United States and Poland.

<sup>68</sup> [S/PV. 8491](#), Russian Federation and Kuwait; and [S/PV.8630](#), China, Indonesia, and Russian Federation.

deteriorating humanitarian situation and the forced displacement of populations.<sup>69</sup> With respect to Burundi, in March, the representative of the United Kingdom called on international partners to continue supporting the East African Community in its efforts to end the political crisis in Burundi and preserve the Arusha accords. He also encouraged all stakeholders to consider whether the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework could play an enhanced role in promoting dialogue in Burundi.<sup>70</sup> Later in the year, in October, the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom also expressed concern about the restrictions on freedom of assembly and expression, and emphasized the importance of good governance, which was echoed by Germany.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> [S/PV.8630](#), Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Russian Federation and South Africa.

<sup>70</sup> [S/PV.8491](#).

<sup>71</sup> [S/PV.8630](#), United States, United Kingdom and Germany.



### **Meetings: The situation in the Great Lakes region**

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against- abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8491</a> 26 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region ( <a href="#">S/2019/229</a> )		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8630</a> 3 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region ( <a href="#">S/2019/783</a> )		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	All Council members, all invitees	

## **5. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings and adopted three resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter in relation to the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Except for three meetings convened to adopt a decision of the Council, all meetings took the form of briefings.<sup>72</sup> The Council also met twice with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).<sup>73</sup> Further details on meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, are given in the table below.

The Council was regularly briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO. In her four briefings to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General outlined the ongoing democratic process, including the progress of President Tshisekedi's reform agendas and the remaining security challenges, particularly in the country's eastern region, also affected by the Ebola epidemic.<sup>74</sup> Other briefers included the President of the Independent National Electoral Commission, the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, representatives of the National Episcopal Conference of the Congo, and the Executive Director of a civil society organization, Afia Mama. In addition, the Council was briefed by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#).

In 2019, the briefings and deliberations of the Council focused mainly on the progress of the Congolese Government's democratic process following the presidential election in December 2018, the transition strategy of MONUSCO in the context of the volatile security

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<sup>72</sup> For further information on the format of meetings, see part II. sect. I.

<sup>73</sup> Held on 14 March and 3 December 2019 under the item entitled "Meeting of the Security Council with the troop - and police - contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B - Democratic Republic of the Congo"; see [S/PV.8483](#) (14 March 2019) and [S/PV.8677](#) (3 December 2019).

<sup>74</sup> The humanitarian situation caused by the renewed cases of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was also considered by the Council under the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa", under which the Council issued a presidential statement on 2 August, expressing concern and emphasizing the need for continued cooperation and coordination to address the Ebola outbreak. [S/PRST/2019/6](#), paras 1 and 4. For further information, see part I, sect. 11.

and humanitarian situations, and the efforts of the regional organizations to strengthen the cooperation among the countries of the Great Lakes region.

Concerning the democratic process following the election, Council members welcomed the smooth transition of power and President Tshisekedi's pledges to build democracy and the rule of law, while also expressing concern over the ongoing violence, the Ebola outbreak and the precarious humanitarian situation in the country. During the Council meetings on 11 January and 18 March 2019, Council members also noted the postponement of elections in Beni, Butembo, and in Yumbi and called for a successful facilitation of the holding of the remaining elections, scheduled at the end March.<sup>75</sup>

On the security situation, Council members expressed concerns regarding the continuing violence and attacks against civilians and MONUSCO and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the Allied Democratic Forces, while strongly condemning the attacks by armed groups on Ebola response teams.<sup>76</sup> In this context, Council members also discussed the adjustment of the configuration of MONUSCO and its activities in line with the Mission's priority mandates in the protection of civilians. Council members also encouraged the strengthening of the implementation of the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) process by the Congolese authorities.<sup>77</sup> Some Council members encouraged the transition to a civilian life for fighters rather than simply absorbing them into the armed forces,<sup>78</sup> and others emphasized that the process had to be at the centre of the stabilization of the security situation in the country.<sup>79</sup>

On the efforts of the regional organizations to strengthen the cooperation among the countries of the Great Lakes region, Council members expressed support to the work done by the observation missions dispatched to the elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by regional organizations, such as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU). Speakers also recognized the mediation efforts undertaken by regional organizations in

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<sup>75</sup> [S/PV.8443](#), Peru, Belgium and United States; and [S/PV.8486](#), Belgium, Poland, Dominican Republic and Peru.

<sup>76</sup> [S/PV.8584](#), France, Belgium, Poland, South Africa and United Kingdom.

<sup>77</sup> [S/PV.8486](#), Dominican Republic; and [S/PV.8584](#), United States, Poland and Côte d'Ivoire.

<sup>78</sup> [S/PV.8584](#), United States.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*, Poland.

support of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region.

In addition, in 2019, the Council focused on the work of the Committee pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#). On 7 June 2019, the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo submitted its final report on their work for the Council's attention.<sup>80</sup> The report concluded that despite the relatively peaceful transfer of power and a growing number of armed groups willing to surrender, numerous local and foreign armed groups, particularly the Allied Democratic Forces continued to pose a serious security threat. On 26 June 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2478 \(2019\)](#) extending the sanctions measures until 1 July 2020, as well as the mandate of the Group of Experts concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo until 1 August 2020.<sup>81</sup> On 24 July 2019, the Council heard the briefing of the Chair of the Committee, who focused on the Committee's activities over the past 12 months as well as on his visit to the country earlier in April-May 2019.<sup>82</sup> He also highlighted the incoming President's positive public statements on the work of MONUSCO and the international community and noted his plan to "capitalize on the momentum of the visit" by continuing to build channels of communication with relevant States and promote a better understanding of the Committee's work.

Concerning MONUSCO, the Council unanimously adopted two resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter, extending the mandate of the Mission twice. On 29 March 2019, by resolution [2463 \(2019\)](#), the Council extended MONUSCO's mandate and the Intervention Brigade for nine months until 20 December 2019, and expressed its intention to further adjust MONUSCO's mandate following the publication of an independent strategic review of MONUSCO assessing the continued challenges to peace and security in the country and articulating a phased, progressive and comprehensive exit strategy.<sup>83</sup> The Council decided that the strategic priorities of MONUSCO were to contribute to (a) the protection of civilians and (b) support to the stabilisation and strengthening of State institutions in the Democratic

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<sup>80</sup> Letter dated 6 June 2019 from the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2019/469](#)).

<sup>81</sup> Resolution [2478 \(2019\)](#), paras. 1 and 3.

<sup>82</sup> [S/PV.8584](#).

<sup>83</sup> Resolution [2463 \(2019\)](#), paras. 21 and 45.

Republic of the Congo and key governance and security reforms.<sup>84</sup> The Council also authorized MONUSCO, in pursuit of its mandated tasks, to take all necessary measures to carry out its mandate and requested the Secretary-General to immediately inform the Security Council should MONUSCO failed to do so.<sup>85</sup> The Council also emphasized the importance of maintaining international support and engagement to bring the Ebola outbreak successfully to an end; and requested all relevant parts of the United Nations System to continue their work in response to the Ebola outbreak noting the positive role of MONUSCO in that regard.<sup>86</sup> On 19 December 2019, by resolution [2502 \(2019\)](#), the Council extended again the mandate of MONUSCO and the Intervention Brigade for one year, maintaining the same strategic priorities.<sup>87</sup> In the resolution, the Council also stressed the importance of a comprehensive dialogue between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO on the progress of the political and security reform agenda, requesting the Secretary-General to engage with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to articulate a joint strategy and identify a set of measurable benchmarks, to be proposed to the Security Council no later than 20 October 2020, that would allow for a progressive transfer of MONUSCO's tasks to the Congolese authorities, the United Nations Country Team and other stakeholders.<sup>88</sup> The Council also took note of the assessment of the independent strategic review that an "absolute minimum" transition period of three years was required before the Mission's exit, adding that the tentative timeline would have to remain flexible and to take into account the security situation.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Ibid., para. 23. For more information concerning the mandate of MONUSCO, see part X, sect. I. For further information on past mandates of MONUSCO, see *Repertoire, Supplements 2010-2018*, part X, sect. I.

<sup>85</sup> Resolution [2463 \(2019\)](#), para. 28. For further information concerning the decisions of the Council relating to Article 42 of the Charter during the period under review, see part VII, sect. IV.A.

<sup>86</sup> Resolution [2463 \(2019\)](#), para. 38.

<sup>87</sup> Resolution [2502 \(2019\)](#), paras. 22 and 24.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid., para. 49.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid., para. 46.

## Meetings: The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8443</a> 11 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ( <a href="#">S/2019/6</a> )		Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), President of the Commission électorale nationale indépendante, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, and President of the Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo	All Council Members and all invitees <sup>a,b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8486</a> 18 March 2019	Letter dated 15 February 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/159</a> )  Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ( <a href="#">S/2019/218</a> )		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Executive Director of Afia Mama	All Council Members and all invitees <sup>c</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8498</a> 29 March 2019	Letter dated 15 February 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/159</a> )  Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ( <a href="#">S/2019/218</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France ( <a href="#">S/2019/263</a> )	Democratic Republic of the Congo		Seven Council members <sup>d</sup> and all invitees	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a> (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8563</a> 26 June 2019	Letter dated 6 June 2019 from the Group	Draft resolution				Resolution <a href="#">2478 (2019)</a>

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
	of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/469</a> )	submitted by France ( <a href="#">S/2019/522</a> )				15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8584</a> 24 July 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ( <a href="#">S/2019/575</a> )		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members <sup>e</sup> , all invitees <sup>f</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8638</a> 9 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ( <a href="#">S/2019/776</a> )		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	Seven Council members <sup>g</sup> , all invitees <sup>h</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8692</a> 19 December 2019	Letter dated 24 October 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/842</a> )  Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ( <a href="#">S/2019/905</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France ( <a href="#">S/2019/957</a> )	Democratic Republic of the Congo		Six Council members <sup>i</sup> , Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

<sup>a</sup> Zambia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, who participated in the meeting via videoconference from Johannesburg.

<sup>b</sup> The Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the President of the Commission électorale nationale indépendante and the President of the Conférence épiscopale nationale du Congo participated in the meeting via videoconference from Kinshasa.

<sup>c</sup> The representative of Afia Mama participated in the meeting via videoconference from Kinshasa.

<sup>d</sup> Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Indonesia, South Africa and United States. France was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Côte d'Ivoire was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, and South Africa was represented by its Minister for Defence and Military Veterans.

<sup>e</sup> The representative of Kuwait spoke twice, once in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and once in his national capacity.

<sup>f</sup> The Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo participated in the meeting via videoconference from Kinshasha.

<sup>g</sup> Côte d'Ivoire, Peru, Equatorial Guinea, China, United States, Indonesia, and South Africa.

<sup>h</sup> The Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo participated in the meeting via videoconference from Wilton Park, United Kingdom.

<sup>i</sup> France, Indonesia, South Africa, China, Poland and the United States. South Africa spoke on behalf of the three African Council members Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea.



## **6. The situation in the Central African Republic**

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings, adopted three resolutions, all under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued one presidential statement in connection with the situation in the Central African Republic. Except for four meetings convened to adopt a decision of the Council, all meetings held in 2019 took the form of briefings.<sup>90</sup> The Council also held one meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).<sup>91</sup> More information on meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During 2019, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA, consistent with the four-month reporting schedule established by resolution [2387 \(2017\)](#).<sup>92</sup> The Council also heard briefings by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, the African Union Special Representative and Head of the African Union Office in the Central African Republic, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic, and the Managing Director for Africa as well as the Director for Integrated Approach for Security and Peace of the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The briefings focused on the political, security and humanitarian situation in the country, emphasizing the developments after the signing of the Political Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic on 6 February 2019.<sup>93</sup> In his first briefing to the Council in February, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General declared that the Peace Agreement could mark a turning point in the history of the Central African

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<sup>90</sup> For more information on format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>91</sup> Held on 7 November 2019 under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B”; see [S/PV.8662](#).

<sup>92</sup> Resolution [2387 \(2017\)](#), para. 67.

<sup>93</sup> On 7 February, the Council held informal consultations of the whole to hear the briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations on the agreement signed on 6 February by the Government of the Central African Republic and 14 armed groups for the cessation of hostilities (see [S/2019/1015](#)).

Republic. He highlighted how the current agreement differed from the previous agreements in that it reaffirmed from the outset the commitment of the Central African Government and the armed groups to fundamental principles, especially those derived from the country's Constitution, and it was sought and signed by a legitimate Government. He also underlined that the implementation of those commitments would be supervised by inclusive monitoring mechanisms, including civil society, political parties, parliamentarians, women's organizations and young people. He nonetheless cautioned that while the Peace Agreement was an important political advance in the Central African Republic, the real test would be in its full and good faith implementation and that the unified political support of the Council, the countries of the region and the international community remained critical.<sup>94</sup>

After the signing of the Peace Agreement, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Council two additional times on the developments on the ground and the implementation of the mandate of MINUSCA.<sup>95</sup> He focused, among other issues, on the awareness-raising campaign to inform local actors about the Peace Agreement and solicit their cooperation in its implementation, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations as well as the joint missions by the Government of the Central African Republic, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and MINUSCA. He also addressed the national consultations on the creation of the Truth, Justice, Reparations and Reconciliation Commission and the efforts to restore State authority, as well as the challenges that continued to hamper the stabilization of the Central African Republic, including the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and the risk of violence associated with population movements and the radicalization of the political discourse.

In his first briefing in February, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security said that the Peace Agreement of 6 February 2019 was the perfect expression of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. He noted that the commitment of the regional States, including those who had expressed readiness to re-establish bilateral mixed commissions with the Central African Republic made the Agreement different from previous ones. He underscored that it was the successful result of

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<sup>94</sup> See [S/PV.8467](#).

<sup>95</sup> See [S/PV.8558](#) and [S/PV.8646](#).

multilateralism and the renewed resolve of the leadership of the United Nations and African Union to weigh in together and in solidarity to silence the guns and foster dialogue and reconciliation.<sup>96</sup> In his briefing in October, he reported on the joint visits to Bangui by the United Nations, African Union and the European Union and emphasized the importance of the timely conduct of the 2020 and 2021 elections and the need for sustained attention to the humanitarian situation by the international community.<sup>97</sup> The African Union Special Representative and Head of the African Union Office in the Central African Republic provided an update on the implementation of the Peace Agreement and recommended that the Council, among others, appeal to the international community to mobilize the necessary resources for the reconstruction of the Central African Republic and the implementation of labour-intensive development projects, and lead the call for the strengthening of humanitarian assistance in the fight against malnutrition and the reintegration of displaced persons and refugees.<sup>98</sup>

In his briefing in February, the Managing Director for Africa of the EEAS expressed the European Union's support for the Peace Agreement, stated that the priority was to put follow-up mechanisms in place and called for inclusiveness at the national and local levels to ensure the success of the Agreement.<sup>99</sup> He said that the European Union remained fully committed to addressing the humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic and that governance, justice, the rule of law and support for democratic institutions would remain the core considerations of the European Union's actions and engagement in the country.<sup>100</sup> At the briefing in October, the Director for Integrated Approach for Security and Peace of the EEAS reported on the European Union's efforts to support the implementation of the Peace Agreement, including the activities of the European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM-RCA) and the funding of humanitarian programmes. He expressed the European Union's readiness to support the conduct of peaceful, inclusive and transparent elections in 2020 and 2021 and requested that MINUSCA's mandate include support for the electoral process in terms of security and logistics.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> See [S/PV.8467](#).

<sup>97</sup> See [S/PV.8646](#).

<sup>98</sup> See [S/PV.8558](#).

<sup>99</sup> See [S/PV.8467](#).

<sup>100</sup> [S/PV.8558](#).

<sup>101</sup> [S/PV.8646](#).

In addition, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on its work and initiatives in support of the Government of the Central African Republic, including a report on his visit to Bangui together with the United Nations Assistant Secretaries-General for Africa and for Peacebuilding Support from 13 to 15 February 2019 (immediately after the signing of the Peace Agreement).<sup>102</sup> At the same meeting, the representative of the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic highlighted the concerns raised by the Government of the Central African Republic on the arms embargo and noted the difficulties faced by the relevant actors in the Central African Republic to ensure the proper management of arms and ammunition. He also noted the Chair's intention to visit the country again in 2019 to continue his engagement with the relevant parties and other key stakeholders.<sup>103</sup>

In 2019, the discussions in the Council focused on the critical factors for the successful implementation of the Peace Agreement, including the political support by the Council, regional states, and the international community. Council members also discussed the role of sanctions, particularly the establishment of key benchmarks to serve as a road map that could lead to the easing of the arms embargo, and the support provided by MINUSCA. With regard to MINUSCA's mandate, Council members emphasized that the Mission's priority task was the protection of civilians while also highlighting the Mission's role in supporting the Central African Republic's security sector reform, including disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration efforts, the restoration of State authority and the preparation for and holding of the 2020- 2021 elections.

In 2019, the Council adopted three resolutions and issued one presidential statement in connection with the situation in the Central African Republic.<sup>104</sup> On 31 January, the Council adopted unanimously resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#), extending for a period of one year until 31 January 2020, the sanctions measures in place in connection with the Central African Republic, namely, the arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban imposed against individuals

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<sup>102</sup> [S/PV.8467](#).

<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>104</sup> In addition to the decisions adopted in 2019, on 13 February, the President of the Security Council issued a press statement welcoming the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic by the Central African Republic authorities and 14 armed groups in Bangui on 6 February 2019 ([SC/13701](#)).

and entities designated by the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#).<sup>105</sup> The Council also expressed its intent to establish, no later than 30 April 2019, clear and well identified key benchmarks regarding the reform of the security sector, the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process, and the management of weapons and ammunition, to guide the Council's review of the arms embargo measures on the Government of the Central African Republic. To that end, the Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment on the progress achieved on the key benchmarks and further expressed its intent to review the arms embargo measures on the Government of the Central African Republic in light of this assessment.<sup>106</sup> By the same resolution, the Council extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#), until 29 February 2020.<sup>107</sup>

On 9 April 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement welcoming the significant efforts made by the Central African Republic authorities, in coordination with their international partners, to advance the reform of the security sector and acknowledged the urgent need for the Central African Republic authorities to train and equip their defence and security forces to be able to respond proportionately to threats to the security in the Central African Republic.<sup>108</sup> The Council also welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic by the Central African Republic authorities and 14 armed groups in Bangui on 6 February 2019, as well as the consensus reached by the signatory parties to the Agreement regarding the formation of an inclusive government, and urged stakeholders to implement the peace agreement in good faith and without delay.<sup>109</sup> The Council expressed its readiness to review the arms embargo measures on the Government of the Central African Republic in the light of progress achieved on five key benchmarks including the progress on the effective implementation of the National Program for Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation, the establishment of a planning document detailing the needs of the authorities in terms of weapons and ammunition storage facilities and the establishment of a protocol for the collection and

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<sup>105</sup> Resolution [2454 \(2019\)](#), paras.1 and 2.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid., paras. 9 and 10.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid., para. 3. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.

<sup>108</sup> [S/PRST/2019/3](#), second paragraph.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid., third paragraph.

destruction or transfer of a surplus, unregistered or illicitly held weapons and ammunition seized by the Central African Republic authorities to the armed forces.<sup>110</sup>

On 12 September, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#), by which it decided to review and adjust the arms embargo measures imposed by paragraph 1 of resolution [2399 \(2018\)](#) by, among others, exempting supplies of certain arms, weapons and ammunition and other related components and equipment meant for the CAR security forces, and modifying the exemptions process for supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, further to the Secretary-General's letter of 26 July 2019 assessing the progress achieved on the key benchmarks established by the Council on the arms embargo measures in the Central African Republic.<sup>111</sup> Consistent with the adjustment of the measures, the Council decided that the Central African Republic's authorities would update the Committee by 31 December 2019 on the progress achieved in the security sector reform process, the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process and in the management of weapons and ammunition and requested the Secretary-General to update the Security Council, no later than 31 December 2019, on the progress achieved by the authorities on the key benchmarks established in its presidential statement of 9 April 2019.<sup>112</sup>

On 15 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2499 \(2019\)](#) extending the mandate of MINUSCA for one year until 15 November 2020.<sup>113</sup> In the resolution, the Council decided that the mandate of MINUSCA would include five priority tasks, including the protection of civilians, the provision of good offices and support to the peace process (including the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation signed on 6 February 2019), the provision and coordination of assistance in the preparation and delivery of peaceful elections in 2020/2021, the facilitation of the creation of a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the protection of United Nations personnel, installations, equipment and goods.<sup>114</sup> By the same resolution, the Council urged

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<sup>110</sup> Ibid., seventh paragraph. For more information on the sanctions measures concerning the Central African Republic, see part VII, sect. III. For information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.

<sup>111</sup> Resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#), para. 2. See also [S/2019/609](#).

<sup>112</sup> Resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#), paras. 6 and 7. The Secretary-General provided another progress update pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution [2488 \(2019\)](#) on 31 December 2019 (see [S/2019/1008](#)).

<sup>113</sup> Resolution [2499 \(2019\)](#), para. 27.

<sup>114</sup> Ibid., para. 32. For more information on the mandate of MINUSCA, see part X, sect. I.

the Central African Republic authorities and the signatory armed groups to implement the Peace Agreement in good faith and without delay in order to meet the aspirations expressed by the people of the Central African Region to peace, security, justice, reconciliation, inclusivity and development and called on neighbouring states, regional organisations and all international partners to support the peace process, including the implementation of the Peace Agreement.<sup>115</sup> The Council also urged the Central African Republic authorities to urgently implement a genuine and inclusive process to support reconciliation in the country by addressing the root causes of the conflict, and urged them as well to ensure the preparation of inclusive, free, fair, transparent, credible, peaceful, and timely presidential, legislative and local elections in 2020 and 2021.<sup>116</sup> In the resolution, the Council also called on the national authorities to take concrete steps to strengthen justice institutions and to continue efforts to restore the effective authority of the State over the whole territory of the country, stressing in this context the valuable role of the Peacebuilding Commission.<sup>117</sup> By this resolution, the Council also reiterated the urgent need to hold accountable all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, and urged all parties to armed conflict in the Central African Republic, including armed groups, to end sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses committed against children.<sup>118</sup>

In 2019, the Council also took note of the intention of the Secretary-General to appoint a new Special Representative for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA.<sup>119</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> Resolution [2499 \(2019\)](#), paras. 2 and 6.

<sup>116</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 9 and 10.

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*, paras 15-17.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 21, 24 and 25.

<sup>119</sup> See [S/2019/75](#) and [S/2019/76](#).



## Meetings: The situation in the Central African Republic

<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.8455</a> 31 January 2019	Letter dated 14 December 2018 from the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to Security Council resolution <a href="#">2399 (2018)</a> addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2018/1119</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France ( <a href="#">S/2019/90</a> )			Four Council members (Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, France, Russian Federation)	Resolution <a href="#">2454 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8467</a> 21 February 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic ( <a href="#">S/2019/147</a> )		Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security; Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service; Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (Morocco)	All Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8503</a> 9 April 2019						<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/3</a>
<a href="#">S/PV.8558</a> 20 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African		Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, African Union Special Representative and Head of the African Union Office in the	All Council members, all invitees <sup>c</sup>	



<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>
	Republic ( <a href="#">S/2019/498</a> )			Central African Republic, Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service		
<a href="#">S/PV.8617</a> 12 September 2019		Draft resolution submitted by France ( <a href="#">S/2019/729</a> )	Central African Republic		Eleven Council members, <sup>d</sup> all invitees	Resolution <a href="#">2488 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8646</a> 25 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic ( <a href="#">S/2019/822</a> )		Central African Republic	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Director for Integrated Approach for Security and Peace, European External Action Service	Two Council members (Côte d'Ivoire, <sup>e</sup> United States), all rule 39 invitees <sup>f</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8666</a> 15 November 2019		Draft resolution submitted by France ( <a href="#">S/2019/877</a> )	Central African Republic		Three Council members (Côte d'Ivoire, <sup>e</sup> France and Indonesia), invitee	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

<sup>a</sup> The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke on behalf of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#).

<sup>b</sup> The Central African Republic was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Central Africans Abroad. The Managing Director for Africa for the European External Action Service participated in the meeting via videoconference from Brussels.

<sup>c</sup> The African Union Special Representative and Head of the African Union Office in the Central African Republic and the Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service participated in the meeting via videoconference from Bangui and Brussels, respectively.

<sup>d</sup> Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, United States, United Kingdom. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke on behalf of the three African members of the Council, namely, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

<sup>e</sup> The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke on behalf of the three African members of the Council, namely, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

<sup>f</sup> The African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security and the Director for Integrated Approach for Security and Peace for the European Union External Action Service participated in the meeting via videoconference from Addis Ababa and Brussels, respectively.

## **7. The situation in Guinea-Bissau**

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings, adopted one resolution and issued one presidential statement in connection with the situation in Guinea-Bissau. One meeting was convened for the adoption of a decision, while one meeting took the form of a briefing.<sup>120</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau from 13 to 17 February.<sup>121</sup>

In September 2019, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations on the evolving political situation in Guinea-Bissau. She commended the Government's efforts, including its preparations for the presidential election and unprecedented achievement of gender parity and appointment of young candidates in the Cabinet; while also noting the challenges that persisted, appealing to the international community to continue to provide the Government with the necessary financial and technical support. She also noted that the year 2019 was pivotal for Guinea-Bissau in terms of seizing the opportunity to end the recurring cycle of instability that had hampered its socioeconomic development for decades. She cautioned that the risk of further instability in the period leading to the presidential election was high, and appealed to national actors to be mindful of their duties towards the people of Guinea-Bissau and the need to transcend narrow individual and party interests. In this regard, she said that efforts had to be made to ensure the timely holding of an inclusive, credible and peaceful presidential election. She also highlighted new developments ahead of the planned December 2020 drawdown of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>121</sup> For more information, see part I, sect. 33.

<sup>122</sup> [S/PV.8614](#).

At the same meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. He reiterated the Peacebuilding Commission's support to the international community and the Government to strengthen national institutional capacity to deliver peacebuilding and development objectives. He also reiterated the Peacebuilding Commission's support to the reconfiguration exercise and to providing timely and specific advice to the Council in that regard. He stated that he would visit the country in October and subsequently report his observations to the Council.<sup>123</sup> Furthermore, during the briefing, several Council members echoed their support for the continued national reconciliation process through the implementation of the Conakry agreement and the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS) Roadmap for the Resolution of the Political Crisis in Guinea-Bissau.<sup>124</sup>

The issues outlined above were also addressed by the Council in its two decisions on the situation in Guinea-Bissau in 2019. On 28 February 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2458 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of UNIOGBIS for 12 months, until 28 February 2020.<sup>125</sup> In the resolution, the Council endorsed the reprioritization of tasks and reconfiguration of UNIOGBIS in three phases: the electoral phase; the post-electoral phase; and the transition and exit phase.<sup>126</sup> In this regard, the Council requested that the reconfiguration of UNIOGBIS should take place after the completion of the electoral cycle in 2019, allowing for the electoral process to remain the priority.<sup>127</sup>

In its decision, the Council also stressed the need for all national stakeholders and Guinea-Bissau's international bilateral and multilateral partners to remain committed to enforce the Conakry Agreement and, in this context, encouraged ECOWAS to continue close coordination with the United Nations, African Union, The Community of Portuguese – Speaking Countries (CPLP) and European Union aimed at the implementation of the Conakry

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<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> Ibid., Côte d'Ivoire, France, Belgium, South Africa, China, United Kingdom, Kuwait, Peru.

<sup>125</sup> Resolution [2458 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of UNIOGBIS, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>126</sup> Resolution [2458 \(2019\)](#), para. 2.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid., para. 3.

Agreement.<sup>128</sup> The Council also decided to review the sanctions measures established pursuant to resolution [2048 \(2012\)](#), seven months from the adoption of the resolution, especially in light of the conduct of the electoral process.<sup>129</sup> The Council also welcomed the joint efforts undertaken by international partners, assisted by the Peacebuilding Commission, to enhance cooperation and support on the long-term peacebuilding priorities of Guinea-Bissau, in accordance with the priority structural reforms established by the Government.<sup>130</sup>

In reference to the informal consultations held in October 2019,<sup>131</sup> the Council issued a presidential statement on 4 November condemning the recent violence and urging the political actors of Guinea-Bissau to show utmost restraint, refrain from all forms of violence or incitement to hatred, and to resort to dialogue as the only means of resolving their differences and preserving peace and stability in the country. The presidential statement also welcomed that the defense and security forces of Guinea-Bissau were maintaining strict neutrality and avoiding interference in the political arena and reminded all actors that the Council's possible reconsideration of the existing sanctions regime depended on their orderly conduct as well as that of other political actors. In its presidential statement, the Security Council reiterated its strong support and commitment to the process of consolidating peace and stability, as well as the development of Guinea-Bissau, in collaboration with regional actors, and international partners, including the Group of the Five (African Union, ECOWAS, CPLP, the European Union and United Nations).<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> Ibid., para. 30.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid., para. 32.

<sup>130</sup> Ibid., para 21.

<sup>131</sup> For further information on the consultations held, see [S/2020/192](#).

<sup>132</sup> [S/PRST/2019/13](#), fourth, fifth, eighth, tenth and eleventh paragraphs.

## Meetings: The situation in Guinea-Bissau

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8474</a> 28 February 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau ( <a href="#">S/2019/115</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Côte d'Ivoire ( <a href="#">S/2019/187</a> )	Guinea-Bissau <sup>a</sup>		Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau	Resolution <a href="#">2458 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8614</a> 10 September 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on Developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau ( <a href="#">S/2019/664</a> ). Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made with regard to the stabilization and restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau ( <a href="#">S/2019/696</a> )		Guinea-Bissau	Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8656</a> 4 November 2019						<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/13</a>

<sup>a</sup> Guinea-Bissau was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities.

## 8. Central African region

In 2019, the Security Council held three meetings and issued one presidential statement concerning the item entitled “Central African region”. Except for one meeting that was held for the adoption of a decision, all other meetings took the form of briefings.<sup>133</sup> More information on meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During its meetings under this item in 2019, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) further to the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Region.<sup>134</sup> The Special Representative apprised the Council on the activities of UNOCA, its continued cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), and its activities as the Secretariat for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC).<sup>135</sup> The Special Representative expressed appreciation for the Council’s support for UNOCA and stated that UNOCA was working to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations in the strategic review of UNOCA.<sup>136</sup>

The Council was also briefed by the Deputy Director of Policy of the Enough Project, who recommended that the Council and UNOCA strategically focus on the financial aspect of crises in the Central African region in order to address and prevent violent conflict in the Central African region. He suggested enhancing engagement with key international partners on transparency reforms that could help prevent conflict, refocusing sanctions to target networks of spoilers to peace processes, and engaging with banks and other financial institutions to combat money laundering and conflict financing and to address sanctions’ implementation issues.<sup>137</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>134</sup> See [S/2019/430](#) and [S/2019/913](#).

<sup>135</sup> [S/PV.8538](#) and [S/PV.8679](#).

<sup>136</sup> [S/PV.8679](#).

<sup>137</sup> Ibid.

In 2019, the Council's deliberations focused on major political and security developments as well as on the humanitarian, socio-economic and human rights challenges affecting the Central African region. On the political front, Council members specifically addressed the signing and implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic,<sup>138</sup> as well as the peaceful elections and transition of power in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the elections in several Central African countries, including Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad.<sup>139</sup> Concerning the security situation, deliberations focused on the continued security threats posed by Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army to the Central African region and beyond,<sup>140</sup> the tensions caused by the illicit exploitation and trafficking of natural resources in the region,<sup>141</sup> and the maritime security challenges in the Gulf of Guinea.<sup>142</sup> With respect to the humanitarian, socio-economic and human rights challenges, discussions highlighted the need to address the issue of pastoralism and transhumance,<sup>143</sup> as well as the impact of climate change on the population of Central Africa and the region's geopolitical situation.<sup>144</sup>

In addition, in 2019, the Council's discussions under this item also addressed the crisis in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon.<sup>145</sup> Council members expressed concern about the ongoing security, human rights and humanitarian situation in the country and the impact of the conflict on the entire Central African region.<sup>146</sup> While some

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<sup>138</sup> [S/PV.8538](#), United Kingdom, France, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Germany, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Russian Federation and Kuwait; and [S/PV.8679](#), United Kingdom, Equatorial Guinea, Dominican Republic, Russian Federation, Indonesia and United States.

<sup>139</sup> [S/PV.8538](#), Côte d'Ivoire, China, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia and Kuwait; and [S/PV.8679](#), United Kingdom, Belgium and Kuwait.

<sup>140</sup> [S/PV.8538](#), United Kingdom, Poland, France, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Peru, Indonesia, Russian Federation and Kuwait; and [S/PV.8679](#), United Kingdom, Equatorial Guinea, Dominican Republic, Belgium, Russian Federation, Kuwait, Poland, Peru, Indonesia, China and Germany.

<sup>141</sup> [S/PV.8538](#), Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, South Africa, Peru, Indonesia and Russian Federation; and [S/PV.8679](#), Belgium, Russian Federation, Peru and Indonesia.

<sup>142</sup> [S/PV.8538](#), China, South Africa, Peru and Russian Federation; and [S/PV.8679](#), Russian Federation.

<sup>143</sup> [S/PV.8538](#), France, Belgium, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Peru and Kuwait; and [S/PV.8679](#), Dominican Republic.

<sup>144</sup> [S/PV.8538](#), Poland, Dominican Republic, Germany, Equatorial Guinea and Kuwait; and [S/PV.8679](#), Equatorial Guinea, Dominican Republic, Kuwait and Germany.

<sup>145</sup> [S/PV.8538](#), United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Peru, United States, and Kuwait and [S/PV.8679](#), United Kingdom, Equatorial Guinea, Dominican Republic, Belgium, Russian Federation, Kuwait, Poland and United States.

<sup>146</sup> See [S/PV.8538](#), United Kingdom, Poland, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, Peru, Equatorial Guinea, United States and Kuwait; and [S/PV.8679](#), United Kingdom, Dominican Republic, Belgium, Poland, Peru and United States.



supported the role of UNOCA, the African Union, ECCAS and other regional and subregional organizations in resolving the conflict and addressing the humanitarian and human rights situation in the country,<sup>147</sup> others emphasized that the issues in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon were not on the Council's agenda and that the international community should respect the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.<sup>148</sup>

The issues outlined above were also addressed in the only decision of the Council in connection with this item in 2019. On 12 September 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement welcoming UNOCA's role in non-mission settings such as Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome and Principe.<sup>149</sup> Noting the Secretary-General's strategic review of UNOCA,<sup>150</sup> the Council acknowledged that the mandate of UNOCA remained valid and reaffirmed the following as key priorities for the remainder of its mandate: enhancing its work on early warning and analysis with a gender perspective; good offices in non-mission settings, particularly in the lead up to the upcoming electoral cycle in the region; support for and strengthening the capacity of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); and building partnerships with civil society and supporting sub-regional civil society networks.<sup>151</sup>

In the same presidential statement, the Council encouraged further enhanced cooperation between UNOCA and other regional entities to address cross-border threats and inter-regional issues, such as the Lake Chad Basin crisis, transhumance, forced displacement, and maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. The Council further encouraged UNOCA to take into consideration climate change, ecological changes and natural disasters among other factors affecting the stability of the Central African Region, and further requested that such information be taken into consideration by UNOCA in its activities.<sup>152</sup>

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<sup>147</sup> [S/PV.8538](#), United Kingdom, Dominican Republic, Peru, United States and Kuwait and [S/PV.8679](#), United Kingdom, Dominican Republic, Peru, Germany and United States.

<sup>148</sup> [S/PV.8538](#).

<sup>149</sup> [S/PRST/2019/10](#), second paragraph.

<sup>150</sup> See [S/2019/625](#).

<sup>151</sup> [S/PRST/2019/10](#), fourth paragraph. For more information regarding the mandate of UNOCA, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>152</sup> [S/PRST/2019/10](#), fifth paragraph.

## Meetings: Central African region

<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.8538</a> 4 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa ( <a href="#">S/2019/430</a> )			Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)	All Council members, invitee	
<a href="#">S/PV.8618</a> 12 September 2019						<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/10</a>
<a href="#">S/PV.8679</a> 6 December 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa ( <a href="#">S/2019/913</a> )			Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Deputy Director of Policy, Enough Project	12 Council members <sup>a</sup> all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> United Kingdom, Equatorial Guinea (speaking on behalf of the three African members of the Security Council: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa), Dominican Republic, Belgium, Russian Federation, Kuwait, Poland, Peru, Indonesia, China, Germany and United States.

## **9. Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan**

During the period under review, the Security Council held 28 meetings, adopted ten resolutions, seven under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued one presidential statement under the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”. Eighteen meetings took the form of briefings, while ten meetings were convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>153</sup> In addition, the Council held two closed meetings with countries contributing troops and police to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).<sup>154</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes is given in the tables below. The Council also conducted a mission to Ethiopia and South Sudan from 19 to 23 October 2019.<sup>155</sup> Consistent with prior practice, in the context of these meetings, the Council considered several distinct topics, principally the situation in Darfur and the mandate of UNAMID; the relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, the situation in the Abyei Area, and the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA); and the situation in South Sudan and the mandate of UNMISS.<sup>156</sup> The Council also considered the work of the Committees and Panels of Experts concerning the Sudan and South Sudan, as well as the implementation of resolution [1593 \(2005\)](#), by which the Council referred the situation in Darfur to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.<sup>157</sup>

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<sup>153</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>154</sup> Held on 5 March 2019, under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B – South Sudan”, see [S/PV.8478](#); and on 6 June 2018, under the item entitled, “Meetings of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B – Darfur”, see [S/PV.8279](#).

<sup>155</sup> For more information on the Council’s mission to Ethiopia and South Sudan, see part I, sect. 33.

<sup>156</sup> For more information on the mandates of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, see part X, sect. I.

<sup>157</sup> For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan and their respective Panels of Experts, see part IX, sect. I. B.

In relation to the situation in Darfur, the Council focused on the events at the national level surrounding the overthrow of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, including demonstrations, attacks against civilians, the establishment of a transitional government and the impact of these events on Darfur. Council members also discussed progress made and future plans for the drawdown, reconfiguration and eventual exit of UNAMID.

The Council was briefed on a quarterly basis by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur and Head of UNAMID, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Departments of Peace Operations and Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. The Council also heard statements from the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

On 25 February 2019, the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa informed the Council that, in the context of ongoing demonstrations in the Sudan against economic and political conditions, President al-Bashir had declared a state of emergency throughout the country for a period of one year. Regarding Darfur, she highlighted the intermittent clashes between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid in Jebel Marra and the increase in sexual violence. Citing the progress made in the drawdown and reconfiguration of UNAMID, she drew attention to the resource challenges faced in the transition of the Mission's tasks to the United Nations country team and the Government of the Sudan.<sup>158</sup>

On 17 April 2019, the Joint Special Representative for Darfur updated the Council on the events surrounding the removal of President al-Bashir from power on 11 April 2019, followed by the establishment of the Transitional Military Council and the initiation of dialogue with the opposition on the political transition. He noted that, on 15 April 2019, the African Union Peace and Security Council had issued a communique calling on the Transitional Military Council to install a transitional civilian authority within 15 days, failing which the Sudan would be suspended from all African Union activities. The Joint Special Representative also reported that

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<sup>158</sup> [S/PV.8468](#).

protests continued across the Sudan, with demands for the immediate transfer of power to a civilian authority, as well as violence in many locations in Darfur.<sup>159</sup>

In his briefings to the Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations reported on the signing of agreements on 17 August 2019 between the Transitional Military Council and the Forces of Freedom and Change on transitional arrangements for the 39-month forthcoming period in the Sudan, including the establishment of a Sovereign Council and the appointment of a Prime Minister.<sup>160</sup> Also consistent with the transitional arrangements, he highlighted the signing of the Juba Declaration for Confidence-building Procedures and the Preparation for Negotiation on 11 September 2019, between the Sovereign Council and a number of armed groups providing a road map and trust-building agreement for the peace process.<sup>161</sup> Regarding the situation in Darfur, the Under-Secretary-General cautioned that the uncertainty of the negotiations at the national level could have repercussions well beyond Khartoum and lead to an escalation of violence.<sup>162</sup> He expressed concern regarding the looting of the UNAMID super camp in El Geneina and the decision of the Transitional Military Council requesting the Mission to hand over all of its camps to the Rapid Support Forces. On 1 October 2019, the Under-Secretary-General also presented the findings of the joint African Union-United Nations strategic review of UNAMID further to resolution [2429 \(2018\)](#), as well as the assessment of the situation on the ground and the options for a follow-on presence further to resolution [2495 \(2019\)](#), the latter recommending aligning the UNAMID transition with the pace of peace talks between the Government and the armed groups in Juba.<sup>163</sup>

In his remarks, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security described the overall security situation in Darfur as volatile, with continued fighting in Jebel Marra and intercommunal conflict. He also stated that the inadequate footprint and capacity of the rule of law institutions outside the main urban centres continued to have an adverse impact on the security situation and in terms of ensuring accountability for serious crimes and human rights

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<sup>159</sup> [S/PV.8513](#).

<sup>160</sup> [S/PV.8603](#).

<sup>161</sup> [S/PV.8643](#).

<sup>162</sup> [S/PV.8549](#).

<sup>163</sup> [S/PV.8643](#).

violations. Regarding the peace talks at the national level, he underscored that it was important that the international community took a coordinated approach to support the process to ensure inclusivity and a successful outcome. The Commissioner added that the United Nations and the African Union would continue joint efforts to help all stakeholders seize the unique opportunity for ending the armed conflict in the Sudan as a whole.<sup>164</sup>

In her briefing to the Council, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs drew attention to the continued food insecurity across the Sudan and in Darfur. She noted that greater support for development activities was needed as well as scaled up Government investment in crucial services such as social protection. She also called on the Government to take further measures to improve the operating environment for humanitarian organizations.<sup>165</sup> The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights reported that the political developments in Khartoum had some ripple effect in Darfur, with demonstrations in major towns and a rise in the number of documented human rights violations. He underlined that the human rights mandate of UNAMID was of paramount significance, including through continued monitoring and reporting in the whole of Darfur and reinforcing the capacity of national institutions to protect and promote human rights through the State liaison functions.<sup>166</sup>

Concerning the decisions on UNAMID, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions [2479 \(2019\)](#) and [2495 \(2019\)](#), acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, extending the mandate of UNAMID, until 31 October 2019 and 31 October 2020, respectively.<sup>167</sup> While both resolutions maintained the Mission's authorized troop ceiling, resolution [2495 \(2019\)](#) modified its priorities.<sup>168</sup> By resolution [2495 \(2019\)](#), the Council also welcomed the signing of the constitutional declaration on 17 August 2019 and commended the launch of peace negotiations on 14 October 2019.<sup>169</sup>

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<sup>164</sup> [S/PV.8603](#).

<sup>165</sup> [S/PV.8513](#).

<sup>166</sup> [S/PV.8549](#).

<sup>167</sup> Resolutions [2479 \(2019\)](#), para. 1 and [2495 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>168</sup> Resolution [2495 \(2019\)](#), para. 3. For further information on the mandate of UNAMID, see part X, sect. I.

<sup>169</sup> Resolution [2495 \(2019\)](#), fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs.

In addition to the above and consistent with established practice pursuant to resolution [1593 \(2005\)](#), the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court briefed the Council twice in 2019 in relation to Darfur. Noting the dramatic change in circumstances in the Sudan, the Prosecutor stated that the country remained under a legal obligation to transfer the five suspects in relation to the Darfur situation to the Court unless it could demonstrate that it was willing and genuinely able to prosecute them for the same cases. She expressed the readiness of her office to engage with the new transitional government for this purpose. The Prosecutor also condemned the continued violence in parts of Darfur and the attacks against civilian protestors in Khartoum on 3 June 2019.<sup>170</sup>

In addition to the regular briefings on Darfur and the briefings by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, the Council heard quarterly briefings by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan in which she updated on the recommendations of the final report of the Panel of Experts for 2018,<sup>171</sup> including, inter alia, for the Council to urge the Libyan warring factions to stop cooperating with the Darfuri armed groups. The Chair also provided an overview of the activities of the Committee during the reporting period and of her visit to Khartoum and Darfur from 11 to 14 November 2019.<sup>172</sup> In 2019, the Council renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts by resolution [2455 \(2019\)](#), unanimously adopted on 7 February 2019, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter. The Council extended the Panel's mandate for a period of one year until 12 March 2020.<sup>173</sup> In this resolution, the Council further expressed its intention to establish clear, well identified, and measurable key benchmarks that could serve in guiding the Council to review measures on the Government of the Sudan.<sup>174</sup>

With respect to the Abyei Area and relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, the Council was briefed on two occasions each by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa. The Under-Secretary-

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<sup>170</sup> [S/PV.8554](#) and [S/PV.8691](#).

<sup>171</sup> See [S/2019/34](#).

<sup>172</sup> [S/PV.8446](#), [S/PV.8490](#), [S/PV.8632](#) and [S/PV.8684](#).

<sup>173</sup> Resolution [2455 \(2019\)](#), para. 2.

<sup>174</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 4.

General observed an improvement in relations between the Sudan and South Sudan and a reaffirmation of their commitments under the Cooperation Agreement of 2012. He also pointed out a lack of progress in the resolution of the final status of Abyei or the establishment of joint governance institutions. The Under-Secretary-General briefed Council members on the operational challenges faced by UNISFA and presented the recommendations of the Secretary-General for the reconfiguration of the Mission allowing for the postponement in the reduction of troops and the strengthening of its civilian personnel.<sup>175</sup> Beyond the increase in bilateral discussions between the two countries, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General highlighted the support that the Sudan and South Sudan had provided to each other's peace processes. He also referred to the situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, particularly the declaration of indefinite ceasefires by the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North and the lack of further progress in peace talks on this region.

Concerning the decisions on UNISFA, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions [2465 \(2019\)](#), [2469 \(2019\)](#) and [2497 \(2019\)](#), extending thrice the mandate of the Mission to support the Joint Border Monitoring and Verification Mechanism as well as the Mission's mandate in connection with Abyei Area, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter.<sup>176</sup> By resolutions [2469 \(2019\)](#) and [2497 \(2019\)](#), the Council reiterated its request to the Sudan and South Sudan to demonstrate measurable progress on border demarcations, including with respect to facilitating Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and withdrawing their forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone.<sup>177</sup> On Abyei, the Council expressed disappointment that the parties obstructed the full implementation of UNISFA's mandate and took few steps to implement the 2011 Agreement and requested the Secretary-General to consult with the parties and the African Union on specific steps that could be taken in this regard.<sup>178</sup>

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<sup>175</sup> [S/PV.8519](#) and [S/PV.8644](#).

<sup>176</sup> Resolutions [2465 \(2019\)](#), para. 1; [2469 \(2019\)](#), para. 1; and [2497 \(2019\)](#), paras. 1 and 2. By resolution [2492 \(2019\)](#) of 15 October 2019, the Council also provided for a one-month technical roll-over of the Mission's Border Mechanism mandate until 15 November 2019 (see resolution [2492 \(2019\)](#), para. 1). For further information on the mandate of UNISFA, see part X, sect. I.

<sup>177</sup> Resolutions [2469 \(2019\)](#), para. 11 and [2497 \(2019\)](#), para. 3.

<sup>178</sup> Resolutions [2469 \(2019\)](#), para. 8 and [2497 \(2019\)](#), para. 9.



Regarding South Sudan, the meetings of the Council focused on the delays in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan of September 2018 and the efforts to address the main outstanding issues of the pre-transitional phase of the agreement. The Council heard quarterly briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMISS. In addition, the Council heard single briefings by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, the founder of “Hope Restoration South Sudan”, a non-governmental organization, and a representative of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission. The Council was also briefed once by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#).

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported that the Revitalized Agreement continued to hold and resulted in a significant reduction in political violence. He nonetheless expressed regret regarding the extension of the deadline for the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity and the lack of progress in the reunification of security forces, the resolution of the state boundary issue, and the drafting of the transitional constitution. He called on the parties to demonstrate political will to address these issues and commended the good offices support of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union, UNMISS, South Africa and Uganda. In terms of positive developments, the Special Representative praised the holding of local-level meetings and rapprochements between Government and opposition representatives and the face-to-face meetings between President Kiir and Riek Machar in Juba. Insofar as it concerned UNMISS, the Special Representative informed the Council that peacekeepers were moving away from a static type of deployment protection at the protection of civilians sites to increase confidence-building patrols in areas of return further to the report of the Secretary-General on the future planning for the protection of civilians sites of 12 September 2019.<sup>179</sup> He also underlined that despite some

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<sup>179</sup> See [S/2019/741](#).

improvements in the humanitarian situation since the signing of the Agreement, the majority of the population remained food-insecure and lacked basic services.<sup>180</sup>

The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights welcomed a significant decrease in human rights violations and abuses since September 2018. Nevertheless, he also noted the continued prevalence of sexual violence, an increase in politically motivated intercommunal violence, and the restriction of the political and civic space. He gave an overview of UNMISS support for the State to deliver justice at local levels and engagement with the authorities. The representative of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board focused her remarks on the impact of the conflict on women and girls. She called for the strengthening of women's participation in decision-making processes and the importance of consulting with civil society and women-led organizations in the political process. The founder of "Hope Restoration South Sudan" stressed the need to implement the 35 percent quota reserved for women under the Revitalized Agreement and urged the Council to request international donors and humanitarian actors to work with South Sudanese local non-governmental organizations.<sup>181</sup>

Concerning the decisions on UNMISS and South Sudan, on 15 March 2019, the Council adopted resolution [2459 \(2019\)](#), acting under Chapter VII of the Charter. By this resolution, the Council extended the mandate of UNMISS for a period of one year introducing some modifications to its tasks while maintaining its overall composition.<sup>182</sup> The resolution was adopted with 14 votes in favour and one abstention.<sup>183</sup> Explaining the decision to abstain in the vote, the representative of the Russian Federation expressed disappointment with the reluctance of some Council members to welcome the Revitalized Agreement and expressed concern at the listing of UNMISS tasks related to gender and human rights before the provision of support to the Agreement.<sup>184</sup> The representative of China clarified that despite his delegation's favourable vote to the resolution, the text still needed improvement, noting that the Council had to fully acknowledge the importance and positive significance of the Revitalized Agreement and

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<sup>180</sup> [S/PV.8480](#), [S/PV.8560](#), [S/PV.8621](#) and [S/PV.8689](#).

<sup>181</sup> [S/PV.8480](#).

<sup>182</sup> Resolution [2459 \(2019\)](#), paras. 5 and 6. For more information on the mandate of UNMISS, see part X, sect. I.

<sup>183</sup> [S/PV.8484](#).

UNMISS should focus on facilitating the implementation of the Agreement in order to help sustain the positive momentum in South Sudan. He also noted with regard to the issue of improving the Mission's performance, the need for the Secretariat and the Mission's military, police and civilian components to work together and include the full participation of troop-contributing countries, with a view to enabling the Mission to carry out its functions better.<sup>185</sup>

In addition, on 8 October 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement in which it described the Revitalized Agreement as an important step forward in the peace process.<sup>186</sup> The Council also welcomed some of the positive developments resulting from the agreement, including the reduction in political violence, the return of some representatives of the opposition to Juba, the formation of certain institutions and mechanisms provided under the Revitalized Agreement, joint peacebuilding activities at the local level, and an improved humanitarian environment in many areas.<sup>187</sup> The Council called for senior leadership of the parties to resolve outstanding issues to allow for the peaceful formation of the transitional government and urged them to expedite the implementation of security arrangements and to continue consultations on the number and boundaries of states with a view towards finding a common solution.<sup>188</sup>

In addition to the regular briefings relating to South Sudan and UNMISS, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) on her visit to South Sudan, Uganda, the Sudan and Ethiopia from 6 to 15 October 2019 as well as on the recommendations contained in the interim report of the Panel of Experts and the Committee's work during 2019.<sup>189</sup> On 30 May 2019, the Council adopted resolution [2471 \(2019\)](#), acting under Chapter VII of the Charter. By this resolution, the Council extended the travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo on South Sudan until 31 May 2020, as well as the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 30 June 2020.<sup>190</sup> The resolution was adopted with 10 votes in favour and five abstentions.<sup>191</sup> Abstaining Council members said that the extension of the

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<sup>186</sup> [S/PRST/2019/11](#), first paragraph.

<sup>187</sup> Ibid., third paragraphs.

<sup>188</sup> Ibid., second and fourth paragraphs.

<sup>189</sup> [S/PV.8689](#).

<sup>190</sup> Resolution [2471 \(2019\)](#), paras. 1, 2 and 3.

<sup>191</sup> [S/PV. 8536](#).

sanctions without modification would not support the positive political momentum on the ground or the mediation efforts of the African Union and IGAD.<sup>192</sup> Other Council members who voted in favour of the draft resolution noted the importance of extending the sanctions measures in order to maintain pressure on the parties and to stop the flow of arms and further acts of violence.<sup>193</sup>

For the purposes of facilitating the coverage of this item, the meetings are set out below under three separate heading concerning Darfur, the relations between the Sudan and South Sudan and Abyei, and South Sudan.

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<sup>192</sup> Ibid., South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Russian Federation, China, Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>193</sup> Ibid., United States, Poland, Belgium, Germany, France, United Kingdom.

## Meetings: Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan – Darfur

<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.8446</a> 17 January 2019			Sudan		All Council members <sup>a</sup> , Sudan	
<a href="#">S/PV.8458</a> 7 February 2019	Letter dated 10 January 2019 from the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1591 (2005)</a> addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/34</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/114</a> )	Sudan		Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2455 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8468</a> 25 February 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur ( <a href="#">S/2019/44</a> )		Sudan	Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8490</a> 26 March 2019			Sudan		One Council member (Poland) <sup>b</sup> , Sudan	
<a href="#">S/PV.8513</a> 17 April 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur ( <a href="#">S/2019/305</a> )		Sudan	Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members <sup>c</sup> , all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8549</a> 14 June 2019	Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur ( <a href="#">S/2019/445</a> )		Sudan	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8554</a> 19 June 2019			Sudan	Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8565</a> 26 June 2019					One Council member (Poland) <sup>b</sup>	

<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.8566</a> 27 June 2019	Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur ( <a href="#">S/2019/445</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Germany and the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/525</a> )	Sudan		11 Council members <sup>e</sup> , Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2479 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8603</a> 26 August 2019			Sudan	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security	All Council members, all invitees <sup>f</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8632</a> 3 October 2019					One Council member (Poland) <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8643</a> 17 October 2019	Special Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur ( <a href="#">S/2019/816</a> )		Sudan	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations	13 Council members <sup>g</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8654</a> 31 October 2019	Special Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur ( <a href="#">S/2019/816</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Germany and the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/849</a> )	Sudan		Four Council members (France, Germany, United Kingdom, United States), Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2495 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8684</a> 12 December 2019			Sudan		One Council member (Poland) <sup>b</sup> , Sudan	
<a href="#">S/PV.8691</a> 18 December 2019			Sudan	Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court	All Council members, all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> The representative of Poland spoke twice, once in her capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) and once in her national capacity.

<sup>b</sup> Poland briefed as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#).

<sup>c</sup> Germany was represented by its Minister of State.

<sup>d</sup> The Joint Special Representative participated in the meeting via videoconference from Khartoum.

<sup>e</sup> China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States. The representative of South Africa spoke on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>f</sup> The Under-Secretary-General and the Commissioner participated in the meeting via videoconference from Paris and Tokyo, respectively.

<sup>g</sup> Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States. The representative of Equatorial Guinea spoke on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire and South Africa.

## Meetings: Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan – the Sudan, South Sudan and Abyei

<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.8509</a> 12 April 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/307</a> )	Sudan, South Sudan		All invitees	Resolution <a href="#">2465 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8519</a> 30 April 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei ( <a href="#">S/2019/319</a> )		Sudan, South Sudan	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8524</a> 14 May 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/381</a> )	Sudan, South Sudan		Three Council members (China, Russian Federation, United States), all invitees	Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8640</a> 15 October 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/807</a> )				Resolution <a href="#">2492 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8644</a> 24 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei ( <a href="#">S/2019/817</a> )		Sudan, South Sudan	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8663</a> 14 November 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/879</a> )	Sudan		Two Council members (Indonesia and the United States), Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2497 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (Chapter VII)

<sup>a</sup> The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General participated in the meeting via videoconference from Addis Ababa.



## Meetings: Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan – South Sudan

<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.8480</a> 8 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 1 December 2018 to 26 February 2019) ( <a href="#">S/2019/191</a> )		South Sudan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Founder of Hope Restoration South Sudan	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8484</a> 15 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 1 December 2018 to 26 February 2019) ( <a href="#">S/2019/191</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/225</a> )	South Sudan		Four Council members (China, Kuwait, Russian Federation and the United States), South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a> 14-0-1 <sup>a</sup> (Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8536</a> 30 May 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/441</a> )			14 Council members <sup>b</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2471 (2019)</a> 10-0-5 <sup>c</sup> (Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8560</a> 25 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in South Sudan ( <a href="#">S/2019/491</a> )		South Sudan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, representative of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board, Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission	All Council members, all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8621</a> 18 September 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in South Sudan ( <a href="#">S/2019/722</a> )		South Sudan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8634</a> 8 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on future planning for the protection of civilian sites in South Sudan ( <a href="#">S/2019/741</a> )					<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/11</a>

<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.8689</a> 17 December 2019				Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS	13 Council members <sup>e</sup> , Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS <sup>f</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> *For:* Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States; abstaining: Russian Federation.

<sup>b</sup> Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>c</sup> *For:* Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; abstaining: China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Russian Federation, South Africa.

<sup>d</sup> The representative of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board participated in the meeting via videoconference from Juba.

<sup>e</sup> Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States. The representative of South Africa spoke on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea. The representative of Poland spoke twice, once in her capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) and once in her national capacity.

<sup>f</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General participated in the meeting via videoconference from Auckland.

## **10. Peace consolidation in West Africa**

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings and issued one presidential statement under the agenda item “Peace consolidation in West Africa”. Two of the meetings took the form of briefings and one meeting was convened for the adoption of a decision of the Council.<sup>194</sup> More information on the meetings, including invitees, speakers and outcomes, are noted in the table below. In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau from 13 to 17 February 2019.<sup>195</sup>

During its meetings under this agenda item, the Council heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). During his briefings, he presented the succeeding reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOWAS.

In his first briefing, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General focused on the progress being made in the democratic consolidation process in West Africa and the Sahel, despite the persisting and complex security challenges, including the expansion of terrorist activities undertaken by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin region and continued violent clashes between farmers and herders in the region.<sup>196</sup> He also commended the continued and successful partnership between UNOWAS and regional partners, including the Economic Community of West African States, the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel) and the Lake Chad basin Commission, including within the framework of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. He mentioned the promising progress made in the implementation of resolution [2349 \(2017\)](#) to support a regional response to the crisis in the Lake Chad basin and highlighted the adoption of a regional strategy for the stabilization, recovery and resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad basin region by the Council of Ministers of the Lake Chad basin Commission on 30 August 2019. He spoke on the successful elections in Mali, Mauritania, Togo and Côte d’Ivoire while emphasizing the need to continue efforts to prevent and mitigate election-related violence. He also spoke of the allegations of human rights violations by security forces as well as the re-emergence of

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<sup>194</sup> For more information on format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>195</sup> For more information on the Security Council mission, see part I, sect. 34.

<sup>196</sup> [S/PV.8442](#).

self-defence groups fuelling intercommunal tensions in some countries. He noted that during the annual review of progress made in West Africa and the Sahel concerning the implementation of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), the discrimination against and marginalization of women from political processes had been once again highlighted, with women accounting for fewer than 15 per cent of parliamentarians. In that regard, he affirmed that his Office would continue to work with all regional actors to strengthen the role of women in the region.

The discussion among Council members focused on building resilience and a favourable environment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as well as on the threat posed by non-State actors, including terrorist groups striving to exploit the intercommunity tension between herders and farmers. Some Council members also highlighted the link between climate change and security in the Sahel leading to tension over resources.<sup>197</sup> The importance of UNOWAS for the upcoming elections was discussed and the role of UNOWAS in providing support for security sector reforms, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes.<sup>198</sup> Council members also expressed concern at the situation of women in the region and called for further action by governments and the international community to see more women in positions of responsibility and decision-making.

In his second briefing, the Representative of the Secretary-General noted that further progress had been made in democratic consolidation in West Africa and the Sahel but that it had not been linear or without complications.<sup>199</sup> He highlighted the gains made in the Gambia and Togo regarding justice and reconciliation and gender parity. Despite gains, he noted that pre- and post -electoral periods continued to be characterized by antagonistic contests and disputes. He noted that addressing such potential sources of conflict remained a major priority ahead of the upcoming cycle of high-stake presidential elections in West Africa, in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Niger and Togo. He mentioned in addition that democratic progress had been delayed and complicated and, on occasion, almost negated by a rapid expansion of violent extremism in the region. In that regard, he mentioned that the security situation remained volatile in the entire Sahel region, where escalating violence and insecurity had sparked an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. In that connection, he urged all

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<sup>197</sup> Ibid., Germany, France, United States, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Belgium and Dominican Republic.

<sup>198</sup> Ibid., Peru and Dominican Republic.

<sup>199</sup> [S/PV.8585](#).

governments and partners to define a concerted approach to preventing a further expansion of terrorist activities and fostering support for medium- and long-term stabilization measures that aligned with the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

In their deliberations at the 8585<sup>th</sup> meeting, Council members focused on the deteriorating security situation affecting the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin. Many Council members highlighted the importance of the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel) in combating terrorism in the region and also highlighted the need to address the root causes.<sup>200</sup> Council members also addressed the challenges posed by climate change and its impact on conflict in the region, welcoming the Council's focus as well as the work of UNOWAS in this respect.<sup>201</sup> At the meeting, Council members acknowledged the progress achieved in the adoption and implementation of gender-parity legislation in several countries in the region, and called on national authorities to enhance the participation of women at all levels.<sup>202</sup>

Most of the issues outlined above were also addressed in the presidential statement issued on 7 August 2019. In the presidential statement, the Council welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to conduct a strategic review of the mandate of UNOWAS and its activities and invited the Secretary-General to present to the Council its recommendations and his observations by 15 November 2019 on potential areas for improvement, including on counter-terrorism and the effects of climate change on security and intercommunal violence, in order to inform the Council's discussion on the renewal of the Mission's mandate expiring on 31 December 2019.<sup>203</sup>

In the presidential statement, the Council expressed its deep concern about the continued deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel region and called for a continued regional and international engagement to help countries in the region address the peace and security challenges they faced.<sup>204</sup> The Council welcomed the leadership demonstrated by countries in West Africa and the Sahel in spearheading initiatives to address security challenges in the region and commended their efforts as well as of the African Union and ECOWAS, to strengthen security while also underlining the need for

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<sup>200</sup> Ibid., Côte d'Ivoire, France Poland, Russian Federation, United States, Kuwait, China, Germany, Indonesia, and Dominican Republic.

<sup>201</sup> Ibid., Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, France, Poland, Germany, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom), Peru.

<sup>202</sup> Ibid., Côte d'Ivoire, France, Poland, Germany, Dominican Republic, Peru.

<sup>203</sup> [S/PRST/2019/7](#), fifth paragraph. For more information on the mandate of UNOWAS, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>204</sup> Ibid., tenth paragraph.

security efforts to be aligned with political objectives and encouraging ECOWAS and the G5 Sahel to identify areas of complementarity in preventing conflict and sustaining peace in the region.<sup>205</sup>

The Council encouraged the consolidation of political reforms in the region to prevent violence and instability and underlined the need for the United Nations to sustain support including in non-mission settings, welcoming the role of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in sustaining peace and peacebuilding efforts.<sup>206</sup> The Council emphasised the important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts, in peacebuilding as well as in post-conflict situations, and stressed the importance of their full, equal, and meaningful participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, as well as the need for an integrated gender perspective in the design and implementation of comprehensive strategies to address root causes of crisis.<sup>207</sup> The Council reiterated its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of all countries in West Africa and the Sahel while also underlining the need for a more integrated, cross-pillar approach across the development, humanitarian, human rights and peace and security nexus, including to address root causes of crises.<sup>208</sup> The Council also recognised the adverse effects of climate change, ecological changes and natural disasters among other factors on the stability of West Africa and the Sahel region and stressed the need for long-term strategies, based on risk assessments, by governments and the United Nations, to support stabilisation and build resilience and encouraged UNOWAS to continue to integrate this information in its activities.<sup>209</sup>

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<sup>205</sup> Ibid., nineteenth paragraph.

<sup>206</sup> Ibid., fourteenth paragraph.

<sup>207</sup> Ibid., sixteenth and seventeenth paragraphs.

<sup>208</sup> Ibid., sixth and twenty-seventh paragraphs.

<sup>209</sup> Ibid., twenty-fifth paragraph.

## Meetings: Peace consolidation in West Africa

<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.8442</a> 10 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel ( <a href="#">S/2018/1175</a> )			Special Representative of the members, Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	All Council invitee	
<a href="#">S/PV.8585</a> 24 July 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel ( <a href="#">S/2019/549</a> )			Special Representative of the members <sup>a</sup> , Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	13 Council invitee	
<a href="#">S/PV.8592</a> 7 August 2019						<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/7</a>

<sup>a</sup> Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire (spoke on behalf of the African members of the Council, including Equatorial Guinea and South Africa), Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Kuwait, Indonesia, Poland (President of the Security Council), Peru, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

## 11. Peace and security in Africa

During the period under review, the Security Council held nine meetings and issued two presidential statements under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”. Five of the meetings took the form of briefings, two were debates and two were convened for the adoption of decisions of the Council.<sup>210</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Ethiopia and South Sudan from 17 to 23 October.<sup>211</sup>

In 2019, the Council held two meetings focusing on the activities of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel further to the reports of the Secretary-General.<sup>212</sup> In addition, the Council held four other meetings focusing on a variety of themes including partnership to strengthen regional peace and security, mobilizing the youth in silencing the guns in Africa by 2020, preventative diplomacy and conflict prevention and on intercommunal violence and terrorism in West Africa. The Council also heard a briefing on the joint mission by the United Nations and the African Union to Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia in October 2019.

Concerning the activities of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, the Council heard briefings in May and November 2019. On 16 May 2019, the Council heard the briefings of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso, the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, the African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.<sup>213</sup> The Assistant Secretary-General described the situation in Mali and the Sahel as extremely worrisome, stating that the region faced serious problems, ranging from climate change and drought to growing insecurity, violent extremism, and the illicit trafficking in persons, weapons and drugs as terrorist groups continued to spread beyond borders. She added that while encouraged by the resumption of the Joint Force’s operations in January 2019 after the terrorist attack on its headquarters, it was essential to maintain the momentum, urging the G-5 Sahel member States to urgently

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<sup>210</sup> For more information on format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>211</sup> For more information, see part I, sect. 33.

<sup>212</sup> See [S/2019/371](#) and [S/2019/868](#).

<sup>213</sup> [S/PV.8526](#).



accelerate the full operationalization of the Joint Force to reach its full operational capacity.<sup>214</sup> Speaking on behalf of the G-5 Sahel member States, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso reported on the composition of the Joint Force and requested the Council to accede to establish a new United Nations approach to support the Joint Force with the goal of equipping the Joint Force to better respond to security challenges.<sup>215</sup> The African Union High Representative described the security situation in the Sahelo-Saharan region and reported that the Peace and Security Council had renewed the mandate of the Joint Force at its meeting on 9 April, while also noting the progress that had been made, the operations conducted and the support that countries continued to provide to the Force. He also emphasized that the operationalization of the G-5 Sahel Joint Force had now become an absolute and urgent necessity.<sup>216</sup> The European Union Special Representative for the Sahel, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime described their respective cooperation with the Joint Force.<sup>217</sup> In the discussion, some Council members reiterated the requests from the Heads of State of the Joint Force for the Council to approve a Chapter VII mandate in order to provide additional political legitimacy and to accelerate the establishment of the Joint Force Trust Fund, enabling direct and predictable financing through assessed contributions.<sup>218</sup> Council members also expressed concerns about the excessive militarization of the region, noting that the Joint Force could not operate solely based on a security-driven approach,<sup>219</sup> and required instead a holistic approach, addressing root causes, encompassing poverty reduction, good governance, development, humanitarian assistance and security.<sup>220</sup>

On 20 November, the Council heard again the briefings by the Assistant-Secretary-General for Africa and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso on behalf of the G-5 Sahel. Both emphasized the worrisome security situation in the region and the importance of resolution [2480 \(2019\)](#) adopted on 28 June 2019, in connection with the situation in Mali, facilitating the support to the Joint Force through the United Nations Multidimensional

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<sup>214</sup> Ibid.

<sup>215</sup> Ibid.

<sup>216</sup> Ibid.

<sup>217</sup> Ibid.

<sup>218</sup> Ibid. Côte d'Ivoire, United States of America, Equatorial Guinea and Belgium.

<sup>219</sup> Ibid., Equatorial Guinea and Russian Federation.

<sup>220</sup> Ibid., France, China, United States of America, Russian Federation, Germany, Peru, South Africa, Kuwait, and Indonesia.

Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).<sup>221</sup> The Permanent Observer of the African Union stressed that the support of the countries in the region as well as that of the African Union, the United Nations and the entire international community, was an absolute priority for winning the fight against terrorism in the region.<sup>222</sup> The Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service focused on the European Union's contribution and support to the Joint Force, including through MINUSMA and stated that in order to achieve the dual objective of empowering partners and mobilizing regional and international actors, the support and leverage of the Security Council were more essential than ever.<sup>223</sup> In addition, the Council heard a briefing by the President of the Association of African Women for Research and Development who focused on three key issues, namely, access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence; full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of peace and security; and ensuring that MINUSMA and the Joint Force were able to respond to the security needs of the communities. She concluded by stating that the solution to the complex dynamics of the conflict in Mali would not be found on the battlefield, but would emerge from dialogue and genuine regard for the concerns of ordinary people and urged Council members to use their power to make it happen.<sup>224</sup> In the discussion, Council members expressed support for the Secretary-General's recommendation to the Council to lift the geographical restrictions, providing support through MINUSMA to all battalions operating within the framework of the Joint Force. Council members also commended the decision by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to mobilize one billion United States dollars to tackle terrorism.

Concerning the partnership to strengthen regional peace and security, on 26 September, the Council held a ministerial level debate at the initiative of the Russian Federation which held the Presidency for the month.<sup>225</sup> At the meeting, the Council heard the briefing of the Chef de Cabinet who highlighted the successful and intensifying cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the various subregional organizations. She further noted that the African Union Peace Fund was at the highest level of assessed contributions, while stressing the importance of ensuring predictable and sustainable

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<sup>221</sup> [S/PV.8670](#).

<sup>222</sup> Ibid.

<sup>223</sup> Ibid.

<sup>224</sup> Ibid.

<sup>225</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter from Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and the Russian Federation dated 13 September 2019 ([S/2019/743](#)).

financing for African led peace support operations.<sup>226</sup> The Council also heard the briefing of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission who also made reference to the funding proposal for African peacekeeping operations and stated that the overarching duty of Africa was to bear responsibility for a significant part of that funding. He also added that it could not in any way relieve the Security Council, the sole organ truly responsible for peace in the world, of its obligations to provide funding for those operations from the appropriate resources of the United Nations. He considered that issue to be at the heart of peace and security concerns in Africa.<sup>227</sup> In the discussion, Council members addressed the need for predictable and sustainable funding for African-led initiatives as well as dedicated sources of funding for peace support operations. Cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and various subregional organizations, including the African-led “Silence the Guns 2020” initiative, was also highlighted during deliberations.

On the question of mobilizing the youth in silencing the guns by 2020, the Council held a debate on 2 October 2019, at the initiative of South Africa which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>228</sup> gathering among others, African youth leaders along with the Secretary General’s Special adviser on Africa and a delegate from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Their briefings focused on the need to create more opportunities for youth in the decision-making process and to improve livelihoods to prevent conflict.<sup>229</sup> The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa pointed out that Africa was the world’s youngest continent and that urgent efforts were needed to combat threats to peace and security, especially radicalization violent extremism sexual violence, xenophobia and forced migration. She drew attention to the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and its Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to silence the guns by 2020 calling for enhanced support from the United Nations, regional groups and the private sector.<sup>230</sup> The personal experiences of youth activists were echoed at the debate, highlighting the effects of terrorism, war, unemployment and climate change on youth and spotlighting youth uprising in Tunisia, Senegal, Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya among other countries.<sup>231</sup> Council members discussed the crucial role played by the Council in drawing attention to resolutions [2250 \(2015\)](#) and [2419 \(2018\)](#) in

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<sup>226</sup> [S/PV.8627](#).

<sup>227</sup> Ibid.

<sup>228</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 30 September 2019 ([S/2019/779](#)).

<sup>229</sup> [S/PV.8629](#).

<sup>230</sup> Ibid.

<sup>231</sup> Ibid.

support for the youth engagement in international peace and security.<sup>232</sup> They also recognized the specific challenges faced by the youth in conflict and called for more investment in youth employment and education to prevent radicalization and their participation in organized crime.<sup>233</sup>

Regarding preventative diplomacy and conflict prevention, the Council held a debate on 7 October at the initiative of South Africa which held the Presidency for the month.<sup>234</sup> At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Associate Director of the Institute for African Studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, the Programme Manager of African Women in Dialogue of South Africa; the Manager of the Zanele Mbeki Development, the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations; and the Permanent Observer of the Economic Community of Central African States to the United Nations. The briefings focused on the work of the United Nations and its regional partners in Africa in addressing the root causes of conflict. Briefers differed in their proposals to address root causes of conflict. While some of them called for a proactive and a regionally engaged approach by the Council<sup>235</sup>, others called for a community driven approach, especially one that supported locally owned women-led peace efforts.<sup>236</sup>

The Secretary-General commended the successful African-led initiatives but stated that the spread and continued threat of terrorism in the entire continent was not just a regional issue but a danger to global peace and security. He stated that sustainable inclusive development was an end in itself and the most effective way to address the underlying causes of conflict, extremism and terrorism.<sup>237</sup> The Associate Director of the Institute for African Studies at George Washington University stated that the complexity of the issues involved in the cyclical violence required a regional framework and approach for any meaningful attempt to address issues of peace and security in the region and on the African continent. She stated that women should be seen as agents of preventive diplomacy and catalysts for

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<sup>232</sup> Ibid., Poland, United States, Belgium, France, Kuwait, United Kingdom, Peru, Dominican Republic, and South Africa.

<sup>233</sup> Ibid., Poland, Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Peru, and Russian Federation.

<sup>234</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 2 October 2019 ([S/2019/786](#)).

<sup>235</sup> [S/PV.8633](#), Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nation, Permanent Observer of the Economic Community of Central African States to the United Nations.

<sup>236</sup> Ibid., Programme Manager of African Women in Dialogue, South Africa, Programme Manager of the Zanele Mbeki Development Trust.

<sup>237</sup> Ibid.

peacebuilding.<sup>238</sup> The Programme Manager of the South African Women Dialogue also appealed to Council members to help strengthen the dialogue at all levels allowing for communities to drive their own peace processes. She described how her organization had facilitated partnerships between women and national and international bodies to shape community, provincial, national and continental agendas thereby creating a conducive space for socioeconomic development and the eradication of poverty.<sup>239</sup> The representative of the Zanele Mbeki Development Trust sought the support of the Council for the African Women in Dialogue which presented an opportunity for the involvement of African women as active players in conflict prevention and preventative diplomacy.<sup>240</sup> The Permanent Observer of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), stated that ECCAS would continue to work in tandem with the African Union and the United Nations through the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in building capacity of women and youth, to ensure their equal participation to promote peace and security and to play a central role in leadership and decision-making.<sup>241</sup> The Permanent Observer of the African Union stressed the importance of continued collective and concerted efforts to respond to the existing and emerging threats, the relevance of partnerships and collaboration among Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector, as well as the sustained engagement of all stakeholders, including women and young people, in decision-making processes.<sup>242</sup> During the discussion, Council members welcomed the progressively deepening alliances between the United Nations and the African Union sparked by the 2017 Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership Peace and Security.<sup>243</sup>

On 4 November 2019, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Permanent Observer for the African Union briefed the Council on the joint mission to Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan.<sup>244</sup> The Deputy Secretary-General reported that the mission had been an opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the shared United Nations-African Union frameworks on peace and security. She stated that each country was moving at its own pace through a process of reform and transformation. She drew special attention to the “new

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<sup>238</sup> Ibid.

<sup>239</sup> Ibid.

<sup>240</sup> Ibid.

<sup>241</sup> Ibid.

<sup>242</sup> Ibid.

<sup>243</sup> Ibid., Côte d’Ivoire, Russian Federation, Dominican Republic, Germany, France, Poland, and Indonesia.

<sup>244</sup> [S/PV. 8657](https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/S/PV.8657).

dawn” currently taking shape in the Sudan and urged the Council to stand ready to provide support. She reported that countries in the region were headed in the right direction, adding that the Council should seize this opportunity to invest in and support peace. She also noted that it was also important to increase the percentage of women in security and peacekeeping forces, and emphasized that the United Nations continued to deploy less than four percent female peacekeepers.<sup>245</sup> The Permanent Observer for the African Union stated that during the mission they were able to witness first-hand that peace, security and development had little chances to stand without the full and effective participation of women and young people, who were on the front line addressing climate insecurity, radicalization and violent extremism. She pointed out however that they also witnessed the creativity and innovation of women in the political and socioeconomic spheres of their societies and emphasized the need to bolster their laudable and courageous initiatives. She also emphasized the need to prioritize the substantive support to women’s organizations and projects and the continued engagement with Member States to create the conducive environment for women’s participation in decision-making, at all levels.<sup>246</sup> Following the briefers, Council members echoed the calls to bolster the deployment of female peacekeepers, with some Council members citing the recent adoption of resolution [2493\(2019\)](#) urging states to recommit themselves to the women, peace and security agenda.<sup>247</sup>

Addressing the issue of intercommunal violence and terrorism in West Africa, the Council held a meeting on 16 December 2019, at the initiative of the United States which held the Presidency for the month, in conjunction with Côte d’Ivoire. At the meeting, the Council heard the briefings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General stated that poor management of natural resources, inequalities, marginalization corruption and gaps in security and justice had resulted in an upsurge of intercommunal violence with relentless attacks by extremist groups on civilians and security forces.<sup>248</sup> He called for the Council and the rest of the international community to support the

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<sup>245</sup> Ibid.

<sup>246</sup> Ibid.

<sup>247</sup> Ibid., United States, France, Indonesia, Equatorial Guinea, and South Africa. For further information, see part I sect. 33.

<sup>248</sup> [S/PV.8685](#).

implementation of the Bamako Declaration as he stated that regional organizations were best positioned to provide a framework for the prevention and resolution of local conflicts.<sup>249</sup> The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union called on the Council to consider a “reset”, including a rethink of the manner in which military support was provided to countries of the region, and the implementation of a holistic approach to strengthening the presence of States, including the ability to deliver basic services such as rule of law and mitigating the effects of climate change. He recommended that the African Union and the United Nations co-chair a coordinating mechanism.<sup>250</sup> In the discussion, several Council members endorsed a need for a holistic security response as part of a greater strategy to counter violent extremism in West Africa and the Sahel.<sup>251</sup>

In 2019, the Council issued two presidential statements. On 2 August 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement in connection with the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, taking note that the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared it a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).<sup>252</sup> The Council also highlighted the urgency of the Ebola response, because the disease could spread rapidly, including to neighbouring countries, possibly having serious humanitarian consequences and impacting regional stability.<sup>253</sup> The Council also emphasized the need for continued cooperation and coordination with the Democratic Republic of the Congo to address the Ebola outbreak, as well as with the States in the region, as appropriate, and the importance of strengthening international support and engagement, including full and timely financial contributions to the response, technical assistance, scientific cooperation and human resources to bring the disease permanently and successfully under control.<sup>254</sup> On 12 December 2019, the Council issued a second presidential statement under this item linked to the debate held on 2 October. In the presidential statement the Council encouraged Member States to take a series of measures further to the steps already being undertaken towards mobilizing the youth towards silencing the guns in Africa by 2020, including measures to create opportunities for the inclusive representation of youth, to promote inclusive development and to encourage the meaningful participation of youth in the reconstruction of

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<sup>249</sup> Ibid.

<sup>250</sup> Ibid.

<sup>251</sup> Ibid., United States of America, China, Poland, Germany, and Indonesia.

<sup>252</sup> [S/PRST/2019/6](#), first paragraph.

<sup>253</sup> Ibid., second paragraph.

<sup>254</sup> Ibid., fourth and eleventh paragraphs.



areas devastated by conflict.<sup>255</sup> The Council also encouraged Member States to support initiatives and mechanisms adopted by regional organizations aimed at improving the participation of youth, including young women in peacebuilding, conflict mediation and resolution, including countering violent extremism.<sup>256</sup>

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<sup>255</sup> [S/PRST/2019/15](#), seventh paragraph.

<sup>256</sup> *Ibid.*, tenth paragraph.



## Meetings: Peace and security in Africa

<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.8526</a> 16 May 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel ( <a href="#">S/2019/371</a> )		Burkina Faso	Assistant-Secretary-General for Africa; African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel; Special Representative of the European Union for the Sahel, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a,b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8590</a> 2 August 2019	Ebola					<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/6</a>
<a href="#">S/PV.8627</a> 26 September 2019	Partnership to strengthen regional peace and security  Letter dated 13 September 2019 from the Permanent Representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, the Russian Federation and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/743</a> )		Egypt	Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Deputy Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Political Director for the European External Action Service	All Council members <sup>c</sup> all invitees <sup>d,e</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8629</a> 2 October 2019	Mobilizing Youth towards silencing the guns by 2020  Letter date 30 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/779</a> )			Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa, African Union Special Envoy on Youth, Co-founder and Chairperson of Naweza, Youth activist, Permanent Observer of the Economic Community of Central African States to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>f</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8633</a> 7 October 2019	The centrality of preventative diplomacy, conflict prevention and resolution		Ethiopia, Namibia	Visiting Scholar and Associate Director of the Institute for African Studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	

<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.8657</a> 4 November 2019	Letter dated 2 October 2019 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/786</a> )			George Washington University; Programme Manager of African Women in Dialogue, South Africa; Programme Manager of the Zanele Mbeki Development Trust; Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations; Permanent Observer of the Economic Community of Central African States to the United Nations	Deputy Secretary- General, all Council members, invitee	
<a href="#">S/PV.8670</a> 20 November 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel ( <a href="#">S/2019/868</a> )		Burkina Faso	Assistant-Secretary- General for Africa, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Managing Director for Africa at the European External Action Service, representative of the Association of African Women for Research and Development	13 Council members <sup>g</sup> , all invitees <sup>h,i</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8683</a> 12 December 2019						<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/15</a>
<a href="#">S/PV.8685</a> 16 December 2019	Intercommunal violence and terrorism in West Africa			Special Representative of the Secretary- General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security	13 Council members <sup>j</sup> , all invitees <sup>k</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> The African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime participated in the meeting via video-teleconference from Bamako, Luxembourg and Vienna respectively.

<sup>b</sup> Burkina Faso was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

<sup>c</sup> Côte d'Ivoire was represented by its Foreign Affairs Minister; Equatorial Guinea was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; South Africa was represented by its Minister for International Relations and Cooperation; Kuwait was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; China was represented by its State Councilor and Minister for Foreign Affairs; France was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Indonesia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Poland was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Peru was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Belgium was represented by its Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Germany was represented by its Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office; the Russian Federation was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs .

<sup>d</sup> Egypt was represented by its Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs.

<sup>e</sup> The Deputy Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Political Director of the European External Action Service spoke on behalf of the European Union and its Member States; the Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, which aligned themselves with the statement.

<sup>f</sup> The Co-founder and Chairperson of Naweza and the youth representative participated in the meeting via video-teleconference from Nairobi and Kampala, respectively.

<sup>g</sup> The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke on behalf of the three African members of the Council: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

<sup>h</sup> The Managing Director for Africa from the European External Action Service Burkina Faso was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the representative from the Association of African Women for Research and Development participated in the meeting via video-teleconference from Brussels and Bamako respectively.

<sup>i</sup> Burkina Faso was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

<sup>j</sup> The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke on behalf of the three African members of the Council: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

<sup>k</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security participated in the meeting via video-teleconference from Dakar and Addis Ababa respectively.

## 12. The situation in Libya

During the period under review, the Security Council held eleven meetings and adopted two resolutions, including one under Chapter VII of the Charter. Except for two meetings respectively devoted to the adoption of decisions of the Council,<sup>257</sup> all the meetings held during the period under this item took the form of briefings.<sup>258</sup> In 2019, the Council decided to extend for 12 months, until June 2020, the authorization to inspect vessels in the high seas off the coast of Libya in implementation of the arms embargo and to also extend the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) until 15 September 2020.<sup>259</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers, and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the Council was regularly briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNSMIL. Other briefers under this item included the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, and the Head of Advocacy and Outreach at Lawyers for Justice in Libya, a civil society organization promoting human rights, the rule of law, and access to justice in Libya, as well as the Co-Founder and Director of Together We Build It, a non-profit organization advocating for an inter-generational gender approach to peacebuilding. In 2019, invitations under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure were limited to Libya.

In his six briefings to the Council in 2019, the Special Representative reported on Libya's continuing humanitarian, political, security and social challenges.<sup>260</sup> Throughout his briefings, the Special Representative provided regular updates on the activities and terrorist attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) in Libya.<sup>261</sup> In his briefings throughout the year, the Special Representative also drew attention to the utilization of media platforms to incite violence and spread invective and false information,

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<sup>257</sup> [S/PV.8540](#) and [S/PV.8615](#).

<sup>258</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>259</sup> Resolution [2473 \(2019\)](#), para. 1 and resolution [2486 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>260</sup> [S/PV.8448](#), [S/PV.8530](#), [S/PV.8588](#); [S/PV.8611](#)-, and [S/PV.8667](#).

<sup>261</sup> [S/PV.8448](#), [S/PV.8530](#); and [S/PV.8588](#).

further dividing the population.<sup>262</sup> In May 2019, the Special Representative reported on the devastating effects of the Libyan National Army's offensive led by General Khalifa Haftar to seize control of Tripoli on 4 April 2019. He mentioned that the offensive was launched just days after the visit of the Secretary-General to the country and days before the planned national conference in Ghadames, which would have gathered Libyans across the country to decide how the nation would have proceeded to the end of the transition and ushered in a new period of stability and security.<sup>263</sup> He warned that the security vacuum created by the withdrawal of many of General Haftar's troops from the south, coupled with the focus of the western forces on the defence of the Libyan capital, was already being exploited by ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida. In July 2019, the Special Representative proposed a three-part immediate action plan to stop the conflict, consisting of, first, a truce for the period of Eid Al-Adha accompanied by confidence-building measures between the parties; secondly, a high-level meeting of concerned countries to cement the cessation of hostilities, and thirdly, a Libyan meeting of leading and influential personalities from all over the country to agree on comprehensive elements for the way forward.<sup>264</sup> Further to the 10 August 2019 attack on the United Nations in Benghazi, the Special Representative provided regular updates to the Council on the United Nations' internal inquiry into the incident and its requests to Libyan authorities to cooperate in the investigation and to swiftly bring the perpetrators to justice.<sup>265</sup> On 18 November, his last briefing in 2019, the Special Representative briefed the Council on the progress made in preparing for the second step of his three-part immediate action plan – an international summit of concerned countries committed to ending the conflict in Libya and supporting a Libyan-led political process.<sup>266</sup>

During the period under review, the Council was also regularly briefed by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya. In his five briefings to the Council in 2019, in addition to reporting on the activities and developments relating to the work of the Committee and its Panel of Experts, the Chair highlighted the violations of the sanctions regime (particularly the arms embargo).<sup>267</sup>

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<sup>262</sup> [S/PV.8488](#); and [S/PV.8588](#).

<sup>263</sup> [S/PV.8530](#).

<sup>264</sup> [S/PV.8588](#).

<sup>265</sup> [S/PV.8611](#), and [S/PV.8667](#).

<sup>266</sup> [S/PV.8667](#).

<sup>267</sup> [S/PV.8448](#); [S/PV.8488](#); [S/PV.8530](#); [S/PV.8588](#); [S/PV.8611](#).

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court provided briefings to the Council twice in 2019 to report on the progress and challenges relating to the Court's ongoing investigations regarding the situation in Libya, including the status of the Court's efforts to arrest three Libyan suspects who remained at large; as well as on the feasibility of bringing cases in relation to crimes against migrants and the efforts to support Libya's national investigations and prosecutions.<sup>268</sup> The Prosecutor also provided updates to the Council on Mr. Al-Qadhafi's challenge to the admissibility of his case before the Court. She also reported on her Office's investigation into the General Command of the Libyan National Army's decision to promote one of the three Libyan suspects at large from the rank of Major to Lieutenant Colonel, signalling the lack of intention to genuinely prosecute him for the crimes alleged against him in the Court's arrest warrants. In her briefings throughout the year, she called on the Council and States to cooperate and lend support to the arrest and transfer of suspects, stressing that securing such cooperation from States remained one of the greatest challenges faced by the Court.

The African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security provided one briefing to the Council, on 21 May 2019, on the African Union's engagement to promote a durable solution to the situation in Libya.<sup>269</sup> He reported on his visit to the country with the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to closely coordinate the activities of the African Union and the United Nations in managing the political and security situation in Libya.<sup>270</sup>

The Assistant Secretary-General for Africa provided one briefing, on 10 August 2019, on the attack that had occurred against the United Nations on that same day and also informed the Council on the positive responses from Libyan Prime Minister Faiez Serraj and General Haftar regarding the Special Representative's call for a truce for the period of Eid Al-Adha.<sup>271</sup> The Assistant Secretary-General drew attention to the Council's press statement of 5 July regarding the matter, highlighting that the call for a truce had been an important element in demonstrating the renewed unity of the international community.<sup>272</sup>

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<sup>268</sup> [S/PV.8523](#), and [S/PV.8660](#).

<sup>269</sup> [S/PV.8530](#).

<sup>270</sup> Ibid.

<sup>271</sup> [S/PV.8595](#).

<sup>272</sup> Ibid. See: [SC/13873](#).

In 2019, two civil society representatives provided briefings to the Council. The Head of Advocacy and Outreach at Lawyers for Justice in Libya briefed the Council once, on 4 September 2019, on the organization's work to promote human rights, the rule of law and access to justice in Libya.<sup>273</sup> She noted that since the 2011 uprising, Libyans had a profound sense of belonging and ownership over their collective future and that civil society had flourished. Nevertheless, she stressed that increased intimidation and violence, including the assassination of women's rights advocate Salwa Bugaighis in 2014 and the disappearance of parliamentarian Siham Sergewa, had disrupted this movement, emboldening perpetrators due to complete impunity.<sup>274</sup> She further warned that the proliferation of weapons despite the United Nations arms embargo, the breakdown of State institutions, and the general state of lawlessness has had a disproportional impact on Libyan women's security and freedom of movement.<sup>275</sup> The Co-Founder and Director of Together We Build It, a non-profit organization advocating for an inter-generational gender approach to peacebuilding, provided a briefing to the Council, on 18 November 2019. In her briefing, she emphasized the major role that women and youth play in "the power of the people" and called for UNSMIL and the international community to be more creative and innovative on how to facilitate and lead an inclusive political process.<sup>276</sup>

In their deliberations in 2019, Council members expressed support for the UNSMIL-facilitated national conference, particularly emphasizing the need for the full and effective participation of women. In response to the escalating violence, Council members called for an immediate ceasefire and expressed concern at the increase in terrorism and the growing number of subversive operations by terrorist groups including ISIL (Da'esh). Further to the Special Representative's three-point action plan, Council members welcomed and expressed full support. Concerning the sanctions regime, particularly the arms embargo, Council members called on all parties to fully respect, strictly implement and comply with the obligations established by the arms embargo. On the International Criminal Court, Council members called on all parties to cooperate with the Court and faithfully carry out their

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<sup>273</sup> [S/PV.8611](#).

<sup>274</sup> Ibid.

<sup>275</sup> Ibid.

<sup>276</sup> [S/PV.8667](#).

obligations to execute the outstanding arrest warrants. They also welcomed the assessment of the Court's jurisdiction regarding crimes against migrants.

During the period under review, the Council adopted two resolutions in relation to the situation in Libya. On 10 June 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2473 \(2019\)](#), acting under Chapter VII of the Charter. In that resolution, the Council decided to extend for 12 months the authorizations, as set out in resolutions [2292 \(2016\)](#), [2357 \(2017\)](#) and [2420 \(2018\)](#), to Member States, acting nationally or through regional organizations, to inspect vessels which they have reasonable grounds to believe are carrying arms or related materiel to or from Libya in order to ensure strict implementation of the arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya, and to use all measures commensurate to the specific circumstances to carry out such inspections.<sup>277</sup> The resolution further requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council within eleven months of the adoption of this resolution on its implementation.<sup>278</sup> In response to the adoption of resolution [2473 \(2019\)](#), members of the Council highlighted the important role of Operation SOPHIA in its contributions to curtail illicit arms trafficking and expressed concern regarding the inadequate naval resources available to the Operation.<sup>279</sup>

On 12 September, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2486 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of UNSMIL until 15 September 2020 and expanding the Mission's mandate to support a possible ceasefire in Libya.<sup>280</sup> Resolution [2486 \(2019\)](#) also requested UNSMIL to fully take into account a gender perspective throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of National Accord in ensuring the full and effective participation of women in the democratic transition, reconciliation efforts, the security sector and in national institutions, as well as the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, in line with resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#).<sup>281</sup>

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<sup>277</sup> Resolution [2473 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. See also resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#), para. 3.

<sup>278</sup> Resolution [2473 \(2019\)](#), para. 2.

<sup>279</sup> [S/PV.8540](#), France, Côte d'Ivoire, and Germany.

<sup>280</sup> Resolution [2486 \(2019\)](#), para. 1 and 1 (iv). On 4 September 2019, the Special Representative to the Secretary-General had encouraged the Council to consider adding a provision to the Mission's mandate to enable scalable ceasefire support for whatever form of further truce or cessation of hostilities is agreed between the parties ([S/PV.8611](#)). For further details on the mandate of UNSMIL, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>281</sup> Resolution [2486 \(2019\)](#), para. 5.



Developments in Libya were also considered elsewhere under the following item,  
“Maintenance of international peace and security”.<sup>282</sup>

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<sup>282</sup> For further details, see part I, sect. 38.

## Meetings: The situation in Libya

<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.8448</a> 18 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya ( <a href="#">S/2019/19</a> )		Libya	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)	All Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8488</a> 20 March 2019			Libya	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	Three Council members (Equatorial Guinea, South Africa, and Germany) <sup>a</sup> , all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8523</a> 8 May 2019			Libya	Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8530</a> 21 May 2019			Libya	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security	All Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees <sup>c</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8540</a> 10 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2420 (2018)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/380</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ( <a href="#">S/2019/470</a> )			Seven Council members <sup>d</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2473 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8588</a> 29 July 2019			Libya	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8595</a> 10 August 2019			Libya	Assistant Secretary-General for Africa	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8611</a> 4 September 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya ( <a href="#">S/2019/682</a> )		Libya	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of Advocacy and outreach of Lawyers for Justice in Libya	Eight Council members <sup>e</sup> , all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8615</a> 12 September 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya ( <a href="#">S/2019/682</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ( <a href="#">S/2019/724</a> )	Libya			Resolution <a href="#">2486 (2019)</a> 15-0-0

<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.8660</a> 6 November 2019			Libya	Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8667</a> 18 November 2019			Libya	Special Representative of the Secretary- General, Co-Founder and Director of Together We Build It	Nine Council members <sup>f</sup> , all invitees <sup>g</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> The representative of Germany briefed the Council in his capacity as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya.

<sup>b</sup> The Special Representative participated in the meeting via video-teleconference from Tripoli.

<sup>c</sup> The African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security participated in the meeting via video-teleconference from Addis Ababa.

<sup>d</sup> Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Indonesia, South Africa and United Kingdom.

<sup>e</sup> Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Equatorial Guinea, South Africa, China, Germany, Peru and Indonesia. The representative of Germany briefed the Council in his capacity as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya.

<sup>f</sup> Kuwait, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Peru, Poland, China, Indonesia and Belgium.

<sup>g</sup> The Special Representative participated in the meeting via video teleconference from Tunis.

### 13. The situation in Mali

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings, including one high-level meeting, adopted two resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued one presidential statement in connection with the situation in Mali. Four meetings of the Council under this item took the form of briefings and three meetings were convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>283</sup> The Council also met once with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).<sup>284</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. The Council also conducted a mission to Mali and Burkina Faso from 21 to 25 March 2019.<sup>285</sup>

Of the four briefings held in 2019, one was delivered by the Secretary-General, two were delivered by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSMA and one by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations. Briefings were conducted further to the quarterly reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali.<sup>286</sup> The Council also heard once a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#).<sup>287</sup> Discussions in the Council focused on the challenges to and progress made in the implementation of the 2015 Agreement Peace and Reconciliation in Mali between the Government and the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups. Speakers addressed implementation with regard to key provisions on constitutional reform, decentralization, redeployment of the reconstituted Malian Defence and Security Forces and the meaningful participation of women. Speakers also addressed the deterioration of the security and humanitarian conditions in central Mali due to terrorist attacks and a surge in inter-communal violence, as well as the efforts of the Government and security forces to reinstate State authority with the support of MINUSMA. In this regard, speakers further discussed the

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<sup>283</sup> For further information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>284</sup> Held on 10 June 2019, under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop-and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B”; see [S/PV.8542](#).

<sup>285</sup> For more information on the Council’s mission to Mali and Burkina Faso, see part I, sect. 34.

<sup>286</sup> [S/2018/1174](#), [S/2019/262](#), [S/2019/454](#) and [S/2019/782](#).

<sup>287</sup> [S/2019/207](#).

adjustments to the mandate of MINUSMA as well as the safety and security of peacekeepers and the Mission's work in support of the operationalization of the Joint Forces of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5-Sahel) to tackle cross-border threats of terrorism and transnational organized crime.<sup>288</sup>

On 16 January 2019, the Assistant Secretary-General shared her observations with the Council following her visit to Mali in December 2018 to assess the progress made in the implementation of the 2015 Agreement. She highlighted the launching of an accelerated disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and integration process, the holding of consultations on administrative restructuring, and the postponement of discussions on national reconciliation in the National Assembly. Noting the polarized political landscape in Mali since the presidential election, the Assistant Secretary-General called for a constructive and inclusive dialogue among political stakeholders, including civil society, women and young people. She expressed grave concern regarding the security situation and made reference to the efforts of MINUSMA to enhance its security assistance to the Government. She also called on the G-5 Sahel Member States to take steps to resume the operations of the Joint Force in the context of complex cross-border dynamics as well as on international partners to provide the necessary support.<sup>289</sup>

On 29 March 2019, the Council held a high-level meeting during which the Secretary-General expressed shock at the surge in violence in central Mali, particularly the killing of at least 160 civilians in the village of Ogossagou in Mopti province.<sup>290</sup> He warned that, if not addressed, the expansion of extremist movements which had exacerbated intercommunal tensions could lead to the commission of atrocity crimes. While noting that 18 peacekeepers had been killed in the past 18 months, the Secretary-General informed the Council that MINUSMA had enhanced its capacity to respond to these attacks in coordination with the Malian Defence and Security Forces, the Joint Force of the G-5 Sahel and the French Operation *Barkhane*. He underscored that the entire Sahel region faced severe transnational challenges, from climate change and drought to growing insecurity, violent extremism and the smuggling of people, weapons and drugs, and called on all national, regional and

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<sup>288</sup> For more information concerning the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, see part I, sects. 11 and 12 and part VIII, sect. III.

<sup>289</sup> [S/PV.8445](#).

<sup>290</sup> For further information on high-level meetings, see part II, sect. I.A.2.

international actors to step up efforts to tackle these threats. The Secretary-General further called on the Government of Mali, the political opposition and the signatory movements to redouble their efforts to overcome the challenges the country faced.<sup>291</sup>

In his briefings to the Council on 12 June and 8 October 2019, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported on the progress achieved in the implementation of the 2015 Agreement with the signing of a political agreement on governance between the presidential majority and the main opposition party, the official launch of the inclusive national dialogue by the newly appointed Malian Prime Minister, and the passing of legislation for the creation of the Northern Economic Development Zone. He also noted that the redeployment of the reconstituted and reformed Malian Defence and Security Forces was making encouraging headway and that, thanks to the Government's efforts to remedy the situation in the centre of the country, combined with the support of MINUSMA, a significant decrease in the number of attacks against civilians had been achieved by October 2019. He further elaborated on MINUSMA's mounting of "Operation Oryx" in central Mali to increase physical protection, combat impunity, coordinate with humanitarian and development partners, mediate local conflicts and engage with local communities. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported that the humanitarian situation in the centre of Mali continued to deteriorate with the number of displaced reaching approximately 171,000 people, the highest since 2015.<sup>292</sup>

In his remarks to the Council on October 2019, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#) concerning Mali, updated the Council on the Committee's activities in 2019 and highlighted the briefing to the Committee by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.<sup>293</sup>

In its decisions adopted in 2019, the Council also addressed the issues outlined above. On 3 April 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement recalling the provisions of resolution [2423 \(2018\)](#) and urging the Government of Mali and the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to take immediate and concrete action to implement key provisions of the 2015 Agreement referenced in the Roadmap adopted on 22 March 2018 and to accelerate the implementation of the Agreement, through significant, meaningful and

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<sup>291</sup> [S/PV.8497](#).

<sup>292</sup> [S/PV.8547](#) and [S/PV.8636](#).

<sup>293</sup> [S/PV.8636](#).

irreversible measures.<sup>294</sup> In this regard, the Council requested the Secretary-General, as part of his regular reporting on MINUSMA, to include in his next quarterly report recommendations on concrete measures for a revised roadmap to be fulfilled by the Malian parties with respect to three priority areas, namely, the completion of constitutional reform following an inclusive and collaborative process, the adoption of a comprehensive plan for the redeployment of the reconstituted and reformed Malian Defence and Security Forces to northern Mali, and the establishment of the Northern Development Zone.<sup>295</sup> In addition, while expressing increased concerns about the security situation in central Mali, the Council encouraged the Malian authorities to make further efforts to re-establish State presence in the area and requested the Secretary-General to provide recommendations for MINUSMA to enhance its support to such efforts.<sup>296</sup>

On 28 June 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2480 \(2019\)](#). Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council extended the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2020 and decided that the Mission's primary strategic priority would remain to support the implementation of the 2015 Agreement and the second priority would be to facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive politically-led Malian strategy to protect civilians, reduce intercommunal violence, and re-establish State authority, State presence and basic social services in Central Mali.<sup>297</sup> By the same resolution, the Council urged the Malian parties to take immediate and concrete action to fulfil priority measures before the end of MINUSMA's current mandate, including to ensure the completion of constitutional reform, to resolve outstanding issues related to the concept of reconstituted and reformed Malian Defence and Security Forces, to create the Northern Development Zone through the adoption of requisite legislation, and to hold a high-level workshop to identify concrete recommendations to ensure the full, effective and meaningful participation of women in the mechanisms established by the Agreement.<sup>298</sup> The Council also requested the Secretary-General to assess progress achieved in his regular reporting on MINUSMA and encouraged the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#) to identify parties responsible for

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<sup>294</sup> [S/PRST/2019/2](#), first and seventh paragraphs.

<sup>295</sup> *Ibid.*, seventh and eighth paragraphs.

<sup>296</sup> *Ibid.*, ninth paragraph.

<sup>297</sup> Resolution [2480 \(2019\)](#), paras. 17 and 20. For more information on the mandate and composition of MINUSMA, see part X, sect. I.

<sup>298</sup> Resolution [2480 \(2019\)](#), para. 4.

potential lack of implementation of the priorities.<sup>299</sup> The Council also re-authorized the French forces deployed in Mali to use all necessary means until the end of MINUSMA's mandate to intervene in support of the elements of MINUSMA when under imminent and serious threat upon request of the Secretary-General.<sup>300</sup>

On 29 August 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2484 \(2019\)](#). Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council by this resolution renewed until 31 August 2020 the asset freeze and travel ban imposed by resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#).<sup>301</sup> The Council also extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 30 September 2020.<sup>302</sup>

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<sup>299</sup> Ibid., para. 6.

<sup>300</sup> Ibid., para. 42. For more information concerning decisions of the Council relating to Article 42 of the Charter during the period under review see part VII, sect. IV.A.

<sup>301</sup> Resolution [2484 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>302</sup> Ibid., para. 3. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#) concerning Mali, see part IX, sect. I.



22<sup>nd</sup> Supplement (2019)

## Meetings: The situation in Mali

<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.8445</a> 16 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali ( <a href="#">S/2018/1174</a> )		Mali	Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8497</a> 29 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2423 (2018)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/207</a> )  Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali ( <a href="#">S/2019/262</a> )		Mali		Secretary-General, all Council members <sup>b</sup> , Mali <sup>c</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8501</a> 3 April 2019						<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/2</a>
<a href="#">S/PV.8547</a> 12 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali ( <a href="#">S/2019/454</a> )		Mali	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	All Council members, all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8568</a> 28 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali ( <a href="#">S/2019/454</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France ( <a href="#">S/2019/532</a> )	Mali		13 Council members <sup>e</sup> , Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8607</a> 29 August 2019	Letter dated 6 August 2019 from the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">2374 (2017)</a> on Mali addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/636</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France ( <a href="#">S/2019/687</a> )				Resolution <a href="#">2484 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8636</a> 8 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali ( <a href="#">S/2019/782</a> )		Mali	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	Seven Council members <sup>f</sup> , all invitees <sup>g</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Mali was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

<sup>b</sup> Côte d'Ivoire was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. France was represented by its Minister for Europe and

Foreign Affairs. Germany was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs. The United Kingdom was represented by its Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations. The United States was represented by its Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

<sup>c</sup> Mali was represented by its Prime Minister.

<sup>d</sup> Mali was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

<sup>e</sup> Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States. Cote d'Ivoire spoke on behalf of the three African members of the Council, namely Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

<sup>f</sup> China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, South Africa and United States. The representative of the Dominican Republic spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#).

<sup>g</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General participated in the meeting via videoconference from Bamako.

## Americas

### 14. The question concerning Haiti

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings and adopted two resolutions, one of them under Chapter VII of the Charter, on the question concerning Haiti. Two of the meetings took the form of debates and two were convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>303</sup> With the adoption of resolution [2466 \(2019\)](#), acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) for a final period of six months until 15 October 2019.<sup>304</sup> By resolution [2476 \(2019\)](#), the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) beginning on 16 October 2019.<sup>305</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers, and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the Council was briefed twice at the two debates by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and on one occasion by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Executive Director of Zamni Lasante, a Haitian non-governmental healthcare organization. In addition, for the first time since 2009, the President of the Economic and Social Council was invited under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure to the meeting on 15 October 2019.<sup>306</sup> In their deliberations, Council members expressed concern regarding the situation in Haiti, particularly noting the political and constitutional crisis in the country, the widespread violence and worsening socio-economic and humanitarian conditions as well as the corruption and impunity for human rights abuses. They called for an inclusive and peaceful dialogue among all stakeholders to address the root causes of the situation. With the end of the United Nations peacekeeping presence in Haiti, Council members noted the importance of the Government of Haiti's national ownership in

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<sup>303</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>304</sup> Resolution [2466 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate and composition of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, see part X, sect. I, "Peacekeeping operations".

<sup>305</sup> Resolution [2476 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), see part X, sect. II, "Special Political Missions".

<sup>306</sup> For more information on the meeting held on 6 April 2009, see [S/PV.6101](#) and *Repertoire, Supplement 2008-2009*, part I, sect. 18.

ensuring peace and stability and promoting economic development in the country. In this context, Council members underscored the need for a seamless transition between MINUJUSTH and BINUH, welcomed the submission of benchmarks and indicators for BINUH and underlined the need for them to be nationally-owned.

At the 8502<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 3 April 2019, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations highlighted the tumultuous and uncertain political situation in Haiti following ten days of unrest in February 2019, which resulted in 41 deaths and 100 injuries and the collapse of the Government on 18 March 2019. While noting the establishment of a facilitation committee for an intra-Haitian dialogue by the President, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations underscored that stronger efforts were required from all key actors to ensure the success of its work and the crafting of a national vision for economic reform, social protection, improving the rule of law, fighting corruption, and organizing timely legislative elections in accordance with international standards. On the expected drawdown of MINUJUSTH, he drew attention to the progress made by Haiti in strengthening its institutions, particularly the Haiti National Police, and noted the recommendations of the Secretary-General to support the priorities of the Haitian leadership in the final six months of deployment and for the United Nations to continue supporting the country through a small strategic presence with good offices, human rights and advisory capacities.<sup>307</sup> At the same meeting, the High Commissioner for Human Rights briefed the Council on outstanding human rights challenges in Haiti, namely difficult socio-economic conditions, corruption, poverty and criminal activity, impunity for serious human rights violations, a weak judicial system and prolonged pre-trial detention. She commended the appointment of the Haitian Minister for Human Rights and the Fight Against Poverty as well as the efforts by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights to develop a national action plan and the functioning of the National Human Rights Ombudsperson in addition to the engagement by civil society organizations. The High Commissioner encouraged the Council to support Haiti in strengthening its institutions, fighting impunity and promoting and protecting human rights. In her remarks, the Executive Director of a Haitian non-governmental healthcare organization drew the attention of Council members to the situation of women and girls in Haiti, underscoring the need to address inequality, sexual and gender-based violence and

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<sup>307</sup> [S/PV.8502](#). See [S/2019/198](#).

ensure women's political participation. She called on MINUJUSTH and the Council to support, among other things, building local capacities for gender-sensitive services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

At the 8510<sup>th</sup> meeting on 12 April 2019, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council adopted resolution [2466 \(2019\)](#), with 13 votes in favour and two abstentions. By this resolution the Council extended the mandate of MINUJUSTH for a final period of six months until 15 October 2019 and requested the Secretary-General to initiate the necessary planning for an appropriate integrated United Nations system presence in Haiti, including a Special Political Mission. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution regarding the operational details of the proposed Mission for the Council's consideration and subsequent authorization.<sup>308</sup>

Explaining the decision to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution, the representative of the Russian Federation criticized the adoption of the text under Chapter VII of the Charter, noting that the human rights situation in Haiti did not constitute a threat to international peace and security, and noting that the comprehensive and integrated policy framework had been applied to MINUJUSTH without first being finalized and then discussed by Member States.<sup>309</sup> Despite having voted in favour, the representative of China noted that MINUJUSTH should be focused on assisting Haiti to deal with peace and security issues and should not be too involved in the country's domestic human rights issues. Having also abstained in the vote, the representative of the Dominican Republic noted that MINUJUSTH would complete its mandate at the same time that elections were expected to be held in Haiti, which should be taken into account when making way for any post-MINUJUSTH work of the United Nations.

At the 8559<sup>th</sup> meeting on 25 June 2019, the Council adopted resolution [2476 \(2019\)](#), with 13 votes in favour and two abstentions, requesting the Secretary-General to establish BINUH beginning on 16 October 2019 and for an initial period of 12 months, headed by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, with the mandate to, inter alia, advise and assist the Government in promoting and strengthening political stability and good governance, including the rule of law, planning elections, and addressing human rights

<sup>308</sup> Resolution [2466 \(2019\)](#), paras. 1-3. See [S/2019/387](#).

<sup>309</sup> [S/PV.8510](#).

abuses and violations.<sup>310</sup> The Council further underscored the need for the activities of BINUH and the United Nations Country Team in Haiti to be fully integrated.<sup>311</sup> The representative of China noted its decision to abstain in the vote underscoring that the mandate of BINUH had to be clear and concise if it was to assist Haiti in responding to peace and security issues and noted that the text failed to fully reflect his delegation's concerns.<sup>312</sup> The representative of the Dominican Republic expressed the view that the mandate of the successor Mission to MINUJUSTH had to be broad-based, including support to strengthen the political and electoral systems and the rule of law, and helping tackle social inequality, governance and the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters. The representatives of France and Germany expressed disappointment that the resolution did not address the impact of climate change on the security situation in Haiti. Speaking after Council members, the representative of Haiti also underlined that his country would have liked to see a special political mission commensurate with the challenges requiring, among other, the mobilization of adequate financial resources, but remained hopeful that the mission would have adequate financial means to be able to provide concrete assistance to the Haitian authorities in overcoming the multidimensional crisis.

In a letter dated 11 October 2019, the Council took note of the intention of the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative for Haiti and Head of BINUH.<sup>313</sup>

During the second debate under this item, on 15 October 2019, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations drew attention to the fourth failed attempt for the confirmation of a Government in Parliament, which had resulted in a possible institutional vacuum and a stalled national dialogue process, which had led to demonstrations by opposition leaders and at least 30 deaths, as well as the resulting worsening humanitarian conditions. Despite the context, he highlighted the achievements of MINUSTAH and MINUJUSTH in supporting improvements in the country in the areas of rule of law, good offices, and human rights institutions. The Under-Secretary-General reminded the Council that BINUH would focus on promoting political solutions, while the United Nations country team would take over programme and technical support activities. He also added that the

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<sup>310</sup> Resolution [2476 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>311</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 5.

<sup>312</sup> [S/PV.8559](#).

<sup>313</sup> [S/2019/812](#).

United Nations would continue to work on addressing the effects of cholera in Haiti and the outstanding sexual exploitation and paternity cases.<sup>314</sup> Speaking after Council members, the President of the Economic and Social Council highlighted the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, which was established in 1999 further to the Security Council's request under Article 65 of the Charter, to provide recommendations on the country's long-term development. She stated that the Organization should redouble its efforts to support the people of Haiti to put in place conditions for long-term sustainable development and stability, and noted the need for continued collaboration between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council.

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<sup>314</sup> [S/PV.8641](#).

## 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.8502</a> 3 April 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti ( <a href="#">S/2019/198</a> )		Argentina, Canada, Haiti	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Executive Director of Zanmi Lasante, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8510</a> 12 April 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti ( <a href="#">S/2019/198</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/311</a> )			Seven Council members <sup>b</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2466 (2019)</a> 13-0-2 <sup>c</sup> (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8559</a> 25 June 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/519</a> )	Haiti		Seven Council members <sup>d</sup> , Haiti	Resolution <a href="#">2476 (2019)</a> 13-0-2 <sup>e</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8641</a> 15 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti ( <a href="#">S/2019/805</a> )		Haiti	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations; President of the Economic and Social Council; Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members <sup>f</sup> , all invitees <sup>g</sup>	

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

<sup>b</sup> China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Peru, Russian Federation, and United States.

<sup>c</sup> *For*: Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States; *abstaining*: Dominican Republic and Russian Federation.

<sup>d</sup> China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Peru, Russian Federation and United States.

<sup>e</sup> *For*: Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States; *abstaining*: China and Dominican Republic.

<sup>f</sup> Peru was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>g</sup> The Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Northern Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Ukraine.



### **15. 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 Security Council held five meetings, including one high-level meeting,<sup>315</sup> and adopted one resolution under the agenda 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](#))”. Four of the meetings took the form of briefings and one was convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>316</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. The Council also conducted a mission to Colombia from 11 to 14 July 2019.<sup>317</sup>

In 2019, the Council received quarterly briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia under this item,<sup>318</sup> and one briefing from the Executive Director of *Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica*, a civil society organization.<sup>319</sup> In his successive briefings to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General underscored that sustainable peace in Colombia required parallel progress in all components of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, signed between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) in 2016, including comprehensive rural reform, the substitution of illicit crops, security guarantees, the reintegration of former combatants and justice and reparations for victims. He commended the commitment of the Government and the FARC-EP to the peace process, despite the decision announced in August 2019 of several members of the FARC-EP to take up arms again and highlighted the expected participation of FARC-EP in regional and local elections in October 2019 and the need to ensure the security of the process. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General expressed grave concern

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<sup>315</sup> [S/PV.8450](#)

<sup>316</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>317</sup> For more information on the Council’s mission to Colombia, see part I, sect. 33.

<sup>318</sup> [S/PV.8450](#); [S/PV.8511](#); [S/PV.8581](#); and [S/PV.8639](#).

<sup>319</sup> [S/PV.8511](#).

regarding the security of former combatants and the killing of community leaders and human rights defenders by illegal armed groups, and called on the National Commission on Security Guarantees to take concrete actions in this regard, and on the Government to ensure an effective and integrated State presence in former conflict areas including through the implementation of its “Peace with Legality” plan.

While noting the approval and disbursement of additional productive projects by the National Reintegration Council for the economic reintegration of former combatants, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General encouraged the Government to accelerate and increase their numbers, utilizing a gender sensitive approach, and to provide the necessary technical assistance and access to markets and land. Regarding transitional justice, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted the inauguration of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-repetition Commission as an important milestone and the progress made by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in examining significant human rights violations and abuses. He called for constructive and inclusive dialogue in any further discussions on constitutional reforms related to the provisions of the Final Agreement and for such reforms to have only future application, recalling the Secretary-General’s statement that the principle of non-retroactivity was critical in preserving confidence in the process going forward.

In her remarks to the Council, the Executive Director of *Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica* stated that the Final Agreement provided a comprehensive approach to peace and that its greatest asset lied in its interconnected approach and the way it placed victims at its centre. In this regard, she underscored the importance of the economic and social reintegration of former combatants, including women, support for democratic institutions and the division of powers, legal access for victims of sexual violence, and ensuring the security of women human rights defenders. She further added that a gender-centred approach in the peace process had the potential to accelerate the benefits of peace for society as a whole.<sup>320</sup>

During their deliberations under this item in 2019, Council members recognized the progress made in the implementation of the Final Agreement and noted the outstanding challenges. In this regard, speakers underscored the need to accelerate efforts for the full

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<sup>320</sup> [S/PV.8511](#).

political, legal and socio-economic reintegration of former FARC-EP members, security in and the stabilization of former conflict areas, including comprehensive rural reform and development projects, and respect for the independence and autonomy of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and support for the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-repetition Commission. Most Council members expressed serious concern regarding the continued killing of former combatants, human rights defenders and community leaders, as well as political party candidates ahead of the local and regional elections in October 2019. Some also emphasized the importance of implementing the gender provisions of the Final Agreement and engaging with youth with respect to its implementation. Finally, most speakers described the Council mission to Colombia in July 2019 as a good opportunity to express solidarity and support for the Colombian peace process.

On 12 September 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2487 \(2019\)](#), welcoming the progress made towards peace since the adoption of the Final Agreement and urging the parties to work together to sustain progress and address challenges through its comprehensive implementation.<sup>321</sup> Acknowledging the request from the President of Colombia in this regard, the Council also extended the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia for a period of one year until 25 September 2020.<sup>322</sup>

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<sup>321</sup> Resolution [2487 \(2019\)](#), fourth preambular paragraph.

<sup>322</sup> Ibid., sixth preambular paragraph and para. 1. For more information on the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, see part X, sect. II.

**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.8450</a> 23 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia ( <a href="#">S/2018/1159</a> )		Colombia, Cuba	Special Representative of the members <sup>a</sup> , all Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	All Council invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8511</a> 12 April 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia ( <a href="#">S/2019/265</a> )		Colombia	Special Representative of the members <sup>a</sup> , all Secretary-General, Executive Director of Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica	All Council invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8581</a> 19 July 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia ( <a href="#">S/2019/530</a> )		Colombia	Special Representative of the members <sup>c</sup> , all Secretary-General	All Council invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8616</a> 12 September 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/725</a> )				Resolution <a href="#">2487 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8639</a> 10 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia ( <a href="#">S/2019/780</a> )		Colombia	Special Representative of the members, all Secretary-General	All Council invitees <sup>b</sup>	

a The Dominican Republic and Indonesia were represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

b Colombia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

c Peru was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs

## 16. The situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings, including one high-level meeting, under the newly-added item entitled, “The situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela”. Two of the meetings took the form of briefings, one meeting was a debate and one was convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>323</sup> The Council failed to adopt two draft resolutions owing to the negative vote of one or more permanent members in one case, and the lack of the required number of votes in the other. More information on these meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

The first meeting under this item was held on 26 January 2019. The format of the meeting was a debate and it was held at the request of the United States, further to the adoption by the Organization of American States of a resolution on the situation in Venezuela.<sup>324</sup> At the outset of the meeting, the provisional agenda was adopted further to a procedural vote.<sup>325</sup> In his statements before and after the vote, the representative of the Russian Federation expressed his delegation’s objection to holding the meeting, noting that the internal situation in Venezuela did not represent a threat to international peace and security.<sup>326</sup> Similar views were expressed by China and Equatorial Guinea.<sup>327</sup> The representative of China added that his country was opposed to adding the situation in Venezuela to the Council’s agenda and that Venezuelan affairs needed to be handled and dealt with by the Venezuelans themselves. Other Council members underscored the responsibility of the Council to consider potential threats to international peace and security such as the situation in Venezuela.<sup>328</sup> Explaining his country’s abstention in the procedural vote, the representative of Indonesia affirmed his delegation’s belief that the meeting should have taken place under a different item, namely under the item “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace

<sup>323</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>324</sup> [S/2019/80](#), annex.

<sup>325</sup> For further information, see part II, sect. VIII.

<sup>326</sup> [S/PV.8452](#)

<sup>327</sup> Ibid., Equatorial Guinea and China.

<sup>328</sup> Ibid., Peru, Kuwait, Germany, Poland, Belgium and Argentina. For further detail on the discussion, see part V, sect. I. B.

and security”. He stated, however, that the humanitarian situation in Venezuela required proper attention. He added that the inclusion of Venezuela on the Security Council’s agenda needed to reflect a commitment to supporting the realization of sustained peace and stability in the country.

At the meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs briefed the Council on the protracted crisis in the country which had a grave impact on the population, with high levels of political polarization, growing humanitarian needs and serious human rights concerns. She described the economic situation as dire and highlighted hyperinflation, shortages of food, medicine and basic supplies, deterioration in health services and basic infrastructure which had resulted in over three million Venezuelans leaving the country. The Under-Secretary-General informed the Council that, following the 10 January 2019 inauguration of Nicolás Maduro as President for a second six-year term, on 23 January 2019, large-scale opposition protests culminated with Juan Guaidó, President of the opposition-led National Assembly, announcing that he did not recognize President Maduro or his Government, proclaiming himself interim President, and pledging to form a transitional Government and to call for elections. The Under-Secretary-General indicated that in a 24 January 2019 statement, the Secretary-General had offered his good offices to help resolve the crisis. Following the briefing, Council members expressed differing views regarding the situation in Venezuela. While some members called for new elections, others denounced foreign interference and called instead for a national dialogue process. Speakers from the region, including the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, also intervened and discussed the legitimacy of the Government of President Nicolás Maduro as well as that of the transitional government proclaimed by Juan Guaidó, offering contrasting views on the situation of the country and the way forward.

A month later, on 26 February 2019, the Council held a second meeting on this item at which it was again briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. The briefing focused on the escalation of tensions in Venezuela following attempts by the self-proclaimed interim government to transport humanitarian aid across the borders with Brazil and Colombia on 23 February 2019, the temporary closure of international bridges on the border with Colombia and border crossings with Brazil by the Venezuelan government, and the violence surrounding those events. During her briefing, the Under-

Secretary-General recalled the statement of the Secretary-General of 23 February 2019 in which he reiterated his appeal to the Venezuelan government that lethal force should not be used and called for all actors to lower tensions and prevent further escalation.<sup>329</sup> Speakers focused on the political, security, economic, humanitarian and human rights situation in the country and its regional consequences calling on the Government of Venezuela and the opposition to exercise restraint, refrain from the use of force and engage in the dialogue for the peaceful resolution of the crisis while expressing support for regional and international initiatives for this purpose.

Two days later, on 28 February 2019, the Council held a meeting at which Council members voted on two draft resolutions proposed by the United States and the Russian Federation, respectively.<sup>330</sup> The draft resolution submitted by the United States was voted on first and failed to be adopted owing to the negative vote of two permanent members of the Council, namely, China and the Russian Federation. The draft would have, inter alia, noted the constitutional authority of the democratically elected National Assembly, expressed deep concern that the presidential elections held in May 2018 in Venezuela were neither free nor fair and called for the start of a peaceful political process leading to free, fair and credible elections, with international electoral observation, in conformity with Venezuela's Constitution.<sup>331</sup> The draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation was voted on second and failed to obtain the required number of votes. The draft would have expressed concern over threats to use force and attempts to intervene in the internal matters of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; urged the settlement of the situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela through peaceful means, within the framework of its Constitution, and in full respect of its sovereignty; expressed support for initiatives aimed at reaching a political solution through a national dialogue; and reaffirmed the primary role of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of international assistance efforts and initiatives within its national territory and recalled that international assistance should be provided with its consent.<sup>332</sup>

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<sup>329</sup> [S/PV.8472.](#)

<sup>330</sup> [S/PV.8476.](#)

<sup>331</sup> [S/2019/186.](#)

<sup>332</sup> [S/2019/190.](#)

In statements made before and after the vote, the representatives of China and the Russian Federation criticized the draft resolution submitted by the United States for not being consistent with international law.<sup>333</sup> The representative of South Africa described the text of the draft resolution proposed by the United States as lacking impartiality and expressed concern regarding the lack of sufficient time provided for its consideration by Council members. He further expressed the view that the draft submitted by the Russian Federation assessed the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reinforced the founding principles of the United Nations based on the sovereign equality of all its Members States. The representative of Indonesia affirmed that neither draft resolution was complete because neither was comprehensive enough and both had been over-politicized and would not be useful or helpful in ensuring the interests of the people of Venezuela. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that the draft resolution proposed by his delegation could have helped Venezuelans solve their own problems without intervention from outside. Several other Council members expressed support for the text submitted by the United States, emphasizing the gravity of the situation in Venezuela and the need for a political solution to the crisis including through the organization of free, fair and credible elections.<sup>334</sup> Some Council members objected to the draft resolution proposed by the Russian Federation on the basis that it did not provide a solution to the crisis and that it failed to recognize and address the humanitarian situation in the country.<sup>335</sup> Several speakers expressed regret at the lack of unity in the Council regarding the situation in Venezuela.<sup>336</sup> Further to the Council members, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela addressed the Council, affirming that if there were any threats to the peace in his country these came from abroad, and demanding from the Council a clear statement condemning and prohibiting the use of military force against Venezuela.<sup>337</sup>

In a letter dated 28 February addressed to the President of the Council, the Permanent Representative of Colombia protested against the President's decision "not to allow" him to

<sup>333</sup> [S/PV.8476](#), Russian Federation and (China).

<sup>334</sup> Ibid., Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany and France.

<sup>335</sup> Ibid., United Kingdom, Germany and Poland.

<sup>336</sup> Ibid., Peru, South Africa and Indonesia.

<sup>337</sup> See for further detail on the discussion, part II, sect. II (B).



the take the floor during the meeting held on 28 February and to respond to the claims directed against Colombia by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.<sup>338</sup>

On 10 April, the Council held a meeting attended by the Secretary-General and the Vice President of the United States at which the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator briefed the Council on the worsening humanitarian situation in Venezuela. During his briefing, the Under-Secretary-General affirmed that there was a very real humanitarian problem in Venezuela noting the recurrent widespread power outages affecting the whole country including hospitals and the continued economic decline rendering food even less affordable to its population. He outlined the priority humanitarian needs, estimating that seven million people needed humanitarian assistance and dwelled on the recent United Nations efforts to expand such assistance. He also sought the collective support of the Council for improved respect for principled humanitarian action, affirming the need to distinguish between political and humanitarian objectives. The Under-Secretary-General requested the Council's support for an enabling operating environment including sustained and regular access to people in need. Finally, he asked for additional financial resources to support the expansion of humanitarian programmes.<sup>339</sup>

Following the Under-Secretary-General, the Council was briefed by the Joint Special Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region. During his briefing, the Joint Special Representative informed the Council that an estimated 3.7 million Venezuelans had left the country, approximately 80 per cent of whom did so since 2015, and projected that by the end of 2019, the number could exceed five million. He called for more support from Member States employing open-door policies to receive, assist, and host Venezuelan outflows, as well as for the host communities receiving Venezuelans in need of support. He also called for stronger international cooperation in the form of greater financial support.<sup>340</sup> The researcher from Johns Hopkins University presented the findings of a report published by Human Rights Watch together with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, which concluded that the combination of severe shortages of

<sup>338</sup> [S/2019/197](#). See for more information on participation at meetings, part II, sect. VII.

<sup>339</sup> [S/PV.8506](#).

medicine, health supplies and food in Venezuela, together with the spread of epidemics within and across the country's borders, had resulted in a breakdown of the country's health system. She further noted that the situation in Venezuela was a complex humanitarian emergency, and recommended that the Secretary-General declare it as such and to lead a full-scale United Nations-led response that was neutral, independent and impartial. She also advised the Council to regularly meet to address the humanitarian crisis as well as its regional impact. Further to the briefings, Council members continued to have differing views on the situation in the country as well as on the possible solutions to the crisis. The representative of Peru, emphasizing that the members of the Lima Group, integrated by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Paraguay aligned themselves with the statement, asked the international community and the members of the Council to support them in their efforts to help restore constitutional order in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The representative of the Dominican Republic noted that humanitarian assistance alone would not solve the crisis and that it was urgent to find the conditions to conduct concrete negotiations that lead to a solution to the crisis through a fair, free and competitive electoral process and called for that to be a solution led by the Venezuelans themselves and achieved in a peaceful manner.

## Meetings: The situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

<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.8452</a> 26 January 2019			22 Member States <sup>a</sup>	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	All Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees <sup>c</sup>	Procedural vote (Rule 9) 9-4-2 <sup>d</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8472</a> 26 February 2019			23 Member States <sup>e</sup>	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	All Council members, all invitees <sup>f</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8476</a> 28 February 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/186</a> ) Draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation ( <a href="#">S/2019/190</a> )	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		12 Council members <sup>g</sup> , Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Draft resolution not adopted ( <a href="#">S/2019/186</a> ) 9-3-3 <sup>h</sup> Draft resolution not adopted ( <a href="#">S/2019/190</a> ) 4-7-4 <sup>i</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8506</a> 10 April 2019			Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Secretary-General <sup>j</sup> , Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees/International Organization for Migration Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region Researcher at Johns Hopkins University	All Council members <sup>k</sup> , all invitees <sup>l</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>b</sup> The Dominican Republic was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; the United Kingdom was represented by its Minister of State for Europe and the Americas; and the United States was represented by its Secretary of State.

<sup>c</sup> Colombia was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs; Cuba was represented by its Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Nicaragua was represented by its Minister Adviser to the President; and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) was represented by its Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>d</sup> *For:* Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; *against:* China, Equatorial Guinea, Russian Federation, South Africa; *abstaining:* Côte d'Ivoire and Indonesia.

<sup>e</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>f</sup> Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) was represented by its Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Suriname spoke on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

<sup>g</sup> Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States. Germany was represented by its State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office.

<sup>h</sup> *For*: Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: China, Russian Federation, South Africa; *abstaining*: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia.

<sup>i</sup> *For*: China, Equatorial Guinea, Russian Federation, South Africa; *against*: Belgium. France, Germany, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; *abstaining*: Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Kuwait.

<sup>j</sup> The Secretary-General attended the meeting but did not brief the Council.

<sup>k</sup> The United States was represented by its Vice-President.

<sup>l</sup> The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees/International Organization for Migration Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region participated in the meeting via videoconference from Panama City.

## Asia

### 17. The situation in Afghanistan

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings and adopted two resolutions concerning the situation in Afghanistan. The Council held three meetings in the form of briefings, two as debates and two were convened to adopt decisions of the Council.<sup>341</sup> In 2019, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) twice, for six and 12 months, first until 17 September 2019 and subsequently until 17 September 2020.<sup>342</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During 2019, as in previous periods, the Council was briefed quarterly by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA further to the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan.<sup>343</sup> Two of those briefings were conducted during Council debates with the participation of interested Member States. In addition, the Council heard briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#), the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Chairperson of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Afghan Youth Representative to the United Nations. The Council also heard briefings by two civil society representatives in two separate meetings.

In his briefings, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General discussed the developments in the peace process, the conduct of presidential elections, and the security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.<sup>344</sup>

With respect to the peace process, the Special Representative emphasized that the best way to secure a sustainable peace agreement was an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process that allowed for the meaningful participation of all those affected by the conflict,

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<sup>341</sup> For more information on format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>342</sup> See resolutions [2460 \(2019\)](#), para. 4 and [2489 \(2019\)](#), para. 4.

<sup>343</sup> See [S/2019/193](#), [S/2019/493](#), [S/2019/703](#) and [S/2019/935](#).

<sup>344</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), [S/PV.8555](#), [S/PV.8613](#) and [S/PV.8687](#).

including women, youth, victims and business and religious leaders.<sup>345</sup> He also said that it was imperative that the Taliban talk directly with the Government of Afghanistan and that the dialogues in Moscow needed to aim towards the start of formal negotiations between the two parties.<sup>346</sup> He noted that peace in Afghanistan would have wide-ranging implications on regional stability, on international efforts to counter terrorist groups, including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant–Khorasan Province (ISIL-KP), and would create opportunities for accelerated development and enhanced connectivity of the region.<sup>347</sup>

On the conduct of the presidential elections on 28 September 2019, the Special Representative reported on the preparations undertaken and the challenges faced by the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and international partners, for the conduct of transparent, inclusive, credible and timely elections.<sup>348</sup> At his 16 December briefing to the Council, he reported that while the presidential elections held on 28 September 2019 had improved considerably on past elections, voter turnout had been dampened by security threats and the results had been delayed to ensure that the electoral process was as transparent and credible as possible, adding that the results had to be accepted by all stakeholders, in order for Afghanistan to move forward.<sup>349</sup>

On the security situation, the Special Representative said that the impact of conflict on children was alarming due to the high number of child deaths and injuries, and their vulnerability to recruitment and use by parties to the conflict.<sup>350</sup> He noted that violence had intensified following attacks by insurgents in Kunduz, Baghlan and Farah, and multiple attacks in Kabul,<sup>351</sup> and reported that the third quarter of 2019 had seen the highest number of civilian casualties since UNAMA had begun systematic recording in 2009.

On the humanitarian front, the Special Representative reminded the Council that the majority of the Afghan population lived below the poverty line with millions of people struggling with food insecurity needing the support of external donors, both for its immediate humanitarian needs and to support longer-term economic development.<sup>352</sup> In this regard, he

<sup>345</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), [S/PV.8555](#), and [S/PV.8687](#).

<sup>346</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) and [S/PV.8555](#).

<sup>347</sup> See [S/PV.8687](#).

<sup>348</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), [S/PV.8555](#) and [S/PV.8613](#).

<sup>349</sup> See [S/PV.8687](#).

<sup>350</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) and [S/PV.8555](#).

<sup>351</sup> See [S/PV.8613](#).

<sup>352</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) and [S/PV.8555](#).

expressed the hope that the Security Council would call on the international community to boost funding for the United Nations humanitarian response plan.<sup>353</sup>

In June 2019, the Council heard the briefing of the Chairperson of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission who reported on the results of the national inquiry on women, peace and security conducted by the Commission as well as on the situation of justice, accountability, the rule of law and anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan. During her briefing, she called on the Council to step up efforts to safeguard peace and human rights norms in the country by engaging women, youth and victims in the planning, negotiation and implementation of a peace plan for Afghanistan.<sup>354</sup>

In July 2019, the Council also heard briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on their visit to Afghanistan from 20 to 21 July 2019, together with the Executive Directors of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, to assess and build on progress since the Secretary-General's visit in 2017 and to explore the United Nations support for the women and peace and security agenda. The Deputy Secretary-General reported, *inter alia*, on the progress made in Afghan women's access to education, economic empowerment, and political representation as well as the ongoing work to address conflict-related and gender-based violence. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs updated the Council on the developments in Afghanistan's peace process and electoral preparations.<sup>355</sup> Both briefers expressed the importance of an inclusive peace process and the conduct of credible elections. Civil society representatives focused also in their briefings delivered in March and July 2019, on the importance of women's participation in peace negotiations and conflict resolution efforts and the inclusion of gender-awareness provisions in any final peace accord. In addition, they discussed the human rights situation in Afghanistan, including sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls and acts of violence against, *inter alia*, women's rights activists, women human rights defenders and journalists.<sup>356</sup>

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<sup>353</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) and [S/PV.8687](#).

<sup>354</sup> [S/PV.8555](#).

<sup>355</sup> [S/PV.8587](#).

<sup>356</sup> [S/PV.8481](#) and [S/PV.8587](#).

In September 2019, the briefing delivered by the Executive Director of UNODC focused on the work to support Afghanistan in promoting peace, security, the rule of law and sustainable development, including the support to the Government of Afghanistan in countering money laundering and disrupting the financing networks of terrorists and organised-crime groups.<sup>357</sup> In his briefing to the Council, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) covered the work and mandate of the Committee and the Monitoring Team, including facilitation of conditions to promote Taliban dialogue with the Afghan Government.<sup>358</sup>

In December 2019, further to the Special Representative's briefing, the Afghan Youth Representative to the United Nations noted that the conflict in Afghanistan had greatly affected Afghan children and youth, who comprised a majority of the population and added that the key to ensuring sustainable reconciliation was to ensure that the voices of Afghan youth from both sides of the conflict were considered in the peace process. To that end, she called on the Council to guarantee the rights and achievements of the young people of Afghanistan in any future peace agreement.<sup>359</sup>

The Council discussions in 2019 focused primarily on the peace process, the presidential elections and the challenges presented by the security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. Council members emphasized the need for an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process<sup>360</sup> and that any agreement reached should preserve and protect the achievements in the area of human rights, particularly women's rights.<sup>361</sup> They called on the Taliban to engage in direct talks with the Government of Afghanistan,<sup>362</sup> noted the role of the international community<sup>363</sup> and UNAMA<sup>364</sup> in facilitating regional and intra-Afghan dialogue, the activities undertaken by UNAMA to support the conduct of presidential

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<sup>357</sup> [S/PV.8613](#).

<sup>358</sup> For details on the mandate of the Monitoring Team, see part IX, sect. I.

<sup>359</sup> [S/PV.8687](#).

<sup>360</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), Indonesia and Germany; [S/PV.8587](#), Belgium; [S/PV.8613](#), Indonesia; and [S/PV.8687](#), Poland.

<sup>361</sup> See for example [S/PV.8481](#), Poland, United Kingdom, and France; [S/PV.8485](#), United Kingdom, [S/PV.8555](#), Germany and Poland, [S/PV.8587](#), Belgium and [S/PV.8613](#), Germany.

<sup>362</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), France, [S/PV.8555](#), France, Belgium and Peru; [S/PV.8613](#), United Kingdom; and [S/PV.8687](#), United States.

<sup>363</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), Germany, Russian Federation, Belgium, Poland, and United Kingdom; [S/PV.8587](#), United Kingdom and France; [S/PV.8613](#), China and Dominican Republic; and [S/PV.8687](#), Russian Federation and Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>364</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), United States; [S/PV.8555](#), Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire; and [S/PV.8620](#), Dominican Republic.



elections,<sup>365</sup> and the importance of increased and meaningful participation of Afghan women in the electoral and political spheres.<sup>366</sup> Council members expressed concerns at the high level of civilian casualties, especially women and children, as well as the attacks against humanitarian actors, and urged parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law.<sup>367</sup> Some Council members also expressed concern at the ongoing security threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh),<sup>368</sup> and the linkages between drug production and trafficking in Afghanistan and the financing of terrorist groups.<sup>369</sup>

The issues outlined above were also addressed in the two Council resolutions adopted in 2019 extending the mandate of UNAMA.<sup>370</sup> On 15 March 2019, by resolution [2460 \(2019\)](#), the Council proceeded to a technical rollover, extending the mandate of UNAMA for six months instead of 12 months, until 17 September 2019.<sup>371</sup> Although the resolution was unanimously adopted, Council members expressed differing views over its content. The representative of Germany explained that resolution [2460 \(2019\)](#) was not the kind of resolution that his delegation had worked towards as co-penholder, and it was not the kind of UNAMA resolution that was passed for the past 17 years. He lamented that such topics as the upcoming elections, the participation of women in the Afghan peace process, the situation of children in armed conflict and the nexus between climate change and security were no longer reflected in the resolution, recognising that the text did not satisfy any of the members.<sup>372</sup> The representative of Indonesia, as co-penholder, emphasized that with regard to the text of the resolution, unity had been the priority, and affirmed that there would be an opportunity to further develop the resolution, according to the conditions and priorities of Afghanistan. He underlined that the resolution was a good basis to do that sort of work — to chart positive development in Afghanistan and monitor the areas where the Government and the people of

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<sup>365</sup> See [S/PV.8687](#), Indonesia, United Kingdom, Kuwait, Belgium and South Africa.

<sup>366</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), South Africa, Peru and France; [S/PV.8555](#), Indonesia and Côte d'Ivoire; and [S/PV.8587](#), Indonesia, United Kingdom and Peru.

<sup>367</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), Equatorial Guinea and Belgium; [S/PV.8587](#), Belgium; and [S/PV.8687](#), Indonesia, Equatorial Guinea and France.

<sup>368</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), Indonesia and China; [S/PV.8587](#), Russian Federation; [S/PV.8613](#), Kuwait and Equatorial Guinea; and [S/PV.8687](#), Russian Federation and China.

<sup>369</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), South Africa and Peru; [S/PV.8555](#), Russian Federation, Côte d'Ivoire and Peru; [S/PV.8587](#), Russian Federation; [S/PV.8613](#), Peru and France; and [S/PV.8687](#), Russian Federation and China.

<sup>370</sup> For more information on the mandate of UNAMA, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>371</sup> Resolution [2460](#), paras. 4, 5 and 7.

<sup>372</sup> [S/PV.8485](#).

Afghanistan needed the international community's support. Several Council members regretted that the Council was not able to reach consensus on a more detailed resolution.<sup>373</sup> The representative of the United States accused China of derailing negotiations of the text due to the demand that the resolution highlight its Belt and Road Initiative using Council resolutions as a platform for inappropriately promoting self-serving initiatives. In response, the representative of China elaborated on the Belt and Road Initiative and stated that the Council had failed to reach an agreement on the extension of the substantive content of the resolution because of the persistence of differences, one of which was that one member in particular repeatedly refused to accept the consensus in the Council for many years and the constructive opinions put forward by others.

On 17 September 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2489 \(2019\)](#), extending UNAMA's mandate for 12 months, until 17 September 2020.<sup>374</sup> Ahead of the vote, the representative of Germany introduced an oral amendment to the text of the draft resolution. The President of the Council ruled that if delegations consented to the inclusion of this oral revision to the draft resolution and there were no objections, then the vote would proceed on the resolution as revised.<sup>375</sup> No objections were raised and the vote proceeded further to the instruction to include the revision in the text of the resolution. After the vote, the representatives of Germany and Indonesia, as co-penholders of the resolution, thanked all Council members for their engagement in the negotiations and specifically the delegation of China for the constructive approach.<sup>376</sup>

Developments in Afghanistan were also considered elsewhere under the item "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts".<sup>377</sup>

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<sup>373</sup> Ibid., Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Belgium and France.

<sup>374</sup> Resolution [2489](#), para. 4. For further information on the mandate of UNAMA, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>375</sup> For further information on the conduct of meetings, see part II, sect. VI.

<sup>376</sup> [S/PV. 8620](#), Germany and Indonesia.

<sup>377</sup> For more information, see part I, sect. 32.

## Meetings: The situation in Afghanistan

<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.8481</a> 11 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/193</a> )		Afghanistan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Deputy Executive Director of the Afghan Women's Network	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8485</a> 15 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/193</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Germany and Indonesia ( <a href="#">S/2019/223</a> )	Afghanistan		Nine Council members, <sup>b</sup> Afghanistan	Resolution <a href="#">2460 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8555</a> 19 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/493</a> )		13 Member States <sup>c</sup>	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Chairperson of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission	All Council members, all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8587</a> 26 July 2019			Afghanistan	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, President of the Afghanistan section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees <sup>e</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8613</a> 10 September 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/703</a> )		12 Member States <sup>f</sup>	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Executive Director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Chargé d'affaires of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, <sup>g</sup> all invitees <sup>h</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8620</a> 17 September 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/703</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Germany and Indonesia ( <a href="#">S/2019/223</a> )	Afghanistan		13 Council members, <sup>i</sup> Afghanistan	Resolution <a href="#">2489 (2019)</a> 15-0-0

<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.8687</a> 16 December 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/935</a> )		Afghanistan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Afghan Youth Representative to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> The Deputy Executive Director of the Afghan Women's Network participated in the meeting via videoconference from Kabul. Afghanistan was represented by its National Security Adviser.

<sup>b</sup> Belgium, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

<sup>c</sup> Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

<sup>d</sup> The Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

<sup>e</sup> The President of the Afghanistan section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom participated in the meeting via videoconference from Kabul.

<sup>f</sup> Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

<sup>g</sup> The representative of Indonesia spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#).

<sup>h</sup> The Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine.

<sup>i</sup> Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire (spoke on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and South Africa), Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

## 18. The situation in Myanmar

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting in connection with the item entitled “The situation in Myanmar”. The only meeting held in 2019 took the form of a briefing.<sup>378</sup> No decisions were adopted by the Council under this item in 2019. More information on the meeting, including its participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

On 28 February 2019, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar concerning her visits to Myanmar, Bangladesh and other areas in the region as well as the installation of her office in Myanmar. The Special Envoy noted that, in the broader context of Myanmar’s democratic transition, military and civilian tensions persisted ahead of the general elections in 2020 and the peace process remained fragile. She underlined the need to end the violence in Rakhine State, expressed concern that heavy fighting with the Arakan Army would further impact efforts toward the dignified, voluntary and safe return of refugees, and stated that Myanmar’s strategy for closure of camps for internally displaced persons should address, among others, the question of citizenship and of restoring their freedom of movement. She outlined challenges that required international support, such as increasing the level of access by relevant United Nations entities in order to support the creation of conditions for the return of refugees and to address the fragility of all communities in Rakhine State. She also noted the importance of accountability in combating impunity and fostering genuine reconciliation.<sup>379</sup>

During the discussion following the briefing, most Council members stressed that a voluntary, safe and dignified return should be the guiding principle in the repatriation of refugees.<sup>380</sup> Some members added that the Rohingya who remained in Rakhine, including internally displaced persons, should be allowed freedom of movement and basic

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<sup>378</sup> For further information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.A.

<sup>379</sup> [S/PV.8477](#).

<sup>380</sup> Ibid., United Kingdom, Indonesia, France, Dominican Republic, Belgium, Poland, Côte d’Ivoire, South Africa, Germany, Peru, United States and Equatorial Guinea.

services.<sup>381</sup> Other Council members encouraged the Government of Myanmar to fully implement the memorandum of understanding signed on 6 June 2018 with the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to address the humanitarian crisis and to ensure safe, full and unhindered access to Rakhine state for the United Nations and other humanitarian actors.<sup>382</sup> Many Council members also emphasized that the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine state, including those on citizenship and equal rights for the Rohingya, was critical in fostering conditions for voluntary repatriation and providing a solution to the crisis.<sup>383</sup>

On 22 August 2019, the permanent representative of Myanmar submitted a letter to the President of the Security Council expressing concern at the Arria-formula meeting announced for the day after entitled “Mass atrocity crimes in Myanmar: where do we stand on accountability?”, co-hosted by Germany, Peru and Kuwait.<sup>384</sup> The letter further noted that the title and the purpose of the meeting were grossly misleading and conveyed the erroneous message that “mass atrocity crimes” had actually been committed in Myanmar. Concerning the briefers chosen, the letter added also that it indicated a serious imbalance since the individuals chosen included those who advocated the “prejudicial and foregone conclusion” that the alleged atrocities had been committed by the Myanmar security forces. Based on these and other reasons, the letter explained that Myanmar would not participate in the meeting but would continue the constructive engagement with the members of the Security Council for the resolution of the complex issue of Rakhine State.<sup>385</sup>

The situation of children in Myanmar was also considered in connection with the item “Children and armed conflict, further to the conclusions adopted by the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established under Security Council resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#).”<sup>386</sup>

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<sup>381</sup> Ibid., Indonesia, France, Belgium, Poland, South Africa and Peru.

<sup>382</sup> Ibid., Dominican Republic, Belgium, Poland, Côte d’Ivoire and South Africa, Peru, United States.

<sup>383</sup> Ibid., United Kingdom, Indonesia, France, Dominican Republic, Poland, and Russian Federation.

<sup>384</sup> For more information on Arria-formula meetings in 2019, see part II, sect. I.C.

<sup>385</sup> See [S/2019/676](#).

<sup>386</sup> See [S/2019/719](#). For more information, see part I, sect. 28.

**Meetings: The situation in Myanmar**

<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.8477</a> 28 February 2019			Bangladesh, <sup>a</sup> Myanmar	Special Envoy of the Secretary- General on Myanmar	All Council members, all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> Bangladesh was represented by its Foreign Secretary.

## Europe

### 19. The situation in Cyprus

During the year 2019, the Security Council held two meetings and adopted two resolutions concerning the situation in Cyprus, extending the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). More information on the meetings, including on invitees, speakers and outcomes is given in the table below. The Council also held two closed meetings with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).<sup>387</sup>

On 30 January 2019, further to the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>388</sup> the Council held a meeting at which it unanimously adopted resolution [2453 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of UNFICYP for a period of six months, until 31 July 2019.<sup>389</sup> In the resolution, the Council expressed regret at the lack of progress towards a settlement since the conclusion of the 2017 Conference on Cyprus and urged the sides and all involved participants to seize the important opportunity presented by the consultations of United Nations Consultant, Jane Holl Lute, on a way forward, by engaging actively and constructively in those consultations.<sup>390</sup> The Council called upon the sides to explore ways to establish mechanisms and to enhance existing initiatives, with UNFICYP as facilitator through its liaison role, for effectively alleviating tensions and to help address island-wide matters that affect all Cypriots.<sup>391</sup> In this regard, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit by 15 April 2019 a report on his Good Offices and on progress towards reaching a consensus starting point for meaningful results-oriented

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<sup>387</sup> Held on 17 January and 15 July, under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B”; see [S/PV.8447](#) and [S/PV.8574](#).

<sup>388</sup> [S/2019/37](#).

<sup>389</sup> Resolution [2453 \(2019\)](#), para. 13. For more information regarding the mandate of UNFICYP, see part X, sect. I.

<sup>390</sup> Resolution [2453 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>391</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 6.



negotiations, as well as a report on the implementation of this resolution, by 10 July 2019, which would include how United Nations activities on Cyprus could be best configured to advance political progress while preserving stability.<sup>392</sup> In addition, the Council welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardize a culture of performance in United Nations peacekeeping and called on him to apply it to UNFICYP.<sup>393</sup>

On 25 July 2019, further to the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>394</sup> the Council held a meeting at which it unanimously adopted resolution [2483 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, until 31 January 2020.<sup>395</sup> In this resolution, the Council called for a reduction of tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean, and also called upon the leaders of the two Cypriot communities to refrain from any actions and rhetoric that might damage the chances of success.<sup>396</sup> The Council made reference to the meeting of 26 February among the two leaders and to their agreement with respect to confidence-building measures and on achieving a mine-free Cyprus.<sup>397</sup> Furthermore, the Council expressed serious concern at the increased number of violations of the military status quo along the ceasefire lines and called upon the sides to intensify their efforts to establish a mechanism for direct contacts at the military level, and to continue to explore ways to enhance existing initiatives for effectively alleviating tensions.<sup>398</sup> Further to the vote, the representative of the United States thanked the United Kingdom for its efforts in reaching consensus and for producing a more concise resolution. He also expressed regret at the lack of progress in the two years since the Conference on Cyprus and affirmed that the resolution was the unanimous expression of the Council's support for the leaders to take the political risks necessary to engage meaningfully and with a sense of urgency.<sup>399</sup> The representative of the Russian

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<sup>392</sup> Ibid., para. 20.

<sup>393</sup> Ibid., para. 18.

<sup>394</sup> [S/2019/562](#).

<sup>395</sup> Resolution [2483 \(2019\)](#), para. 8.

<sup>396</sup> Ibid., para. 2.

<sup>397</sup> Ibid., paras. 6 and 11.

<sup>398</sup> Ibid., paras. 5 and 9.

<sup>399</sup> [S/PV.8586](#).

Federation explained that his delegation supported the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP in an unchanged form, adding that the Mission played a key role in strengthening stability. He cautioned, however, that the Mission should not be used as an instrument to exert political pressure on Cypriots. He noted that the current system of guarantees, with the participation of three foreign States, did not help the Cypriots to arrive at an independent settlement for themselves and affirmed that the most effective way to ensure the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of a united Cyprus would be guarantees from the Security Council. He also urged those who may be tempted to draw Cyprus into “geopolitical games in an attempt to push out traditional players from the eastern Mediterranean” to refrain from doing so.

In addition to these meetings, in 2019, the Council also held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Cyprus.<sup>400</sup>

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<sup>400</sup> See [S/2019/840](#) and [S/2020/192](#).

### **Meetings: The situation in Cyprus**

<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.8453</a> 30 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus ( <a href="#">S/2019/37</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/89</a> )			Four Council members (China, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States)	Resolution <a href="#">2453 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8586</a> 25 July 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus ( <a href="#">S/2019/562</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/595</a> )			Two Council members (Russian Federation, United States)	Resolution <a href="#">2483 (2019)</a> 15-0-0

## **20. Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia**

### **A. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

During 2019, the Security Council held two meetings and adopted one resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter in connection with the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council continued the consideration of this item in the context of semi-annual briefings by the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>401</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes is given in the table below.

In his briefings to the Council in 2019, the High Representative provided updates on developments further to his two reports for the year.<sup>402</sup> On 8 May 2019, the High Representative reported that seven months from the general elections, the process of building coalitions and appointing Governments continued to dominate the political dynamic in Bosnia and Herzegovina and that while the Republika Srpska and some Federation cantons had moved swiftly to form Governments, there had been no appointment of a State-level Council of Ministers or a Federation Government. He also underlined that the continuation of divisive and destabilizing rhetoric from some of the political leadership posed a serious challenge to Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite the positive consensus on the need for further integration with the European Union. In this regard, he implored the leaders to abandon such rhetoric and to take strides to keep the country moving forward on the path to the European Union. He said that the political leaders continued to shirk their obligations with respect to the rule of law, particularly and persistently failing to respect binding decisions of the State judiciary and that there had been efforts to curb freedom of expression and dissent.<sup>403</sup>

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<sup>401</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>402</sup> See [S/2019/364](#) and [S/2019/843](#).

<sup>403</sup> [S/PV.8522](#).

During the discussion after the briefing, most Council members welcomed the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote national reconciliation and socioeconomic development as well as its continued engagement in the process of integration with the European Union. Speakers expressed concern about the delays in the formation of the Federation Government and of the State Council of Ministers six months after the elections, and urged the political representatives to engage constructively and to refrain from using divisive rhetoric to create favourable conditions for the reconciliation process. In addition, most members of the Council reiterated their calls on the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take the steps required to implement the 5+2 agenda, necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative. The representative of the Russian Federation said that the report of the High Representative was far from an impartial assessment of the situation in the country and highlighted disagreement with specific aspects of the report, including the relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He also stated that the Office of the High Representative had become an impediment to the country's future democratic progress and that it was vital to continue reducing the budget and staffing of the Office.<sup>404</sup>

In his second briefing to the Council, on 5 November 2019, further to the unanimous adoption of resolution [2496 \(2019\)](#), the High Representative regretted that more than a year after the general elections in October 2018, a Government at the State and Federation levels had not yet been formed. He also regretted the continued slow pace in implementing urgent electoral reforms and strengthening the rule of law, as well as the continuation of a divisive rhetoric.<sup>405</sup> At the meeting, the Council also heard a briefing by the Head of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Programme for TRIAL International, a non-governmental organization supporting victims of international crimes. She regretted that despite some positive developments, progress in bringing war criminals to justice had been slow. In this regard, she requested the Council and the international community to

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<sup>404</sup> Ibid.

<sup>405</sup> [S/PV.8658](#).

demand that victims saw their right to justice, truth and reparations fully implemented and supported the initiatives aimed at delivering justice and reconciliation.<sup>406</sup>

By resolution [2496 \(2019\)](#), adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council renewed the authorization of the multinational stabilization force (European Union Force – EUFOR ALTHEA) and the continued presence of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the country for a period of 12 months, starting from the date of the adoption of that resolution.<sup>407</sup> By the resolution, the Council also urged the parties to proceed with government formation at all levels and to prioritise the implementation of comprehensive reforms, and further called on the parties to refrain from any polarizing unconstructive policy, action and rhetoric.<sup>408</sup>

During the debate, most Council members welcomed the unanimous adoption of resolution [2496 \(2019\)](#) and commended the efforts of the High Representative to promote the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement as well as the contributions of EUFOR ALTHEA in preserving the stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The representative of the Russian Federation again said that the High Representative's report did not provide an objective and balanced picture of what was happening in the country and criticised the continuing bias against Bosnian Serbs and Croats. He added that in light of the mention in the report of the serious differences in views on the way forward in developing the statehood of Bosnia and Herzegovina between Bosnian, Serbs and Croats, the Office of the High Representative should focus on promoting a culture of dialogue, providing, if necessary, good offices to resolve disputes among Bosnians. He also called on the Council and the Steering Committee to step up efforts to close the Office of the High Representative.<sup>409</sup>

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<sup>406</sup> Ibid.

<sup>407</sup> Resolution [2496 \(2019\)](#) paras. 3 and 4. For more information, see part VIII, sect. III.

<sup>408</sup> Resolution [2496 \(2019\)](#), para. 8.

<sup>409</sup> [S/PV.8658](#).

### **Meetings: The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

<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.8522</a> 8 May 2019	Letter dated 1 May 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/364</a> )		Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia	High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8658</a> 5 November 2019	Letter dated 25 October 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/843</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Germany ( <a href="#">S/2019/859</a> )	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia	High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Head of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Programme for TRIAL International, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>b</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2496 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

<sup>a</sup> The Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine.

<sup>b</sup> The Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine.

## 21. Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia

### B. Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings in connection with the item entitled “Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)”. All meetings took the form of briefings and no decisions were adopted by the Council under the item in 2019.<sup>410</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

In a note by the President dated 7 February 2019,<sup>411</sup> the Council expressed its intent to hold briefings on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) three times in 2019 and, as from 2020, to hold briefings twice a year in April and October. Consistent with the note, in 2019, the Council heard three briefings (in February, June and October) by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK further to the Secretary-General’s reports pursuant to resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).<sup>412</sup> In 2019, the Council also heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel.<sup>413</sup>

The briefings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General focused on the continued tensions and impediments to the resumption of the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina,<sup>414</sup> the changes in Kosovo’s political landscape following the conduct of elections in Serb-majority municipalities and early general elections,<sup>415</sup> and the 28 May 2019 security incident that resulted in the arrest of UNMIK personnel.<sup>416</sup> The briefing of the United Nations Legal Counsel focused on the legal regime

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<sup>410</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>411</sup> [S/2019/120](#).

<sup>412</sup> [S.PV/8459](#), [S.PV/8541](#) and [S.PV/8655](#).

<sup>413</sup> [S.PV/8541](#).

<sup>414</sup> [S/PV.8459](#), [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).

<sup>415</sup> [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).

<sup>416</sup> [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).



of immunity for United Nations staff members in Kosovo, as an element of the response to the events of 28 May and their follow-up. He explained that the United Nations Department of Safety and Security had undertaken an internal investigation to gather all available information regarding the circumstances surrounding the arrest and detention of two staff members of UNMIK to look into the allegations by the Kosovo authorities regarding their conduct.<sup>417</sup>

In 2019, Council members addressed the agreement reached on reducing the cycle of meetings and reporting on this item.<sup>418</sup> While some Council members expressed support for the agreement,<sup>419</sup> others expressed a different view affirming that the situation in Kosovo was unstable and required to remain firmly under the Council's control and be considered based on the established practice of holding open briefings.<sup>420</sup>

Some Council members welcomed the successful holding of Kosovo's legislative elections on 6 October 2019 and expressed hope that it would be an opportunity to encourage dialogue and reform.<sup>421</sup> Council members expressed concern at the rising tension between Belgrade and Pristina, called on both Serbia and Kosovo to tone down the confrontational rhetoric and discussed options to facilitate the resumption of dialogue between the parties.<sup>422</sup> The representative of China stated that the parties concerned should reach a mutually acceptable solution on the Kosovo issue through dialogue within the framework of relevant Security Council resolutions.<sup>423</sup> Other Council members urged the resumption of the dialogue facilitated by the European Union,<sup>424</sup> and, in that context, called

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<sup>417</sup> [S/PV.8541](#).

<sup>418</sup> [S/2019/120](#).

<sup>419</sup> [S/PV.8459](#), United Kingdom, Germany, United States, Belgium and Poland; and [S.PV/8541](#), United States.

<sup>420</sup> [S.PV/8459](#), Russian Federation and [S/PV.8541](#), Russian Federation.

<sup>421</sup> [S/PV.8655](#), France, United Kingdom, Poland, Kuwait, Côte d'Ivoire and Peru.

<sup>422</sup> [S/PV.8459](#), Germany, United States, Russian Federation, China and Indonesia; [S/PV.8541](#), United States, Germany, Indonesia and Poland; and [S/PV.8655](#), United Kingdom, Germany, United States, China, Côte d'Ivoire and Peru.

<sup>423</sup> [S/PV.8459](#), [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).

<sup>424</sup> [S/PV.8459](#), United Kingdom, Germany, United States, France, Belgium, Peru, Indonesia, Kuwait, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea; [S/PV.8541](#), South Africa, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, Poland, Peru and Kuwait; and [S/PV.8655](#), France, Germany, Poland, Indonesia, Kuwait, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, Equatorial Guinea and Peru.

for the lifting of tariffs imposed by the Government of Kosovo on goods imported from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and the cessation of the Serbian Government's call for other countries to withdraw their recognition of Kosovo.<sup>425</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation reminded the Council that it had been and continued to be the main platform for international dialogue on Kosovo, in accordance with resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).<sup>426</sup> He added that the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina under the auspices of the European Union seemed to be “comatose” with nothing having been done in that format for a very long time.<sup>427</sup>

On the question of Kosovo's independence, the representative of the Russian Federation noted the attempts by Kosovo authorities, with the support of a number of States, to join various international organizations and averred that Pristina could participate in multilateral structures only through UNMIK and that anything else would be a serious contravention of the provisions of resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).<sup>428</sup> Other Council members held a different view recognising the independence of Kosovo.<sup>429</sup>

In relation to the work of UNMIK, Council members considered the possibility of conducting a strategic review of the Mission's mandate. Some members held the view that it was necessary to conduct a review of the Mission given the drastic change of conditions in Kosovo since the beginning of its mandate and the need to assess the Mission's withdrawal.<sup>430</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation did not support the proposed review, contending that the problems in Kosovo were not yet resolved and called on the Secretariat to carefully monitor the situation.<sup>431</sup>

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<sup>425</sup> [S/PV.8459](#), Germany, United States and Indonesia; [S/PV.8541](#), Côte d'Ivoire and Poland; and [S/PV.8655](#), Germany, Côte d'Ivoire and Peru.

<sup>426</sup> [S/PV.8459](#).

<sup>427</sup> [S/PV.8655](#).

<sup>428</sup> [S/PV.8459](#), Russian Federation.

<sup>429</sup> [S/PV.8459](#), United Kingdom and Germany; [S/PV.8541](#), United States; and [S/PV.8655](#), United States.

<sup>430</sup> [S/PV.8459](#), United Kingdom, United States and Poland; [S/PV.8541](#), United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Poland; and [S/PV.8655](#), United States and Poland. For more information on the mandate of UNMIK, see part X, sect. I.

<sup>431</sup> [S/PV.8655](#), Russian Federation.

Regarding the 28 May incident, Council members expressed concern about the detention of UNMIK personnel in the course of a police operation conducted by authorities in northern Kosovo.<sup>432</sup> They welcomed the report on UNMIK's internal investigation into the matter and reaffirmed that the privileges, immunities, safety and security of United Nations personnel should be fully respected.<sup>433</sup>

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<sup>432</sup> [S/PV.8541](#), China, United States and Kuwait; and [S/PV.8655](#), United Kingdom, China and South Africa.

<sup>433</sup> [S/PV.8655](#), United Kingdom, Russian Federation, United States, China, Indonesia, Belgium and Peru.

**Meetings: Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)**

<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.8459</a> 7 February 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) ( <a href="#">S/2019/102</a> )		Serbia <sup>a</sup>	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Ms. Vlora Çitaku	All Council members, all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8541</a> 10 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIK ( <a href="#">S/2019/461</a> )		Serbia <sup>a</sup>	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, Ms. Vlora Çitaku	All Council members, all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8655</a> 31 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIK ( <a href="#">S/2019/797</a> )		Serbia <sup>a</sup>	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Vlora Çitaku	All Council members, all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> Serbia was represented by its First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>b</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General participated in the meeting via videoconference from Pristina.

## **21. Items relating to Ukraine**

### **A. Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))**

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting, in the form of a briefing,<sup>434</sup> in connection with the item entitled “Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))”. More information on the meeting, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

On 25 April 2019, the Council heard briefings under this item by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group. Against the backdrop of the presidential elections held on 21 April 2019 in Ukraine and the issuance of a Russian presidential decree on 24 April 2019 that made possible for Ukrainians to obtain Russian citizenship under a simplified procedure, the briefers focused on the importance of the full implementation of the Minsk agreements as well as on the need to avoid the politicization of humanitarian assistance to address the situation in the eastern part of the country, including the need to raise funds and to urgently carry out humanitarian demining. Briefers expressed concern at the worsening security situation, which had impacted the freedom of movement in the country and the ability to fulfil the mandated tasks by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.<sup>435</sup>

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<sup>434</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>435</sup> See [S/PV.8516](#).

The discussion during the meeting focused primarily on the Russian Federation's decision to expedite the granting of Russian nationality to Ukrainian citizens residing in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and its impact on Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty and the Minsk agreements.<sup>436</sup> Council members also discussed the security situation in eastern Ukraine, in particular, the de-escalation of conflict,<sup>437</sup> its impact on the humanitarian conditions on the ground and on the provision of humanitarian assistance.<sup>438</sup>

In 2019, the Council also considered the situation in Ukraine under the item entitled "Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/264](#))".

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<sup>436</sup> Ibid., France, United States, Belgium, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom and Russian Federation.

<sup>437</sup> Ibid., Indonesia, France, United States, South Africa and Kuwait.

<sup>438</sup> Ibid., France, South Africa, Belgium, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Peru, Côte d'Ivoire and United Kingdom.

**Meetings: Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/136)**

<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.8516</a> 25 April 2019			Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator; Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine; Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group	All Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>b</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> The representatives of Germany and of the Russian Federation took the floor more than once to make further statements.

<sup>b</sup> The Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group participated in the meeting via videoconference from Kyiv.

## **21. Items relating to Ukraine**

### **B. Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/264](#))**

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings in connection with the item entitled “Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/264](#))”.<sup>439</sup> Both meetings took the form of briefings.<sup>440</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

During the two meetings held under this item on 12 February and 16 July 2019, the Council heard briefings by a variety of speakers. On 12 February, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Department of Peace Operations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the Special Representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group. Briefers focused on the overall security situation in eastern Ukraine and the continued challenges to the implementation of the Minsk agreements. The briefers called for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure through, among other things, the full withdrawal of heavy weapons, the disengagement of forces, and the scaling up of humanitarian mine

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<sup>439</sup> In addition to the two meetings, the provisional agenda for the 8529<sup>th</sup> meeting was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes ([S/PV.8529](#)). For more information on the adoption of the agenda, see part II, sect. II.A.

<sup>440</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.



action. Briefers also called for improving the access of humanitarian actors and the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission.<sup>441</sup>

These topics were also discussed by Council members. The representative of the Russian Federation explained that the meeting was being held at the initiative of his delegation in order to discuss the implementation of the package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements signed four years earlier, on 12 February 2015.<sup>442</sup> Most Council members called for the full implementation of resolution [2202 \(2015\)](#), by which the Security Council had endorsed the package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements and the presidential statement of 6 June 2018, which, among other issues, reiterated the importance of the Minsk agreements and called for the United Nations to respond to the humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine.<sup>443</sup> Council members expressed differing views about the origins of the conflict and the parties responsible for the situation.<sup>444</sup>

On 16 July 2019, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. They focused on the law establishing Ukrainian as the sole State language in Ukraine, which entered into force on 15 July 2019, as well as on the views and recommendations of the relevant office of the United Nations and the OSCE. While acknowledging Ukraine's right to promote its national language, the briefers expressed the need to respect the ethnic and linguistic diversity of the country, and called for sufficient legal guarantees for the protection of the linguistic rights of persons belonging to national minorities.<sup>445</sup> At the meeting, Council members discussed Ukraine's language law in the context of the ongoing crisis in eastern Ukraine and reiterated the need for the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. In this connection, they called for the continuation of the dialogue between the parties in the Normandy format and the

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<sup>441</sup> [S/PV.8461](#).

<sup>442</sup> [S/PV.8461](#).

<sup>443</sup> [S/PRST/2018/12](#).

<sup>444</sup> [S/PV.8461](#), Russian Federation, Germany, Poland, United States, France, United Kingdom, and Belgium.

<sup>445</sup> [S/PV.8575](#).

Trilateral Contact Group and progress in terms of prisoner exchanges, protection of civilians and civilian infrastructures, and provision of humanitarian assistance. Some Council members referred to the law enacted on 24 April by the Russian Federation to provide expedited Russian citizenship to Ukrainian citizens living in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.<sup>446</sup> Council members also recalled the fifth anniversary of the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17.<sup>447</sup>

In 2019, the Council also considered the situation in Ukraine under the item entitled “Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))”.<sup>448</sup>

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<sup>446</sup> Ibid., France, Poland and United Kingdom

<sup>447</sup> Ibid., United States, France, United Kingdom, Poland, Belgium and Germany.

<sup>448</sup> See part I, sect. 21.A.

**Meetings: Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/264](#))**

<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.8461</a> 12 February 2019			Ukraine	Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Department of Peace Operations, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator' Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Special Representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group	All Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8529</a> 20 May 2019 (agenda not adopted)						Procedural vote (Rule 9) 5-6-4 <sup>c</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8575</a> 16 July 2019			Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities	All Council members, <sup>d</sup> all invitees <sup>c</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> The representatives of Germany and the Russian Federation took the floor more than once in order to make further statements.

<sup>b</sup> The Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group participated in the meeting via videoconference from Minsk. The Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine took the floor more than once to respond to comments. The representative of Ukraine took the floor more than once in order to make further statements.

<sup>c</sup> *In favour:* China, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Russian Federation, South Africa; *Against:* Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; *Abstaining:* Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru.

<sup>d</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation took the floor more than once in order to make further statements.

<sup>e</sup> The representative of Ukraine took the floor more than once in order to make further statements.

## Middle East

### 22. The situation in the Middle East

During the period under review, the Security Council held 41 meetings in relation to the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”. Consistent with past practice, in 2019, most meetings held under this item took the form of briefings. In the context of these meetings, the Council considered a variety of topics, principally, the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic; the conflict in Yemen; the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF); and the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Following established practice, the Council met two times in the context of closed meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries to UNDOF and UNIFIL.<sup>449</sup> In addition, departing from previous practice, the Council held one private (closed) meeting under this item, on 5 November 2019, to hear briefings by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of Disarmament Affairs and the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the use of chemical weapons in Syria.<sup>450</sup>

In connection with this item, the Council adopted a total of six resolutions and issued two presidential statements. On 16 January 2019, the Council established the United Nations Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA) for an initial period of six months to oversee the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement,<sup>451</sup> which it extended for a further period of six months on 15 July 2019.<sup>452</sup> On 26 February 2019, the Council renewed the sanctions measures in relation to the situation in Yemen until 26 February 2020 and extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts for 13 months until 28 March 2020.<sup>453</sup> The Council also renewed twice the mandate of UNDOF for periods of six months each,<sup>454</sup> and extended the mandate of UNIFIL once for a period of 12 months.<sup>455</sup> The Council failed to adopt four draft

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<sup>449</sup> Under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B”, the Council held one meeting in relation to UNDOF on 11 June 2019, see [S/PV.8544](#); and one meeting in relation to UNIFIL on 8 August 2019, see [S/PV.8594](#).

<sup>450</sup> See [S/PV.8659](#).

<sup>451</sup> Resolution [2452 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>452</sup> Resolution [2481 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>453</sup> Resolution [2456 \(2019\)](#), paras. 2 and 5.

<sup>454</sup> Resolutions [2477 \(2019\)](#), para 13; and [2503 \(2019\)](#), para. 14.

<sup>455</sup> Resolution [2485 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

resolutions in relation to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. As elaborated below, two draft resolutions were not adopted due to the negative vote of one or more permanent members, and the remaining two were not adopted due to the failure to obtain the required number of votes.

More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in the table below.

During the period under review, the meetings in the Council in relation to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to focus on three main aspects: the political process to end the conflict; the humanitarian situation in the country; and the proliferation and use of chemical weapons. As opposed to previous years,<sup>456</sup> in 2019 the briefings concerning the political process and the humanitarian situation were often addressed jointly during the same meeting whereas the proliferation and use of chemical weapons was addressed separately in dedicated meetings.

Regarding the political process, the Council held regular monthly briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on the efforts to reach a political solution to the conflict. In this connection, in 2019, the briefings and discussions of the Council focused on the formation of the Constitutional Committee to undertake a constitutional reform, as agreed to in the final statement of the Sochi National Dialogue Congress, including on the composition of the Committee.<sup>457</sup> In his briefings to the Council, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria elaborated on his five-point plan to facilitate the peace process, including the formation of the Constitutional Committee,<sup>458</sup> and on his intention to convene the Constitutional Committee on 30 October in Geneva further to the agreement on Terms of Reference and Core Rules of Procedure for the Constitutional Committee.<sup>459</sup> On 8 October 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement welcoming the announcement by the

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<sup>456</sup> See *Repertoire, Supplement 2018*, part I, sect. 23; *Repertoire, Supplement 2016-2017*, part I, sect. 24; and *Repertoire, Supplement 2014-2015*, part I, sect. 23.

<sup>457</sup> According to the statement, a constitutional committee would be formed to draft a constitutional reform as a contribution to the political settlement under United Nations auspices in accordance with resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). For more information, see letter dated 14 February 2018 from the permanent representative of the Russian Federation to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2018/121](#)), annex.

<sup>458</sup> [S/PV.8475](#).

<sup>459</sup> [S/PV.8628](#). See also [S/2019/775](#).

Secretary-General of the agreement between the parties for a credible, balanced, and inclusive Constitutional Committee facilitated by the United Nations in Geneva.<sup>460</sup> The Council heard briefings by the Special Envoy as well as the Board Member of the Syrian Women's League, a Constitutional Committee member representative of civil society, following the first meeting of the Constitutional Committee which took place on 30 October 2019.<sup>461</sup> In his last briefing of 2019 to the Council, the Special Envoy reported on the second meeting of the Committee held on 25 November 2019, in the context of which no consensus had been reached on basic aspects, such as the Committee's agenda.<sup>462</sup> The briefings by the Special Envoy and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs focused also on the release of detainees and abductees as well as on the human rights abuses referenced in the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on detentions in the Syrian Arab Republic, mandated by the Human Rights Council.<sup>463</sup> Civil society representatives also briefed the Council on this topic.<sup>464</sup>

In relation to the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator as well as by the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Director and Deputy Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on the findings of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of relevant resolutions, including resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#) which authorized cross-border humanitarian operations.<sup>465</sup> The briefers provided regular updates on the humanitarian conditions in different parts of the country, particularly Idlib in northwestern Syria and the Rukban and Al-Hol refugee camps, and on the efforts of the cross-border humanitarian assistance.

Against the backdrop of the expiration of the authorization for the cross-border operations mechanism on 10 January 2020,<sup>466</sup> the Council voted on 20 December 2019, on

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<sup>460</sup> [S/PRST/2019/12](#), first and second paragraphs.

<sup>461</sup> [S/PV.8674](#), Special Envoy and Board Member of the Syrian Women's League.

<sup>462</sup> [S/PV.8696](#).

<sup>463</sup> [S/PV.8475](#), [S/PV.8520](#), [S/PV.8609](#), and [S/PV.8493](#).

<sup>464</sup> [S/PV.8593](#) Representative of Syria Bright Future and Representative of Families for Freedom; [S/PV.8674](#) Board member of the Syrian Women's League and founding member of the Syrian League for Citizenship; and [S/PV.8696](#), co-Founder and co-Director of the Center for Civil Society and Democracy.

<sup>465</sup> Resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#), para. 2.

<sup>466</sup> Resolution [2449 \(2018\)](#), para. 3.

two competing draft resolutions to extend the mechanism.<sup>467</sup> One of the drafts, submitted by Belgium, Germany and Kuwait, proposed extending the authorization of humanitarian agencies to use three out of four border crossings authorized in resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#) to deliver humanitarian assistance for a period of six months followed by an additional period of six months, unless the Council decided otherwise.<sup>468</sup> The competing draft submitted by the Russian Federation stipulated renewing the authorizations at two border crossings only, for a fixed period of six months.<sup>469</sup> The draft submitted by the co-penholders failed to be adopted due to the negative vote of two permanent members, namely, China and the Russian Federation.<sup>470</sup> At the outset of the meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation indicated that he would vote against the draft submitted by the co-penholders, stressing that it failed to take into account the changes that had occurred in Syria since 2014, rendering cross-border assistance unnecessary.<sup>471</sup> Following the vote, similar remarks were made by the representative of China, who stated that the mechanism had been adopted under specific circumstances, and needed to be evaluated and adjusted in light of the developments on the ground. Several Council members expressed regret at the failure to adopt the draft resolution submitted by the co-penholders (Belgium, Germany and Kuwait), and the representative of the United States said that the consequences of the vetoes by China and the Russian Federation would be disastrous.<sup>472</sup> The Council then voted on the draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation, which was not adopted due to the failure to obtain the required number of votes.<sup>473</sup> The representative of Belgium argued that the draft presented by the co-penholders accurately reflected the situation on the ground in Syria.<sup>474</sup> The representatives of Germany and the United States criticized the take-it-or-leave-it approach of the Russian Federation with regard to the negotiation on the draft resolutions, and the representatives of

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<sup>467</sup> [S/PV.8697](#).

<sup>468</sup> [S/2019/961](#), para. 3.

<sup>469</sup> [S/2019/962](#), para. 2.

<sup>470</sup> [S/PV.8697](#). In favour: Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States; Against: China, Russian Federation.

<sup>471</sup> [S/PV.8697](#).

<sup>472</sup> Ibid., Kuwait, Dominican Republic, France, Poland, Peru and United States.

<sup>473</sup> Ibid. In favour: China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Russian Federation, South Africa; Against: Dominican Republic, France, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; Abstaining: Belgium, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait.

<sup>474</sup> [S/PV.8697](#).



the United Kingdom, Poland and Indonesia recalled that the Russian draft failed to address the needs of the Syrian people.<sup>475</sup> Several speakers also underscored the need to continue the consultations in order to ensure the renewal of the cross-border assistance mandate before its expiration on 10 January 2020.<sup>476</sup>

In addition to the cross-border humanitarian operation, the Council was also briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on the impact of military operations throughout the country, including those carried out by terrorist organizations and on the efforts to restore the Russian Federation-Turkey demilitarization agreement of 17 September 2018. Throughout the second quarter of the year, the Council often discussed the increasing problem of attacks against medical facilities in the country.<sup>477</sup> The Council was also briefed by the Head of the Russian Centre for the Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic and Refugee Migration Monitoring on the activities of terrorist organizations as well as by the Executive Director of the Syrian American Medical Society on the assistance provided to medical facilities across Syria.<sup>478</sup>

Further to the agreement of the Presidents of Turkey and the Russian Federation on how to stabilize the situation in Idlib,<sup>479</sup> the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs reported to the Council, on 19 September 2019, about the unilateral ceasefire in Idlib announced by the Russian Federation on 30 August as well as the establishment by the Secretary-General, on 13 September, of an internal, independent United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry to investigate a series of incidents that had occurred in northwest Syria.<sup>480</sup> On that same day, the Council voted on two competing draft resolutions to address “the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Idlib Governorate”.<sup>481</sup> One draft resolution was submitted by Belgium, Germany and Kuwait,<sup>482</sup> and the other by China and

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<sup>475</sup> Ibid., Germany, Poland, Indonesia and United States.

<sup>476</sup> Ibid., United Kingdom, Germany and South Africa.

<sup>477</sup> See [S/PV.8493](#), [S/PV.8515](#), [S/PV.8527](#), [S/PV.8535](#), [S/PV.8553](#), [S/PV.8561](#); and [S/PV.8589](#).

<sup>478</sup> [S/PV.8561](#), Head of the Russian Centre for the Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic and Refugee Migration Monitoring and Executive Director of the Syrian American Medical Society.

<sup>479</sup> [S/PV.8609](#).

<sup>480</sup> [S/PV.8622](#). On 14 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs told the Council that the Board of Inquiry had commenced its investigations ([S/PV.8664](#)).

<sup>481</sup> See [S/2019/756](#), para. 1; and [S/2019/757](#), para. 1.

<sup>482</sup> [S/2019/756](#).

the Russian Federation.<sup>483</sup> The draft resolution submitted by the three co-penholders aimed to introduce a ceasefire, beginning on 21 September and it would have demanded all Member States to ensure that counter-terrorist activities complied with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, and would have reiterated the demand on all parties, particularly the Syrian authorities, to immediately halt any indiscriminate aerial bombardments and minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects, including medical facilities.<sup>484</sup> The draft resolution submitted by China and the Russian Federation would have taken note of the memorandum of understanding agreed between the Russian Federation and Turkey on 17 September 2018,<sup>485</sup> and decided that the parties would maintain the 31 August ceasefire and reaffirmed that the cessation of hostilities would not apply to military operations against terrorist groups.<sup>486</sup> In the explanation of their votes, the representatives of China and the Russian Federation mentioned that the failure to address the impact of the activities of terrorist organizations in the draft submitted by the three co-penholders was the reason for their votes against it.<sup>487</sup> The representative of China added that “to steamroll” a draft resolution that had major controversies towards a vote was not constructive. While the draft submitted by the three co-penholders failed to be adopted due to the negative vote of two permanent members,<sup>488</sup> the draft submitted by China and the Russian Federation failed to be adopted due to the absence of the required number of votes.<sup>489</sup>

The Council was also briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific on the October 2019 military activities conducted by Turkey as part of “Operation Peace Spring” in northeastern Syria as well as on the subsequent agreement with

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<sup>483</sup> [S/2019/757](#).

<sup>484</sup> [S/2019/756](#), paras. 1 and 2.

<sup>485</sup> [S/2018/852](#).

<sup>486</sup> [S/2019/757](#), eleventh preambular paragraph and paras. 1 and 2.

<sup>487</sup> [S/PV.8623](#) Russian Federation and China.

<sup>488</sup> In favour: Belgium, Côte d’Ivoire, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States; Against: China, Russian Federation; Abstaining: Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>489</sup> In favour: China, Russian Federation; Against: Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; Abstaining: Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, South Africa.

the United States and the memorandum of understanding with the Russian Federation, respectively, concerning various aspects of the operation.<sup>490</sup>

With respect to the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Council was regularly briefed by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and her Deputy on the progress in the implementation of resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons program in the context of informal consultations of the whole.<sup>491</sup> On 5 November 2019, however, the Council was briefed by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs as well as by the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (OPCW),<sup>492</sup> in the context of a private (closed) meeting of the Council.<sup>493</sup>

With regard to the conflict in Yemen, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2452 \(2019\)](#), on 16 January 2019. By this resolution, the Council established a Special Political Mission, the United Nations Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA) for an initial period of six months, to support the implementation of the Agreement on the City of Hodeidah and Ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa (Hodeidah Agreement).<sup>494</sup> The Council mandated the new Mission to support the implementation of the Hodeidah Agreement through, inter alia, leading and supporting the functioning of the Redeployment Coordination Committee to oversee the governorate-wide ceasefire and the redeployment of forces by the parties from the city of Hodeidah and the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa

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<sup>490</sup> [S/PV.8645](#), Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. See letter dated 9 October 2019 from the permanent representative of Turkey addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2019/804](#)).

<sup>491</sup> See, for example, [S/2019/910](#); [S/2019/1015](#); [S/2020/29](#); [S/2019/840](#); [S/2019/744](#); [S/2020/171](#); and [S/2020/191](#).

<sup>492</sup> On 2 March 2019, the OPCW published the final report of its Fact-Finding Mission on the alleged chemical weapons attack in Douma on 7 April 2018 and was transmitted to the Council by the Secretary-General ([S/2019/208](#)).

<sup>493</sup> [S/PV.8659](#). On 22 November 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, welcoming the attendance and briefing of the OPCW Director-General, reaffirming that the proliferation, means of delivery and any use of chemical weapons was a threat to international peace and security, emphasizing the need for accountability for their use and expressing support for the efforts of the OPCW to achieve the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention and to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it ([S/PRST/2019/14](#), first, second, fifth, sixth and seventh paragraphs). For more information, see part I, sect. 38.

<sup>494</sup> Resolution [2452 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. See letter of the Secretary-General dated 31 December 2018 containing his proposals on the role and support of the United Nations in the implementation of the Hodeidah Agreement ([S/2019/28](#)). For further details on the Stockholm Agreement of 13 December 2018, see *Repertoire*, 2018, part I, sect. 23.

and monitoring the compliance of the parties with the ceasefire and the mutual redeployments.<sup>495</sup> With regard to the composition and operational aspects of the Mission, the Council approved the proposals of the Secretary-General.<sup>496</sup> On 15 July 2019, the Council extended the mandate of UNMHA by resolution [2481 \(2019\)](#), for a further period of six months until 15 January 2020.<sup>497</sup>

In 2019, the Council continued to focus in its meetings on three distinct areas in relation to the conflict in Yemen, namely, the political process to find a solution to the conflict, the humanitarian situation in the country and the sanctions measures in place against individuals and entities designated as engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability of Yemen.

Regarding the political process, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen on the progress in the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement. During his briefings, he updated the Council on the status of the Hodeidah Agreement, including the outcomes of consultations between the parties. In his briefings, the Special Envoy also addressed the prisoner exchange mechanism and the formation of a joint committee to address the situation in the city of Taiz as well as the situation in the South of Yemen.<sup>498</sup> On 16 September 2019, the Council addressed the 14 September attack on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia and heard the briefing of the Special Envoy who informed the Council that Ansar Allah had claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>499</sup> During the same meeting, the Special Envoy notified the Council of the establishment of the tripartite ceasefire and the de-escalation mechanisms to allow for greater communication between the parties to prevent military escalation.<sup>500</sup>

On 29 August 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement expressing deep concern at the escalation of violence in the south of Yemen.<sup>501</sup> In the presidential statement

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<sup>495</sup> Resolution [2452 \(2019\)](#), paras. 2 (a-b). For more information on the mandate of UNMHA, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>496</sup> Resolution [2452 \(2019\)](#), para. 3. Throughout the reporting period, the Head of UNMHA and Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee changed twice (see exchange of letters [S/2019/95](#) and [S/2019/96](#); and [S/2019/734](#) and [S/2019/735](#)).

<sup>497</sup> Resolution [2481 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>498</sup> See, for example, [S/PV.8598](#), [SPV.8619](#) and [S/PV.8672](#).

<sup>499</sup> [S/PV.8619](#).

<sup>500</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>501</sup> [S/PRST/2019/9](#), second paragraph.

the Council called on all involved parties to show restraint and to preserve Yemen's territorial integrity, while welcoming and fully supporting the efforts by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to convene a dialogue in Jeddah to resolve the situation.<sup>502</sup> The Council also fully supported the Special Envoy's efforts to work with the parties to pave the way for the resumption of comprehensive negotiations, without delay, on the security and political arrangements necessary to end the conflict and resume a peaceful transition.<sup>503</sup>

Further to the signature of the Riyadh Agreement between the Government of Yemen and the Southern Transitional Council on 5 November 2019, the Special Envoy briefed the Council on 11 November 2019, highlighting the momentum to reach a political settlement in Yemen and noting that the parties were working together with the support of Saudi Arabia, regional powers, the international community and the United Nations to achieve a compromise on a range of issues.<sup>504</sup>

Regarding the humanitarian situation in Yemen, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator or his Deputy and the Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, often in conjunction with the Special Envoy. The briefers reported to the Council that despite the political momentum, the humanitarian situation in the country remained dire. They focused their briefings on, inter alia, the continued economic instability, the public health concerns, and the displacement resulting from the escalation in various parts of the country. They also raised the need for broader inclusion of women in the peace process as well as the disproportionate impact of the war on children and women. In this regard, the Council also heard briefings from the Chairman of Food for Humanity, a Yemeni non-governmental organization, who criticised the Stockholm Agreement for excluding women, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict, who focused on the grave human rights violations against children in Yemen, including their widespread recruitment and maiming.<sup>505</sup>

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<sup>502</sup> Ibid., third paragraph.

<sup>503</sup> Ibid., fourth paragraph.

<sup>504</sup> [S/PV.8672](#).

<sup>505</sup> [S/PV.8512](#), Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict and Chairperson of Food for Humanity.

The Council was also briefed by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme who reported on the challenges faced by the food assistance in the country.<sup>506</sup>

Regarding the sanctions measures imposed in connection with the conflict in Yemen, on 26 February 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2456 \(2019\)](#) renewing the sanctions measures and extending the mandate of the Panel of Experts for 13 months until 28 March 2020.<sup>507</sup> On 15 May 2019, the representative of Peru, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) briefed the Council on his visits to Amman, Riyadh, Muscat and Tehran between 30 March and 5 April to raise awareness of the purpose of sanctions and obtaining first-hand information on their implementation.<sup>508</sup>

In 2019, the mandate of UNDOF was renewed twice by resolutions [2477 \(2019\)](#) and [2503 \(2019\)](#) for periods of six months each, until 31 December 2019 and 30 June 2020, respectively.<sup>509</sup> On 27 March 2019, at the request of the Syrian delegation, the Council held a public meeting further to the decision of the United States to recognize the occupied Syrian Golan as Israeli territory.<sup>510</sup> The Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs as well as by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations. At the meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs reiterated the Secretary-General's statement that the United Nations position on the Golan was known and clear in that it was reflected in the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, notably Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [497 \(1981\)](#).<sup>511</sup>

In connection with Lebanon, in 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2485 \(2019\)](#), on 29 August, extending the mandate of UNIFIL for a further period of one year.<sup>512</sup> By this resolution, the Council welcomed the progress regarding the formation of the new Government in January 2019 and encouraged all Lebanese parties to resume discussions towards a consensus on a National Defence Strategy.<sup>513</sup> The resolution also reiterated the

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<sup>506</sup> [S/PV.8551](#) and [S/PV.8578](#).

<sup>507</sup> Resolution [2456 \(2019\)](#), paras. 2 and 5.

<sup>508</sup> [S/PV.8525](#).

<sup>509</sup> Resolutions [2477 \(2019\)](#), para. 13; and [2503 \(2019\)](#), para. 14.

<sup>510</sup> [S/PV.8495](#).

<sup>511</sup> Ibid. For further detail on the discussion, see part II, sect. I.D.

<sup>512</sup> Resolution [2485 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. See also letter dated 1 August 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2019/619](#)). For further information on the mandate of UNIFIL, see part X, sect. I.

<sup>513</sup> Resolution [2485 \(2019\)](#), second and sixteenth preambular paragraphs.

need to respect the Blue Line and noted with concern that UNIFIL had still not been able to access the locations related to the discovery of tunnels crossing the Blue Line in violation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).<sup>514</sup>

For the purposes of facilitating the coverage of this item, the meetings are set out below under five separate headings, namely: the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, UNDOF and UNIFIL.

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<sup>514</sup> Ibid., twelfth preambular paragraph and para. 11.

## Meetings: The situation in the Middle East – Syrian Arab Republic

<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.8454</a> 30 January 2019			Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	13 Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8471</a> 26 February 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions <a href="#">2139 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2165 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2191 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2258 (2015)</a> , <a href="#">2332 (2016)</a> , <a href="#">2393 (2017)</a> , <a href="#">2401 (2018)</a> and <a href="#">2449 (2018)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/157</a> )		Syrian Arab Republic	Director for the Operations and Advocacy Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	13 Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8475</a> 28 February 2019			Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8493</a> 27 March 2019			Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Director of the Coordination Division of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8515</a> 24 April 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions <a href="#">2139 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2165 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2191 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2258 (2015)</a> , <a href="#">2332 (2016)</a> , <a href="#">2393 (2017)</a> ,		Syrian Arab Republic	Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Nujeen Mustapha, civil society representative	13 Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees	



<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="#">2401 (2018)</a> and <a href="#">2449</a> <a href="#">(2018)</a> <a href="#">(S/2019/321)</a>					
<a href="#">S/PV.8520</a> 30 April 2019				Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	All Council members, invitee	
<a href="#">S/PV.8527</a> 17 May 2019			Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	Under-Secretary- General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Under- Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8535</a> 28 May 2019			Syrian Arab Republic	Assistant Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	13 Council members <sup>b,c,d</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8553</a> 18 June 2019			Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	Under-Secretary- General for Peacebuilding and Political Affairs, Under-Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	13 Council members <sup>d</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8561</a> 25 June 2019	Report of the Secretary- General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions <a href="#">2139 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2165 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2191 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2258 (2015)</a> , <a href="#">2332 (2016)</a> , <a href="#">2393 (2017)</a> , <a href="#">2401 (2018)</a> and <a href="#">2449</a>		Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Head of the Russian Centre for the Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic and Refugee Migration Monitoring, Executive Director of the Syrian American Medical Society	13 Council members <sup>d</sup> , all invitees <sup>e,f</sup>	

<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="#">(2018)</a> <a href="#">(S/2019/508)</a>					
<a href="#">S/PV.8567</a> 27 June 2019			Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	All Council members, all invitees <sup>g</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8589</a> 30 July 2019				Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Director for International Policy and Partnerships, Physicians for Human Rights	13 Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8593</a> 7 August 2019			Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Dr. Hala, Syria Bright Future, Ms. Amina Khouliani, Families for Freedom	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8609</a> 29 August 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions <a href="#">2139 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2165 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2191 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2258 (2015)</a> , <a href="#">2332 (2016)</a> , <a href="#">2393 (2017)</a> , <a href="#">2401 (2018)</a> and <a href="#">2449 (2018)</a> <a href="#">(S/2019/674)</a>		Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8622</a> 19 September 2019			Syrian Arab Republic	Assistant-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	12 Council members <sup>h</sup> , all invitees	

<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.8623</a> 19 September 2019		Draft resolution submitted by Belgium, Germany, Kuwait ( <a href="#">S/2019/756</a> ) and draft resolution submitted by China and Russian Federation ( <a href="#">S/2019/757</a> )	Syrian Arab Republic		All Council members, invitee	Draft resolution <a href="#">S/2019/756</a> not adopted 12-3-1 <sup>i</sup> Draft resolution <a href="#">S/2019/757</a> not adopted 2-9-4 <sup>i</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8628</a> 30 September 2019			Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	All Council members <sup>c</sup> , all invitees <sup>k</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8635</a> 8 October 2019						<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/12</a>
<a href="#">S/PV.8645</a> 24 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions <a href="#">2139 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2165 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2191 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2258 (2015)</a> , <a href="#">2332 (2016)</a> , <a href="#">2393 (2017)</a> , <a href="#">2401 (2018)</a> and <a href="#">2449 (2018)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/820</a> )		Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service in the Department of Peace Operations	14 Council members <sup>l</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8659</a> 5 November 2019 (closed)			40 Member States <sup>m</sup>	High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of	Council members, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs,	

<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>
				Chemical Weapons, representative of the Delegation of the European Union, representative of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See	Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	
<a href="#">S/PV.8664</a> 14 November 2019			Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	14 Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8674</a> 22 November 2019			Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Board Member of the Syrian Women's League	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8694</a> 19 December 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions <a href="#">2139 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2165 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2191 (2014)</a> , <a href="#">2258 (2015)</a> , <a href="#">2332 (2016)</a> , <a href="#">2393 (2017)</a> , <a href="#">2401 (2018)</a> and <a href="#">2449 (2018)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/949</a> )		Syrian Arab Republic	Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	14 Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8696</a> 20 December 2019			Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Co-Founder and co-Director of the Center for Civil Society and Democracy	All Council members, all invitees	

<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.8697</a> 20 December 2019		Draft resolution submitted by Belgium, Germany, Kuwait ( <a href="#">S/2019/961</a> ) and draft resolution submitted by Russian Federation ( <a href="#">S/2019/962</a> )	Syrian Arab Republic		13 Council members <sup>p</sup> , invitee	Draft resolution <a href="#">S/2019/961</a> not adopted 13-2-0 <sup>q</sup> Draft resolution <a href="#">S/2019/962</a> not adopted 5-6-4 <sup>r</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The representatives of Belgium and Germany did not make statements. The representative of Kuwait spoke on behalf of the co-penholders on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic: Belgium and Germany.

<sup>b</sup> The representatives of Germany and Kuwait did not make statements. The representative of Belgium spoke on behalf of the co-penholders on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic: Germany and Kuwait.

<sup>c</sup> Russian Federation was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>d</sup> The representatives of Belgium and Kuwait did not make statements. The representative of Germany spoke on behalf of the co-penholders on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic: Belgium and Kuwait.

<sup>e</sup> The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator participated in the meeting via videoconference from Rome.

<sup>f</sup> The Head of the Russian Centre for the Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic and Refugee Migration Monitoring participated in the meeting via videoconference from Damascus.

<sup>g</sup> The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria participated via videoconference from Geneva.

<sup>h</sup> The representatives of Belgium, Kuwait and the Russian Federation did not make statements. The representative of Germany spoke on behalf of the co-penholders on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic: Belgium and Kuwait.

<sup>i</sup> *In favour*: Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States; *Against*: China, Russian Federation; *Abstaining*: Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>j</sup> *In favour*: China, Russian Federation; *Against*: Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; *Abstaining*: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, South Africa.

<sup>k</sup> The Islamic Republic of Iran was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs for Legal and International Affairs and Turkey was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

<sup>l</sup> The representative of Belgium did not make a statement. The representative of Kuwait spoke on behalf of the co-penholders on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic: Belgium and Germany.

<sup>m</sup> Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta,

Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey and Viet Nam.

<sup>n</sup> The representative of Kuwait did not make a statement. The representative of Belgium spoke on behalf of the co-penholders on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic: Germany and Kuwait.

<sup>o</sup> The representative of Belgium did not make a statement. The representative of Germany spoke on behalf of the co-penholders on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic: Belgium and Kuwait.

<sup>p</sup> The representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea did not deliver statements.

<sup>q</sup> In favour: Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States; Against: China, Russian Federation.

<sup>r</sup> In favour: China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Russian Federation, South Africa; Against: Dominican Republic, France, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; Abstaining: Belgium, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait.

## Meetings: The situation in the Middle East – Yemen

<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.8441</a> 9 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on status of implementation of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2451 (2018)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2018/1173</a> ) Report of the Secretary-General on status of implementation of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2451 (2018)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/11</a> )		Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members and all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8444</a> 16 January 2019	Letter dated 31 December 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/28</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/46</a> )	Yemen		Yemen	Resolution <a href="#">2452 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8464</a> 19 February 2019			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members and all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8469</a> 26 February 2019	Letter dated 25 January 2019 from the Panel of Experts on Yemen addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/83</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/173</a> )				Resolution <a href="#">2456 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8512</a> 15 April 2019			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and Chairperson of Food for Humanity	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a,b</sup>	

<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.8525</a> 15 May 2019			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund	All Council members <sup>c</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8551</a> 17 June 2019	Letter dated 10 June 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/485</a> )		Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8572</a> 15 July 2019		Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom ( <a href="#">S/2019/558</a> )				Resolution <a href="#">2481 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8578</a> 18 July 2019			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8598</a> 20 August 2019			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Assistant-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	Seven Council members <sup>d</sup> , all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8608</a> 29 August 2019						<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/9</a>



<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.8619</a> 16 September 2019			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees <sup>e</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8642</a> 17 October 2019			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees <sup>f</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8672</a> 22 November 2019			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> The Special Envoy participated in the meeting via videoconference from Amman.

<sup>b</sup> The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator participated in the meeting via videoconference from London.

<sup>c</sup> The representative of Peru spoke in his national capacity and in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#).

<sup>d</sup> China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Peru, South Africa and United States.

<sup>e</sup> The Special Envoy participated in the meeting via videoconference from Geneva.

<sup>f</sup> The Special Envoy participated in the meeting via videoconference from Riyadh.

## Meetings: The situation in the Middle East – United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

<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.8495</a> 27 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force ( <a href="#">S/2019/248</a> )		Israel and Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8562</a> 26 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force ( <a href="#">S/2019/467</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Russian Federation and United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/521</a> )				Resolution <a href="#">2477 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8693</a> 19 December 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force ( <a href="#">S/2019/923</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/956</a> )			Indonesia, Kuwait, United States	Resolution <a href="#">2503 (2019)</a> 15-0-0

## Meetings: The situation in the Middle East – United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

<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.8610</a> 29 August 2019	Letter dated 1 August 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/619</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France ( <a href="#">S/2019/690</a> )	Israel and Lebanon		Eight Council members <sup>a</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2485 (2019)</a> 15-0-0

<sup>a</sup> China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, United Kingdom and United States.

### **23. The situation between Iraq and Kuwait**

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting in relation to the item entitled “The situation between Iraq and Kuwait” and adopted one presidential statement under this item.<sup>515</sup> The meeting took the form of an adoption,<sup>516</sup> and was the first meeting held by the Council under this item since June 2013.<sup>517</sup> More information on this meeting, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

On 19 February 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement in which it recalled resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#) on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and all its previous resolutions and presidential statements addressing the issues of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and the return of Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.<sup>518</sup> The Council also commended the ongoing efforts by the United Nations Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) and its senior leadership in implementing resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#) and their efforts to resolve outstanding issues related to Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and the return of Kuwaiti property. The Council also welcomed the strong bilateral relations between Iraq and Kuwait and commended the Government of Kuwait’s continued support for Iraq in its efforts to achieve stability, and welcomed Iraq’s efforts to fulfill all remaining obligations in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions.<sup>519</sup> The Council further welcomed the ongoing cooperation between Iraq and Kuwait in the search of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and encouraged the international community to provide the necessary advanced and innovative technical equipment to Iraqi authorities to assist in identifying burial locations in accordance with best practices.<sup>520</sup> While expressing strong support for the perseverance of the members of the tripartite mechanism and its Chair, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in their effort to locate the remains of the missing persons, the Council also noted with regret that there remained 369 cases

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<sup>515</sup> [S/PRST/2019/1](#).

<sup>516</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>517</sup> For further details, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2012-2013*, part I. sect. 24.

<sup>518</sup> [S/PRST/2019/1](#), first paragraph.

<sup>519</sup> *Ibid.*, second and third paragraphs.

<sup>520</sup> *Ibid.*, fourth paragraph.

of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals still unresolved and that no human remains had been exhumed since 2004.<sup>521</sup>

At the same meeting, further to the reading of the statement, the representative of Kuwait said that the adoption of the presidential statement came as an assurance that the issues of detainees, missing nationals and the repatriation of property were pending and remaining commitments under relevant Security Council resolutions.<sup>522</sup> While acknowledging that those issues had nothing to do with international peace and security, he asserted that they were humanitarian issues in nature and were reminders of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in 1990. Kuwait further noted that the Council stressed that these issues, namely, the detainees, the missing nationals and the Kuwaiti property, were at the heart of the UNAMI mandate, pursuant to resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#). He further stated that the presidential statement actually sent important messages to Iraq, namely, that the Security Council appreciated and valued the efforts made by the Iraqi Government to search for detainees and missing nationals so as to know their fate and that it also sent an important message to Kuwait, specifically to the families of the missing nationals, who did not know the fate of their loved ones, namely, that the Security Council was interested in this issue and followed up on it, as it was still on the agenda of the Council.<sup>523</sup>

In 2019, the Council also considered the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals under the item entitled “The situation in Iraq” and the issue of missing persons generally under the item entitled “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”.<sup>524</sup>

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<sup>521</sup> Ibid., sixth and seventh paragraphs.

<sup>522</sup> [S/PV.8463](#), p. 3.

<sup>523</sup> Ibid.

<sup>524</sup> For further details, see part I, sects. 25 and 29.

**Meetings: The situation between Iraq and Kuwait**

<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.8463</a> 19 February 2019					One Council member (Kuwait)	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/1</a>

## **24. The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question**

During the period under review, the Security Council held 12 meetings in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. Consistent with prior practice, the Council continued to hold monthly briefings and quarterly open debates to consider this item.<sup>525</sup> In this period, however, the Council did not adopt any decision. Under this item, the Council also considered developments in Iran, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen and the overall political situation in the Middle East.<sup>526</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

During the year 2019, in most meetings under this item, the Council heard briefings by the Special Coordinator of the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General. The Council also heard briefings twice by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs,<sup>527</sup> once by the Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and once by the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs,<sup>528</sup> which was the first time the Council heard a briefing by a representative of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs since November 2016.<sup>529</sup> In addition, the Council heard briefings from four representatives of civil society. The Co-Directors of EcoPeace Middle East spoke to describe the activities undertaken in the region and called on the Security Council to urge the Governments of Israel, Palestine and Jordan to advance cooperation on water and the environment.<sup>530</sup> The Executive Director of the Gisha, Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement denounced the situation in Gaza and encouraged Council members to note that in addition to the Israeli settlements, the isolation of Gaza was also a primary obstacle to peace.<sup>531</sup> Ms. Adele Raemer, representing the residents of the Eshkol region in Israel, spoke

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<sup>525</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>526</sup> For more information, see part I, sect. 22.

<sup>527</sup> In addition to the regular briefings, Council members also heard a briefing in informal consultations of the whole by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on the decision of Israel to end the Temporary International Presence in Hebron in January 2019 ([S/2019/1015](#), p. 11).

<sup>528</sup> [S/PV.8466](#).

<sup>529</sup> See for further information, *Repertoire, Supplement 2016-17*, part I, sect. 25.

<sup>530</sup> [S/PV.8517](#).

<sup>531</sup> [S/PV.8669](#).

about her personal experiences living in Kibbutz Nirim on the border with the Gaza Strip since 1975.<sup>532</sup>

In the context of the monthly briefings, the Special Coordinator focused on the continued stalemate of the peace process, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the continued lack of progress on the intra-Palestinian reconciliation as well as the continued construction of settlements and the violence in the West Bank. He also focused on the decision of Israel to withhold Palestinian tax revenue transfers, the dwindling international financial assistance to UNRWA as well as Israel's decision on 28 January not to renew the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron. Throughout the period, he warned about the risk of escalation and described the eruption of violence in April-May 2019 as the gravest since 2014, with hundreds of rockets fired into Israel from Gaza and multiple deaths and injuries of Palestinians and Israelis. At the announcement made on 18 November by the United States that it no longer viewed settlements as inconsistent with international law, the Special Coordinator reaffirmed the position of the United Nations as per resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), that Israeli settlement activities constituted a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution.<sup>533</sup> In addition to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Special Coordinator addressed in his briefings other topics, including the situations in Lebanon, including resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), and in the occupied Golan.

Every three months, monthly briefings were also used to report on the implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#). During those briefings that took place in March, June, September and December, the Special Coordinator continued to report on the lack of progress on the implementation of the main provisions of the resolution, namely, with regard to the Israeli settlement activities, the violence against civilians including acts of terror, incitement, provocation and inflammatory rhetoric, the steps and efforts to advance the peace process as well as the actions by all States to distinguish in their relevant dealings between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967. In 2019, the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) were submitted in writing

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<sup>532</sup> [S/PV.8690](#).

<sup>533</sup> [S/PV.8669](#).



twice, in March and December (ninth and twelfth report, respectively).<sup>534</sup> This notwithstanding, during meetings of the Council in 2019, Council members reiterated the importance of reports in writing.<sup>535</sup> Most Council members at these meetings expressed concern at the lack of progress with respect to the implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) and reaffirmed their commitment to a two-State solution. During the last briefing of the year, on 18 December 2019, the representative of the United States affirmed that the Trump Administration strongly opposed resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), which was deemed “one-sided and unfairly critical of Israel”.<sup>536</sup> Other Council members held a different view and mentioned that Israeli actions were in violation of international law, including resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#).<sup>537</sup>

During 2019, the Council held open debates every quarter, in January, April, July and October 2019. At those meetings, Council members and Members States focused on the lack of progress of the peace process and the continued deterioration of the situation in Gaza. Discussions in these debates took place against the backdrop of a series of developments, including the decision by Israel not to renew the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron in January 2019, the Ministerial meeting to promote a future of peace and security in the Middle East co-hosted by Poland and the United States in Warsaw in February 2019 and the decision by the United States to recognise Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights in March 2019, the third high-level Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development in Bangkok and the Peace for Prosperity Workshop in Bahrain both held in June 2019 as well as the biannual meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of International Assistance to Palestinians (AHLIC) held in New York in September 2019. During the period under review, the Council heard briefings by the Special Coordinator in two of the open debates and by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in the remaining two. In their briefings, they updated the Council on the latest developments concerning Israeli settlements, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures, the violence in Gaza and the West Bank as well as

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<sup>534</sup> [S/2019/251](#) and [S/2019/938](#).

<sup>535</sup> See for example, [S/PV.8466](#), Kuwait, South Africa, and Indonesia; [S/PV.8557](#), Belgium, Kuwait; [S/PV.8604](#), Kuwait, China, Peru, and South Africa; [S/PV.8648](#), South Africa; [S/PV.8669](#), Belgium, and South Africa.

<sup>536</sup> [S/PV.8690](#).

<sup>537</sup> Ibid., Indonesia, Dominican Republic, and Belgium. For further details on this meeting’s discussion and others concerning the binding nature of resolutions, see part V, sect. II.

on the overall situation in Gaza and the status of the Palestinian reconciliation. In addition, they reported on the growing risk of unilateral actions and the loss of hope that peace could be achieved through negotiations, warning that without the prospect of viable negotiations on the horizon, facts on the ground continued to undermine the possibility of achieving a two-State solution. As part of their briefings, they also covered developments of the situations in Lebanon, including resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), and in the Golan. In 2019, Council members addressed in open debates the question of the international consensus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the role of international law and the binding nature of Security Council resolutions.<sup>538</sup> Council members also expressed concern at the situation and called for a resumption of the negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. Concerning the situation of UNRWA, many Council members welcomed the renewal of its mandate until 2023 underscoring the importance of its mandate. During open debates, speakers also addressed other conflicts and situations including the situations in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Libya, Yemen, the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf region. Reference was made in the context of open debates to the mandate of the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution [598 \(1987\)](#) to examine measures for the security of the region in consultation with the parties in the region.<sup>539</sup>

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<sup>538</sup> For further detail on these discussions, see part V, sect. II.

<sup>539</sup> See for example, [S/PV.8517](#), Russian Federation, and [S/PV.8648](#), Russian Federation.

## Meetings: The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

<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.8449</a> 22 January 2019			29 Member States <sup>a</sup>	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations	All Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees <sup>c</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8466</a> 20 February 2019				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	Five Council members (Kuwait, South Africa, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea), all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8489</a> 26 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2334 (2016)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/251</a> )		Israel	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine	All Council members <sup>e</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8517</a> 29 April 2019			31 Member States <sup>f</sup>	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, Co-Directors of EcoPeace Middle East	All Council members, all invitees <sup>g</sup>	

<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.8532</a> 22 May 2019			Israel	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine	All Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees <sup>h</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8557</a> 20 June 2019				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members, Special Coordinator	
<a href="#">S/PV.8583</a> 23 July 2019			28 Member States <sup>i</sup>	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	All Council members, all invitees <sup>j</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8604</a> 27 August 2019				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	All Council members <sup>k</sup> , Special Coordinator <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8625</a> 20 September 2019			Israel, Jordan	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine	All Council members, all invitees <sup>l</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8648</a> 28 October 2019			28 Member States <sup>m</sup>	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	All Council members <sup>n</sup> , all invitees <sup>d,o</sup>	

<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.8669</a> 20 November 2019			Israel	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Executive Director of Gisha, Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8690</a> 18 December 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2334 (2016)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/938</a> )		Israel	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Ms. Adele Raemer (resident of Eshkol)	All Council members, all invitees <sup>p</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Malaysia, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Viet Nam.

<sup>b</sup> Indonesia was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs.

<sup>c</sup> The Special Coordinator participated via video-teleconference from Geneva, the representative of Bangladesh spoke on behalf of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the representative of Libya spoke on behalf of the Arab Group, and the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

<sup>d</sup> The Special Coordinator participated via video-teleconference from Jerusalem.

<sup>e</sup> Indonesia was represented by its Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>f</sup> Bangladesh, Bahrain, Botswana, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Viet Nam.

<sup>g</sup> The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the representative of the United Arab Emirates spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the representative of Finland spoke on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, Japan was represented by its Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

<sup>h</sup> The Special Coordinator and the Commissioner-General joined the meeting via videoconference from Jerusalem and Gaza City respectively.

<sup>i</sup> Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>j</sup> The representative of Uganda spoke on behalf of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The representative of Croatia spoke on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The representative of Saudi Arabia spoke on behalf of the Arab Group. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

<sup>k</sup> Poland was represented by the Secretary of State of the Chancellery of the President of Poland.

<sup>l</sup> Jordan was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan, Palestine was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs.

<sup>m</sup> Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam.

<sup>n</sup> South Africa was represented by its Minister for International Relations and Cooperation, Germany was represented by its State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office.

<sup>o</sup> The representative of Croatia spoke on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

<sup>p</sup> Ms. Adele Raemer participated via video-teleconference from Tel Aviv.

## 25. The situation concerning Iraq

During 2019, the Security Council held four meetings and adopted one resolution in connection with the situation concerning Iraq. On 21 May 2019, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) until 31 May 2020, through the unanimous adoption of resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#). All meetings under this item during the period under review took the form of briefings.<sup>540</sup> For further information on the meetings, including participants, speakers and outcomes, please see the table below. In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Iraq and Kuwait from 27 to 30 June 2019.<sup>541</sup>

During the period under review, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI on the situation in Iraq. In her four briefings, she reported on the progress towards the formation of a Government, and on senior appointments to the federal Cabinet and parliamentary committees. In all four briefings, she also reported on the progress made regarding the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.<sup>542</sup>

At the beginning of 2019, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported on the Turkish military airstrikes near the Iraqi-Turkish border in northern Iraq, which had been condemned by the authorities of Iraq as violations of its sovereignty while Turkey maintained that these airstrikes were against targets linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party.<sup>543</sup> She expressed regret about the loss of civilian lives and livelihoods and stated that it was important that the Governments of both Turkey and Iraq accelerate efforts to resolve the issue through bilateral dialogue.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General covered other topics affecting the situation in the country, including the agreement on the formation of a new Kurdistan regional Government and the establishment of a high-level joint committee between Baghdad and Erbil. Despite the positive development, she expressed concern regarding the agreement not materializing in the form of tangible breakthroughs on the ground.<sup>544</sup> The Special

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<sup>540</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>541</sup> For more information on the Council's mission to Iraq and Kuwait, see part I, sect. 33.

<sup>542</sup> [S/PV.8462](#); [S/PV.8531](#); [S/PV.8606](#); and [S/PV.8676](#).

<sup>543</sup> [S/PV.8462](#).

<sup>544</sup> [S/PV.8531](#); [S/PV.8606](#); and [S/PV.8676](#).

Representative of the Secretary-General reported to the Council on the support by UNAMI to the Electoral Commission as well as on the amendments to the Governorate Council Electoral Law passed in July 2019, stressing, in regard to the latter, that certain provisions were of great concern since they could potentially disenfranchise many otherwise eligible voters. She cautioned as well that the transparency and accountability of electoral institutions and processes were not sufficiently guaranteed for the elections expected in April 2020.<sup>545</sup>

Against the backdrop of protests and civil unrest in early October 2019 and the subsequent resignation of the Prime Minister in early December 2019, in her briefing to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted that from the beginning of the demonstrations, authorities had resorted to excessive use of force and that although the Government had announced various reform packages addressing issues such as housing, unemployment, financial support and education, those were often perceived as unrealistic. She also mentioned that although the Government's investigation into the violence of early October was a positive step, it was seen as incomplete. She also emphasized the collective responsibility of the political class as a whole to advance real solutions.<sup>546</sup>

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General commended the bravery of Iraqi security forces who continued to fight the remaining fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Daesh) in the aftermath of its territorial defeat. She also expressed concerns regarding returning fighters and refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic, from a security and capacity perspective as well as from the perspective of human rights and humanitarian protection.<sup>547</sup> Reporting on humanitarian efforts, she further expressed concerns regarding the continued underfunding of both the Funding Facility for Stabilization of the United Nations Development Programme and the 2019 humanitarian response plan.<sup>548</sup> She noted that although houses, roads, bridges and power lines had been rebuilt, and 4.3 million people had returned home thanks to many donor contributions, around 1.6 million internally displaced persons were still desperately waiting to return to their homes in safety and dignity.<sup>549</sup>

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<sup>545</sup> [S/PV.8462](#); [S/PV.8606](#).

<sup>546</sup> [S/PV.8676](#).

<sup>547</sup> [S/PV.8531](#); [S/PV.8606](#); and [S/PV.8676](#).

<sup>548</sup> [S/PV.8606](#).

<sup>549</sup> [S/PV.8606](#).



Regarding accountability for human rights violations, the Special Representative stressed that promoting a more consistent adherence to international standards of due process and fair trial was of the greatest importance, as an impartial and transparent process of judicial accountability for the gross violations of human rights committed by ISIL would prove crucial in rebuilding peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.<sup>550</sup>

The Permanent Observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the United Nations also briefed the Council once, on the work of the Tripartite Commission, chaired by the ICRC, and the progress of repatriating missing persons from the 1991 Gulf War, such as recovering Kuwaiti remains for the first time in 14 years.<sup>551</sup> At the same meeting, the Archbishop of Erbil briefed the Council on the protests since October 2019, stating that they demonstrated the rejection by the majority of the Iraqi people of the post-2003 structure and Government of the country.

At those meetings, Council members welcomed the progress made on Government formation and overall reconstruction efforts.<sup>552</sup> They also commended the agreement on the establishment of the Kurdish Regional Government,<sup>553</sup> as well as the appointment of senior positions in the federal Cabinet and parliamentary committees,<sup>554</sup> although several members expressed concern over the absence of women in these positions.<sup>555</sup> Numerous Council members expressed support for UNAMI and the Iraqi Government in addressing, among other, the continued threat posed by ISIL (Daesh) and the humanitarian issues of internally displaced persons.<sup>556</sup> In addition, several members reiterated their support for the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Daesh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, as it continued to carry out its vital work to ensure justice for survivors in accordance with Iraq's international human rights obligations.<sup>557</sup> Council members expressed support for the Iraqi people's legitimate right to

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<sup>550</sup> [S/PV.8462](#).

<sup>551</sup> [S/PV.8676](#).

<sup>552</sup> [S/PV.8462](#), Indonesia, China, South Africa; [S/PV.8531](#), Peru; [S/PV.8606](#), United States, Germany, Belgium, Peru, Russian Federation, and Poland.

<sup>553</sup> [S/PV.8531](#), China.

<sup>554</sup> Ibid., Indonesia; [S/PV.8606](#), United States, and Poland.

<sup>555</sup> [S/PV.8606](#), United States, Germany, Dominican Republic, Belgium and United Kingdom.

<sup>556</sup> [S/PV.8606](#), United States, Germany, Kuwait, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, France, China, United Kingdom, Indonesia, South Africa, and Russian Federation.

<sup>557</sup> [S/PV.8531](#), Germany, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, United Kingdom, China; [S/PV.8606](#), Germany, Côte d'Ivoire, Peru, France, China and Indonesia.

peaceful protest while some condemned the acts of violence against demonstrators and called on all actors to exercise maximum restraint.<sup>558</sup>

On 21 May 2019, the Council extended the mandate of UNAMI through the unanimous adoption of resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#) until 31 May 2020.<sup>559</sup> In the resolution, the Council welcomed the efforts by the Government of Iraq to address corruption and strengthen viable and responsive state institutions through its 2018-2020 National Government Program.<sup>560</sup> The Council decided that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI, taking into account the request from the Government of Iraq, should prioritize the provision of advice, support, and assistance to the Government and people of Iraq on advancing inclusive, political dialogue and national and community-level reconciliation.<sup>561</sup> The Council also decided that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General would further advise, support, and assist the Government of Iraq on, inter alia, the matters of election processes, constitutional reviews, security sector reform, regional dialogue and cooperation, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction efforts and the protection of human rights, judicial and legal reform while approaching gender mainstreaming as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate and assisting in ensuring the participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels as well as strengthening child protection.<sup>562</sup>

In relation to Iraq, developments in 2019 relating to the question of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals were considered elsewhere under the item entitled “The situation between Iraq and Kuwait” and those relating to the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by ISIL (Daesh) established pursuant to resolution [2379 \(2017\)](#) under the agenda item entitled “Threats to international peace and security”.<sup>563</sup>

<sup>558</sup> [S/PV.8676](#), United States, Peru, Indonesia, France, Belgium, Poland and Germany.

<sup>559</sup> Resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of UNAMI, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>560</sup> Resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#), fourth preambular paragraph.

<sup>561</sup> Resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#), para. 2(a). See also [S/2019/414](#).

<sup>562</sup> Resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#), paras. 2(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f).

<sup>563</sup> For further details, see part I, sects. 24 and 38.

## Meetings: The situation concerning Iraq

<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.8462</a> 13 February 2019	Twenty-first report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2107 (2013)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/78</a> )  Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2421 (2018)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/101</a> )		Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)	Six Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8531</a> 21 May 2019	Twenty-second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2107 (2013)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/352</a> )  Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2421 (2018)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/365</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/416</a> )	Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members, all invitees	Resolution <a href="#">2470 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8606</a> 28 August 2019	Twenty-third report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2107 (2013)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/632</a> )  Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2470 (2019)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/660</a> )		Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members, all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8676</a> 3 December 2019	Twenty-fourth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2107 (2013)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/865</a> )  Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2470 (2019)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/903</a> )		Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Permanent Observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the United Nations, Archbishop of Erbil	All Council members, all invitees <sup>c</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea (President of the Security Council), Indonesia, Kuwait and South Africa.

<sup>b</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General participated in the meeting via videoconference from The Hague.

<sup>c</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General participated in the meeting via videoconference from Baghdad.

## Thematic issues

### 26. United Nations peacekeeping operations

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings and issued one presidential statement in connection with the item entitled “United Nations peacekeeping operations”. The Council convened two meetings in the form of briefings, two as debates and two as open debates under this item.<sup>564</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcome, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the Council was briefed twice by the Secretary-General and four times by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations. The Council also heard briefings by the senior leadership of six peacekeeping operations, as well as representatives of civil society, non-governmental organizations and local government. The focus of discussions in the Council was the progress made in the implementation of the “Action for Peacekeeping” initiative to strengthen peacekeeping and its Declaration of Shared Commitments, launched by the Secretary-General in 2018. Special focus was placed on how to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping, the safety and security and training of peacekeepers, triangular cooperation between the Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries, and the role of police components.

On 11 April 2019, at the initiative of Germany, which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>565</sup> the Council held an open debate under the sub-item entitled “Women in peacekeeping” chaired by the Federal Minister of Defence of Germany. At the meeting, the Secretary-General reported that, with the launch of the strategy of gender parity in 2017, the United Nations embarked upon a system-wide effort to enhance women’s representation at all levels and in all areas, a key priority of which was peacekeeping.<sup>566</sup> Recalling the Council’s call in resolution [2242 \(2015\)](#) for the doubling of the number of women in peacekeeping

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<sup>564</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>565</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 4 April 2019 ([S/2019/293](#)).

<sup>566</sup> See letter dated 27 March 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2019/275](#)).

operations by 2020, and as the United Nations approached the twentieth anniversary of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), he highlighted efforts of the Secretariat to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all stages of peace processes, to promote women's involvement in operations and the roll-out of the uniformed gender parity strategy defining new targets for 2028.<sup>567</sup> In her remarks at the meeting, the Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), provided examples of her efforts to increase the numbers of women in missions, promote mindfulness of gender issues and reach out to the local community. The Secretary General of South Sudan Democratic Engagement Monitoring and Observation Programme, a national civil society organization in South Sudan, and the women's representative to the National Constitution Amendment Committee, appealed to the Council to improve the working conditions for female peacekeepers, enable women and youth organizations to participate in the design and implementation of peacekeeping operations, and not to lose track of justice and accountability for sexual and gender-based violence committed by peacekeeping personnel. In the subsequent discussion, speakers pointed to the need for all peacekeeping stakeholders to work together on removing the barriers to the participation of women in peacekeeping, improving national recruitment efforts, training and capacity-building, addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, and improving the conditions of service.

On 7 May 2019, at the initiative of Indonesia which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>568</sup> the Council held an open debate under the sub-item entitled "Investing in peace: improving safety and performance of United Nations peacekeepers" chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. At the outset of the meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement in which it welcomed efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to mobilize all partners and stakeholders in support of more effective United Nations peacekeeping through his "Action for Peacekeeping" and recognized the added value that the Declaration of Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping Operations had in relation to training and capacity building.<sup>569</sup> The statement further welcomed the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial, as well as other meetings, to strengthen support to peacekeeping operations,

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<sup>567</sup> [S/PV.8508](#).

<sup>568</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 30 April 2019 ([S/2019/359](#)).

<sup>569</sup> [S/PRST/2019/4](#), fourth paragraph.

including in the area of training and capacity building and underscored the importance of fulfilling the pledges made by a number of Member States at the meeting.<sup>570</sup>

Further to the issuance of the presidential statement, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General in which he updated Council members on the Secretariat's progress in fulfilling its commitment to training and capacity-building of peacekeeping personnel, specifically highlighting the action plan to improve the security of peacekeepers through training support and assessment visits, as well as other measures. Despite the notable progress, the Secretary-General pointed to training gaps in critical areas such as weapons handling, first aid, human rights and protection issues and urged Member States to consider increased funding, in-kind contributions and the provision of trainers.<sup>571</sup>

In his remarks, the Force Commander of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) provided an overview of the comprehensive approach of the Mission in order to fulfil its mandate and noted that training was an essential pillar to ensure the desired performance of peacekeepers and a continuous process which had to be tailored to each Mission's operational environment. The Director of the Challenges International Forum Secretariat, a civilian, military and police partnership of 49 departments and organizations, shared several recommendations with the Council on how to improve the safety and security and performance of peacekeepers, particularly through the use of scenario-based training and the deployment of women in operational and outward-facing roles. In the ensuing discussion, speakers underscored that enhancing training and capacity-building were shared commitments of all peacekeeping partners and called for investment in women personnel, continued assessments and accountability, and partnerships with regional organizations.

On 18 June 2019, the Council held the annual briefing with selected force commanders of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In his briefing to the Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations underscored that cooperation with host States was key for the effectiveness of peace operations.<sup>572</sup> The Force Commander of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) described cooperation with

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<sup>570</sup> Ibid., fifth paragraph.

<sup>571</sup> [S/PV.8521](#).

<sup>572</sup> [S/PV.8552](#).

host States as crucial for the successful implementation of mandates, and the Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) added that the impartial execution of the Force's mandate allowed him and the military component to effectively maintain the status quo, prevent tensions and ensure calm and stability.<sup>573</sup> The two force commanders also responded to questions and comments from Council members on the situations in the Sudan and Cyprus, the relations with host States and the measures to enhance the safety and security and performance of peacekeeping operations.

On 10 July 2019, at the initiative of Peru which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>574</sup> the Council held an open debate under the sub-item entitled "Strengthening triangular cooperation". In his briefing to the Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations stated that strong triangular cooperation between the Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries was crucial to enhancing peacekeeping operations, including with respect to improving safety and security and making mandates more focused, adaptable and achievable. In terms of how triangular cooperation could be strengthened, the Under-Secretary-General offered some thoughts, including a more institutionalized system of formal and informal exchanges among the Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries, the holding of Council meetings on cross-cutting peacekeeping issues, Council visits to missions, as well as the activities of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations. He added that in many contexts, peacekeeping missions were likely to benefit from closer engagement between the Council and the host Government as well as from partnerships with regional organizations. With respect to African Union operations authorized by the Council, he ascertained the existence of a form of quadrilateral cooperation between the Council, troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the African Union, including its Peace and Security Council and the Commission.<sup>575</sup>

The Force Commander of the United Nations Multidimensional integrated Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) stated that triangular cooperation was key in order to set the conditions for effective mandate implementation, emphasized that troop-contributing countries had to deliver on their mandates and rules of engagement and added that the United Nations should

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<sup>574</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 27 June 2019 ([S/2019/538](#)).

<sup>575</sup> [S/PV.8570](#).



continue to increase and revise its mechanisms for evaluating units and ensuring accountability. In her remarks, the Senior Fellow at the Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations at the International Peace Institute made several proposals in connection with the institutionalization of regular informal meetings between the Council, the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries, noting that such cooperation would allow the Council to consider matters on the ground from a closer perspective and build consensus on how to carry out operations. Concurring that triangular cooperation was essential to the effective performance of missions, speakers in the open debate discussed the need for transparent, inclusive, substantive and timely triangular consultations and the involvement of financial contributors and host States.

On 9 September, the Council held the annual briefing on peacekeeping reform further to resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#). At the meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations highlighted the progress made in the implementation of the “Action for Peacekeeping” initiative in order to strengthen peacekeeping operations including through the promotion of political solutions as a prerequisite to sustainable peace, partnerships with regional organizations and across the United Nations system, reducing the number of fatalities and strengthening performance, and increasing the number of women peacekeepers. He urged Member States to ensure that new mandate priorities were consistent with resources, to provide united political engagement in the conflicts where operations were based and underscored the need to adapt mission footprints and strengthen capacity to ensure a more mobile, robust, aware and integrated operational approach.<sup>576</sup>

On 6 November, the Council held its annual briefing of police commissioners. At the meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations stated that United Nations police were particularly well placed to respond to emerging challenges such as dealing with high concentrations of population, organized crime and international terrorism, and the need to build the national capacities of States, particularly in the area of the rule of law. Within the framework of the “Action for Peacekeeping” initiative, he cited the efforts of the Secretariat to enhance peacekeeping performance, including through the roll-out of the comprehensive performance assessment system in five missions, implementing a training curriculum for

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<sup>576</sup> [S/PV.8612](#). See also resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#), para. 10. For further information, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2016-17*, part I, sect. 27.



police components, increasing the number of women peacekeepers, and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse.<sup>577</sup>

In her remarks, the adviser to the Mayor of the third Arrondissement of Bangui, Central African Republic, informed the Council that a significant improvement had been made security-wise in this sensitive part of the city through the efforts of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) by supporting the signing of a non-aggression pact in 2015, communication and awareness-raising on violence against women and sexual exploitation, and supporting community policing. The Police Commissioners of MONUSCO, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and MINUSMA addressed the work of their respective Missions on dealing with organized crime, the strengthening of national rule of law capacities, supporting community protection initiatives, and supporting the development of security forces in the area of civilian protection and the restoration of State authority, as well as strengthening the participation of women. In their remarks, Council members discussed and posed questions to the Under-Secretary-General and police commissioners on the adequacy of training and equipment of police officers, efforts to increase the number of women, engagement with local communities, partnerships with regional organizations, the protection of civilians and efforts to ensure their safety and security. Speakers further underscored the importance of United Nations police components across the conflict spectrum, but particularly in the context of conflict prevention and the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

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<sup>577</sup> [S/PV.8661](#).

# Meetings: United Nations peacekeeping operations

<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.8508</a> 11 April 2019	Women in peacekeeping  Letter dated 27 March 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/275</a> )  Letter dated 4 April 2019 from the President of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/293</a> )		43 Member States <sup>a</sup>	Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, Secretary General of South Sudan Democratic Engagement Monitoring and Observation Programme, Women Representative to the National Constitutional Amendment Committee; Chargé d'affaires of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the State of the Holy See to the United Nations	Secretary-General, 13 Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees <sup>c</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8521</a> 7 May 2019	Investing in peace: improving safety and performance of United Nations peacekeepers  Letter dated 30 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/359</a> )		40 Member States <sup>d</sup>	Force Commander of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Director of the Challenges Forum International Secretariat, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members <sup>e</sup> , 39 invitees under rule 37 <sup>f</sup> , all invitees under rule 39 <sup>g</sup>	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/4</a>
<a href="#">S/PV.8552</a> 18 June 2019				Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Force Commander of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	All Council members <sup>i</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8570</a> 10 July 2019	Strengthening triangular cooperation  Letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent		Six Member States <sup>h</sup>	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Force Commander of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission Mali, Senior	13 Council members <sup>i</sup> , all invitees	

<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>
	Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/538)			Fellow at the Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations at the International Peace Institute		
<a href="#">S/PV.8612</a> 9 September 2019			14 Member States <sup>j</sup>	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8661</a> 6 November 2019	Police Commissioners			Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Adviser to the Mayor of the third Arrondissement of Bangui, Police Commissioner of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Police Commissioner of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, Police Commissioner of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	All Council members, all invitees <sup>k</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>b</sup> The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and South Africa. Germany was represented by its Federal Minister of Defense.

<sup>c</sup> The Secretary General of South Sudan Democratic Engagement Monitoring and Observation Programme participated in the meeting via videoconference from Juba. Hungary was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Viet Nam was represented by its Vice-Foreign Minister. The representative of Canada spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security; the representative of Norway spoke on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden; the representative of the delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

<sup>d</sup> Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal,

Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, the Sudan, Thailand, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Viet Nam.

<sup>e</sup> Indonesia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>f</sup> Ukraine was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Denmark spoke on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; Thailand spoke on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The representative of Rwanda did not make a statement.

<sup>g</sup> The Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

<sup>h</sup> Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Rwanda and Uruguay.

<sup>i</sup> The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

<sup>j</sup> Bangladesh, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Italy, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

<sup>k</sup> The advisor to the Mayor of the third Arrondissement of Bangui participated in the meeting via videoconference from Bangui.

## 27. International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

During 2019, the Security Council held two meetings related to the work of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT).<sup>578</sup> The two meetings took the form of debates and no decisions were adopted by the Council under this item during 2019.<sup>579</sup> More information on the meetings, including participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

On 17 July 2019, the Council heard the first semi-annual briefing by the President of the Mechanism and by its Prosecutor, at which they presented their progress report on the work of the Mechanism, submitted pursuant to paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution [1966 \(2010\)](#).<sup>580</sup> At the meeting, both the President and the Prosecutor highlighted the positive developments on the Karadžić and Mladić cases and emphasized their commitment to the efficient and timely conclusion of the judicial proceedings at the two branches of the Mechanism, in Arusha and The Hague. The President also reflected on his role in the management of post-conviction matters, such as enforcement of sentences and safeguarding of the rights of detainees, to which, as he stated, less attention was paid.<sup>581</sup> The Prosecutor highlighted the challenges faced by his office in terms of State cooperation, including the search for transnational fugitives. He also expressed concern about the continued trends in genocide denial and the glorification of war criminals. During the meeting, the Council discussed the progress achieved by the Mechanism during the reporting period. Several speakers highlighted the conclusion of the case of the *Prosecutor v. Radovan Karadžić* at the

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<sup>578</sup> In a note by the President dated 2 February 2018 ([S/2018/90](#)), the Council agreed that issues pertaining to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, established by resolution [1966 \(2010\)](#), would be considered under an item entitled “International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals” (IRMCT), under which the Council would also henceforth consider issues pertaining to the items entitled “International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991” and “International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994”.

For more information on the mandate of the IRMCT, see part IX, sect. IV.

<sup>579</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>580</sup> [S/2019/417](#).

<sup>581</sup> [S/PV.8576](#).

Hague, on 20 March 2019.<sup>582</sup> Some Council members also expressed support for the commitment of the President of the Mechanism and its Prosecutor to better examine requests for the early release of persons convicted, in accordance with the recommendation in paragraph 10 of resolution [2422 \(2018\)](#).<sup>583</sup> With regard to the challenges to the implementation of the mandate of the Mechanism, most Council members urged States to intensify cooperation with the Mechanism, particularly in relation to the remaining eight fugitives indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and suspected to be at large, as outlined in paragraph 10 of resolution [1966 \(2010\)](#) and in paragraph 4 of resolution [2422 \(2018\)](#).<sup>584</sup> Echoing the Prosecutor, some Council members expressed their concerns regarding the continuation of denial of war crimes and genocide as well as the glorification of war criminals.<sup>585</sup>

On 11 December 2019, the Council heard the second semi-annual briefing by the President of the Mechanism and its Prosecutor. At the meeting, the President and the Prosecutor provided an update of the main developments regarding the judicial activity in Arusha and at The Hague and reiterated their commitment to meeting the deadlines in order to complete most of the Mechanism's judicial caseload by the end of 2020. They also focused on the need for greater cooperation from Member States regarding the enforcement of sentences, the search for and arrest of the eight remaining fugitives indicted by the ICTR, a permanent solution for the nine persons acquitted or released by the ICTR as well as support for the Mechanism's budgetary requirements.<sup>586</sup> Council members welcomed the efforts displayed by the Mechanism in meeting the deadlines as well as in the overall progress that the Mechanism had achieved in terms of best practices during the reporting period. More specifically, Council members commended the efforts by the President in harmonizing practices and procedures across the two branches, as previously recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and reiterated by resolution [2422 \(2018\)](#), so as to further enhance efficiency and transparency of the Mechanism's working methods.<sup>587</sup> Some

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<sup>582</sup> Ibid. France, Kuwait, United States, Belgium, United Kingdom, Dominican Republic and Croatia.

<sup>583</sup> Ibid., Peru, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Poland, Kuwait, United States, Belgium, China and Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>584</sup> Ibid., Côte d'Ivoire, France, Indonesia, Poland, Germany, Kuwait, United States, Belgium, United Kingdom, Dominican Republic and Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>585</sup> Ibid., France, Germany, Belgium and United Kingdom.

<sup>586</sup> [S/PV.8681](#).

<sup>587</sup> Resolution [2422 \(2018\)](#), para 8 and [S/2018/206](#).

Council members continued to welcome the changes in the practice followed by the President to decide on requests for early release of the persons convicted as well as the updating of the Practice Direction on the Procedure for the Determination of Applications for Pardon, Commutation of Sentence and Early Release.<sup>588</sup> The representative of the Dominican Republic expressed concern about the fact that specific regulation in that regard had not yet been put in place to allow for the participation of victims and States or communities affected.<sup>589</sup> In furtherance of the President and the Prosecutor's briefing in this regard, most Council members continued to call for improvements in the cooperation and assistance of Member States with the Mechanism, including with adequate financing as well as political support to ensure its success. Some speakers specifically called for improvements in the judicial cooperation among the States of the former Yugoslavia in the search and arrest of perpetrators of war crimes and in the processing of cases by national courts.<sup>590</sup> In that context, speakers continued to regret the resurgence in the denial of war crimes and historic revisionism both in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.<sup>591</sup>

In addition, during the period under review, the Council took note of the intention of the Secretary-General to appoint the nominated judges to fill the various vacancies resulting from the resignation of two judges of the Mechanism.<sup>592</sup>

<sup>588</sup> [S/PV.8681](#), China, France, Belgium, Cote d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>589</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>590</sup> *Ibid.*, Poland, Belgium, United Kingdom and Cote d'Ivoire.

<sup>591</sup> *Ibid.*, Poland, France, Belgium, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>592</sup> See [S/2019/107](#) and [S/2019/108](#). For more information on actions of the Security Council concerning judges of the Mechanism, see part IV, sect. I. D and part IX, sect. IV.

### Meetings: International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

<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.8576</a> 17 July 2019	Letter dated 20 May 2019 from the President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/417</a> )		Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Rwanda, Serbia	President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Prosecutor of the Mechanism	All Council members and all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8681</a> 11 December 2019	Note by the Secretary-General on the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals ( <a href="#">S/2019/622</a> )  Letter dated 18 November 2019 from the President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/888</a> )		Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia	President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Prosecutor of the Mechanism	All Council members and all invitees <sup>b</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Croatia was represented by its State Secretary for Political Affairs and Serbia was represented by its Minister of Justice.

<sup>b</sup> Serbia was represented by its Assistant Minister of Justice.



## 28. Children and armed conflict

During 2019, the Security Council held one meeting in connection with the item entitled “Children and armed conflict” which took the form of an open debate.<sup>593</sup> The Council did not adopt any decisions under this item during the period under review. More information on the meeting, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

On 2 August 2019, the Council held an open debate at the initiative of Poland, which held the Presidency for the month.<sup>594</sup> At the meeting, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UNICEF Canada Ambassador, and a child protection professional.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Council further to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict for 2018.<sup>595</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General recalled that 20 years had passed since the Council adopted resolution [1261 \(1999\)](#), the first resolution on children and armed conflict, and ten years since the adoption of resolution [1882 \(2009\)](#) by which it decided to increase the focus of the children and armed conflict mandate on killing, maiming and rape and other forms of sexual violence. She provided an overview of her engagement with the parties to conflict, the most tangible outcome of which had been three new action plans signed with non-State actors. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General informed the Council that although there were fewer violations against children across four out of the six categories of violations in 2018, there was an increase in killing and maiming, approximately 40 per cent of which were caused by unexploded ordnance, and similar levels of sexual violence. In terms of positive developments, she highlighted the record number of children who benefited from reintegration assistance and were separated from parties to conflict due to the engagement of protection actors in the implementation of action plans as well as emerging peace processes. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General requested the Council’s

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<sup>593</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>594</sup> A concept note was circulated by letter dated 30 July 2019 ([S/2019/605](#)).

<sup>595</sup> [S/2019/509](#).

support to engage with parties to conflict to end and prevent violations and to ensure that there exists the requisite child protection capacity to give children affected by conflict the support they need.<sup>596</sup>

The Executive Director of UNICEF noted that, as presented in the report of the Secretary-General, there were 24,000 documented violations against children in 2018, up from 21,000 in 2017, half of which involved killing or maiming. She gave an overview of the support provided by UNICEF including emergency education in humanitarian crises, psychosocial support and developing sustainable and evidence-based reintegration programmes, and called on Member States to reintegrate children associated with armed groups into society and to support holistic reintegration programming.<sup>597</sup> In her remarks, the UNICEF Canada Ambassador recalled her experience as a child soldier in Sierra Leone and Liberia as well as her experience in working with UNICEF. She underscored the need for the Council to do more on the protection of children, including supporting training, education, counselling and other reintegration tools for children, as well as specifically addressing the need of children disabled in conflict.<sup>598</sup> The child protection professional described his experience as a child soldier in the conflict in the Sudan civil war and called on the Governments in the Chamber to promote the right to mental health and psychological well-being in international and national forums and urged them to invest in child protection systems and services. He also encouraged Governments to ensure that United Nations peace operations had the necessary resources to advance the children and armed conflict agenda, and to take action to address the ongoing violations of children's rights, including calling on all countries to endorse the relevant international instruments and to end and prevent grave violations against children and to prioritize justice for crimes against children.<sup>599</sup>

During the subsequent discussion, speakers expressed regret that, on the tenth anniversary since the adoption of resolution [1882 \(2009\)](#), violations against children persisted and in fact had increased in 2018. In this regard, they condemned the killing and maiming, and sexual violence committed against children, and called on parties to the conflict to uphold the rights of children in accordance with international law. Speakers welcomed the

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<sup>596</sup> [S/PV.8591](#).

<sup>597</sup> Ibid.

<sup>598</sup> Ibid.

<sup>599</sup> Ibid.

increase in the number of children released into reintegration programmes and underscored the importance of such programmes being comprehensive and providing educational, healthcare, vocational, psychosocial, and other forms of support. In this context, they reiterated the need for children associated with armed groups to be treated as victims. Many speakers noted the connection between conflict prevention and addressing the root causes of conflict and the child protection agenda and called for accountability for violations and access to justice for victims. Speakers drew attention to the many tools at the disposal of the Council and the United Nations for child protection, including the deployment of child protection advisers and strengthening of child protection mandates in peacekeeping operations, the listing of parties in the annexes of the reports of the Secretary-General, and the conclusion of action plans with parties to conflict. As Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, the representative of Belgium highlighted its work on reaching consensus on two sets of conclusions regarding serious violations of children's rights in the Syrian Arab Republic and Myanmar and engagement with sanctions committees focused on following up on previous conclusions. She further proposed for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict to regularly address the Council on national situations, as had already been the case for Yemen and the Central African Republic.<sup>600</sup>

Speakers underlined the primary responsibility of Member States for the protection of children and called on those which had not done so to sign and ratify the relevant international instruments. The representative of China stated that the international community should fully respect the leadership of the countries concerned, enhance dialogue and communication and provide effective support and assistance.<sup>601</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation added that the Council should not duplicate the work of other United Nations entities in the consideration of issues related to the rights of children in a context outside the maintenance of international peace and security.<sup>602</sup>

In 2019, the Council addressed the children and armed conflict agenda in a number of its country- and region-specific decisions as well as in decisions relating to thematic items.

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<sup>600</sup> Ibid.

<sup>601</sup> Ibid.

<sup>602</sup> Ibid.

Selected provisions of decisions in which the Council explicitly referenced actions or measures in relation to the children and armed conflict agenda during 2019 are listed in table 2. Implicit references or mere reiterations of actions or measures that may have been undertaken in previous years are not featured in table 2. In this regard, in 2019, the Council, inter alia, (i) condemned and demanded the cessation of and accountability for violations and abuses against children and compliance with international instruments, (ii) urged the implementation of action plans and programmes on children and armed conflict, (iii) underscored the importance of taking into account child protection concerns in the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration processes and security sector reform, (iv) requested monitoring, analysis and reporting on child protection concerns, and (v) called for the introduction of protection of children as a cross-cutting issue in the United Nations system.

**Table 1**  
**Meetings: Children and armed conflict**

<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.8591</a> 2 August 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict ( <a href="#">S/2019/509</a> )  Letter dated 30 July 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/605</a> )		61 Member States <sup>a</sup>	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Executive Director of UNICEF, UNICEF Canada Ambassador, Child protection professional, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary-General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, Permanent Observer of the observer State of the Holy See to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the observer State of Palestine to the United Nations	All Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees <sup>c</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Yemen.

<sup>b</sup> Poland was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>c</sup> The representative of Canada spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict. The representative of Estonia spoke on behalf of Latvia and Lithuania. The representative of Norway spoke on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden. The representative of Viet Nam spoke on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Ukraine.

**Table 2**  
**Selection of provisions relevant to children and armed conflict, by theme and agenda item**

	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
<b>Condemnation of and demands for cessation of and accountability for violations and abuses against children and compliance with international instruments</b>			
<b>Country and region-specific</b>	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	24, 25
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	10, 11
		Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	6, 11, 12, 13, 50 (c)
	The situation in Guinea-Bissau	Resolution <a href="#">2458 (2019)</a>	19
	Peace consolidation in West Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/7</a>	Twenty-second paragraph
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	7, 55, 57
	The situation in the Middle East	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/9</a>	Second paragraph
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2461 (2019)</a>	15, 17
		Resolution <a href="#">2472 (2019)</a>	15, 29
		Resolution <a href="#">2500 (2019)</a>	20
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan		Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	27, 35
		Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a>	26
		Resolution <a href="#">2497 (2019)</a>	26
		<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/11</a>	Twelfth paragraph
<b>Thematic</b>	Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2457 (2019)</a>	17
	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution <a href="#">2474 (2019)</a>	4
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	5, 15, 18, 25, 32
<b>Action plans and programmes on children and armed conflict</b>			
<b>Country and region-specific</b>	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution <a href="#">2489 (2019)</a>	5 (g)
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	24
		Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	9, 18, 29 (i) (b), 30 (i) (a), (i) (d), 31
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	11, 29 (ii) (k)
		Resolution <a href="#">2470 (2019)</a>	2 (f)
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	57
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2461 (2019)</a>	15, 17
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2472 (2019)</a>	29
		Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	27, 28
		Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	

<b>Thematic</b>	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution <a href="#">2475 (2019)</a>	4
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	25, 28

**Child protection in disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration and security sector reform**

<b>Country and region-specific</b>	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	12, 33 (c) (i), 43
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	18, 30 (i) (a), (c), 30 (ii) (b), 31
		Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	17, 19, 29 (ii) (g), (i), 31
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution <a href="#">2470 (2019)</a>	2 (f)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	28 (a) (ii), 57
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	27, 28
<b>Thematic</b>	Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2457 (2019)</a>	17
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	16 (c)

**Monitoring, analysis and report on violations and abuses against children**

<b>Country and region-specific</b>	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution <a href="#">2489 (2019)</a>	5 (g)
	This situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	33 (d) (ii)
		Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	29 (i) (b), 46 (ii)
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	31
		Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	28 (e) (ii)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2498 (2019)</a>	21
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	7 (c) (ii)
		Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a>	27
		Resolution <a href="#">2495 (2019)</a>	3 (iii)
<b>Thematic</b>	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2497 (2019)</a>	27
		Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	5, 7, 18, 32

**Introduction of child protection as a cross-cutting issue in the United Nations system, including through the deployment of Child Protection Advisers in United Nations peace operations**

<b>Country and region-specific</b>	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution <a href="#">2489 (2019)</a>	5 (f), (g)
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	para. 32 (a) (iii), 33 (c) (i), 43
		Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	30 (i) (a), (c), (d), 30 (ii) (b), 31
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	11, 17, 29 (i) (c), (ii) (g), (i), (k), 31
		Resolution <a href="#">2470 (2019)</a>	2 (f)

	The situation in Libya	Resolution <a href="#">2486 (2019)</a>	5
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	28 (a) (ii), (c) (iii), 55, 57
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	7 (a) (i), (vi), (vii), 18, 28
		Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a>	27
		Resolution <a href="#">2497 (2019)</a>	28
<b>Thematic</b>	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	7, 12, 18, 25

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## 29. Protection of civilians in armed conflict

During 2019, the Security Council held three meetings to consider the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including one high-level meeting which took the form of an open debate.<sup>603</sup> The Council adopted two resolutions under this item. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below.

On 23 May 2019, the Council held a ministerial-level open debate at the initiative of Indonesia which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>604</sup> marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inclusion of the item on the agenda of the Council.<sup>605</sup> At the meeting, the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Executive Director of the Center for Civilians in Conflict.

Presenting his latest report,<sup>606</sup> the Secretary-General recalled the progress in the culture of protection that had taken root in the Security Council and across the United Nations in the past 20 years. Despite those advances, he added that grave human suffering was still being caused by armed conflicts and a lack of accountability. In that context, he emphasized that progress was needed most at the national level in accordance with the three main recommendations of his report. The Secretary-General added that the Security Council could do much to enhance compliance with the laws of war and could be more consistent in how it addressed protection concerns within and across different conflicts.<sup>607</sup> The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) recalled that political and military decisions made in the Security Council Chamber impacted the human conditions on battlefields around the world. In that regard, he noted that the absence of decisions by the Council also took its toll on civilians and, noting that political consensus was difficult, he asked the Council to be clearer in its support for respect for international humanitarian law. He outlined a series of measures that the Council could take to influence behaviour and protect populations exposed to war and violence, and asked Council members at the very

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<sup>603</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>604</sup> A concept note was circulated dated 8 May 2019 ([S/2019/385](#)).

<sup>605</sup> See [S/PV.3977](#).

<sup>606</sup> See [S/2019/373](#).

<sup>607</sup> [S/PV.8534](#).

least not to hinder people in need in their effort to protect themselves. He described the specific efforts of the ICRC to ensure community-based protection approaches integrated more systematically into its response while noting that those activities could never be considered a substitute for the protection responsibilities of authorities.<sup>608</sup> Also emphasizing that there was no substitute for high-level and public political commitment to civilian protection, the Executive Director of the Center for Civilians in Conflict called on all Member States — including the members of the Council — to adopt national policies on the protection of civilians. He also elaborated on the ways Member States could help peacekeeping operations overcome the challenges to protect civilians by providing political support, adequate financial resources and the right capabilities.<sup>609</sup>

During the subsequent discussion, Member States shared their views on the main priorities and possible practical measures for the protection of civilians in armed conflict.<sup>610</sup> Speakers expressed concern that 20 years after the adoption of the landmark resolution [1265 \(1999\)](#) and 70 years since the adoption of the Geneva Conventions, the normative and conceptual progress on the protection-of-civilians framework had not been translated into concrete measures on the ground and that civilians continued to account for the vast majority of victims of armed conflict. Member States emphasized that women and children as well as refugees and internally displaced persons were amongst the most vulnerable groups affected by armed conflict. In addition, a number of speakers highlighted that persons with disabilities were also disproportionately affected by armed conflict.<sup>611</sup> In that context, many speakers called for compliance with international law and accountability to combat impunity. Several speakers also called for the implementation of resolution [2286 \(2016\)](#), with regard to the protection of humanitarian and medical personnel and health facilities.<sup>612</sup> Several speakers stressed that early warning mechanisms were needed in order to prevent the escalation of violence against civilians.<sup>613</sup>

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<sup>608</sup> Ibid.

<sup>609</sup> Ibid.

<sup>610</sup> [S/2019/840](#), p. 9.

<sup>611</sup> [S/PV.8534](#), Dominican Republic, Poland, Switzerland, Mexico, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, European Union, Slovenia, Ireland, San Marino, Norway (on behalf of the five Nordic countries) and Ecuador.

<sup>612</sup> Ibid., South Africa, Canada, Turkey, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay, San Marino, Kenya, Viet Nam and Norway.

<sup>613</sup> Ibid., Indonesia, Germany, Belgium, Argentina, Portugal, Morocco, Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Armenia.

On 11 June 2019, at the initiative of Kuwait, which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>614</sup> the Council held a meeting under the sub-item “Missing persons in armed conflict”. At the meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2474 \(2019\)](#), addressing for the first time the issue of missing persons as a result of armed conflict. In this resolution, the Council called upon parties to armed conflict to take all appropriate measures, to, inter alia, actively search for persons reported missing, enable the return of their remains, and account for persons reported missing without adverse distinction and put in place appropriate channels enabling response and communication with families on the search process.<sup>615</sup> More specifically, the Council urged the parties to search for and recover the dead as a result of armed conflict, identify them, respect the remains of the dead, and to return them, whenever possible, to their relatives, consistent with applicable obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law.<sup>616</sup> The Council also urged the parties to establish national information bureaus or other mechanisms, upon the outbreak of a conflict, to exchange information on detainees and civilians belonging to an adverse party and to open enquiries regarding these persons.<sup>617</sup> Finally, the Council requested the Secretary-General to include as a sub-item in the reports on the protection of civilians the issue of missing persons as a result of armed conflict and to brief the Council every twelve months on the implementation of the resolution, within the annual briefing on the protection of civilians.<sup>618</sup>

After the vote, the Council was briefed by the Director for Operations and Advocacy of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and by the President of the ICRC. Recalling the latest report of the Secretary-General,<sup>619</sup> the OCHA representative stressed that the parties needed to ensure respect for international humanitarian law as it related to missing persons, taking all feasible measures to account for those reported missing as a result of armed conflict. She added that the law enshrined the right of the families of the missing to receive information on their fate and whereabouts, which entailed putting in place appropriate domestic laws and policies, including mechanisms to search for

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<sup>614</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 3 June 2019 ([S/2019/458](#)).

<sup>615</sup> Resolution [2474 \(2019\)](#), para. 2.

<sup>616</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 8.

<sup>617</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 9.

<sup>618</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 19.

<sup>619</sup> See [S/2019/373](#).

the missing and respond to the needs of their relatives.<sup>620</sup> In his briefing, the President of the ICRC welcomed the adoption of resolution [2474 \(2019\)](#), the first resolution fully dedicated to the issue of missing persons in conflict and commended the Council's commitment to the issue. He outlined the ICRC's specific activities and innovations in the area, noting that the way in which the issue of missing persons was addressed during and after conflict could determine the scale of the problem, its repercussions on communities and future relations between parties to the conflict. In that connection, he urged Member States to implement four steps, namely, ensure that international humanitarian law was respected in their operations; put in place preventative measures and early action; taking the issue of the missing first and foremost as humanitarian and not part of political agendas and accountability processes; and support professional, neutral and impartial humanitarian action on the issue.<sup>621</sup> After the briefings, Council members welcomed the adoption of resolution [2474 \(2019\)](#), expressing appreciation to Kuwait for the initiative and efforts to convene a public meeting of the Council on the issue. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that given the scale of the global missing persons phenomenon, the resolution provided an important opportunity to review and strengthen international cooperation on this issue.<sup>622</sup> Other members also emphasized the importance of international cooperation in addressing the issue of missing persons.<sup>623</sup> The representative of Germany noted that, ultimately, resolving the issue of missing persons was very important for reconciliation, as was having a policy of preventing disappearance for conflict prevention.<sup>624</sup> In that connection, a number of other Council members stressed the importance of concrete preventive measures and early action, as highlighted in resolution [2474 \(2019\)](#).<sup>625</sup> With regard to the specific issue of enforced disappearance, nevertheless, the representative of Germany regretted that there was no reference in the resolution to international criminal mechanisms, such as the Rome Statute, which clearly referred to enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity.<sup>626</sup> The

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<sup>620</sup> [S/PV.8543](#).

<sup>621</sup> Ibid.

<sup>622</sup> Ibid.

<sup>623</sup> Ibid., Kuwait, Indonesia, South Africa and Belgium.

<sup>624</sup> Ibid.

<sup>625</sup> Ibid., Kuwait, United Kingdom, Côte d'Ivoire, China, France, Indonesia, Peru, Belgium, Dominican Republic and Poland.

<sup>626</sup> Ibid.

representative of France also emphasized the role of the International Criminal Court and the investigative mechanisms whose job was to collect the evidence of such crimes. In that context, he regretted that the text of the resolution did not explicitly mention the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and, along with the representative of Belgium, called on all States to ratify it.<sup>627</sup>

On 20 June 2019, the Security Council held a meeting at which it unanimously adopted resolution [2475 \(2019\)](#), addressing the protection of persons with disabilities during armed conflict, which was also the first stand-alone resolution on the issue. Expressing concern regarding the disproportionate impact that armed conflict had on persons with disabilities, the Council urged States to, inter alia, take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination and marginalization of persons on the basis of disability in situations of armed conflict, particularly those who faced multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.<sup>628</sup> In the resolution, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to include information and related recommendations on issues of relevance to persons with disabilities in the context of armed conflict, in thematic and geographic reports and regular briefings to the Council, as well as to include data disaggregated by disability within existing mandates and within existing resources.<sup>629</sup> Moreover, the Council expressed its intention to invite persons with disabilities, including their representative organizations, to brief the Council in relevant thematic and geographic areas and consider including interactive meetings with local persons with disabilities, and their representative organizations, in the field during Council missions.<sup>630</sup>

After the vote, Council members expressed their support to the unanimous adoption of the resolution and the initiative of Poland and the United Kingdom to have brought the issue to the attention of the Council for the first time. The representative of Poland outlined the three goals they wanted to achieve since the beginning of their work on the resolution, namely, strengthening data collection and reporting on persons with disabilities; building capacity and knowledge on the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, as well as awareness among peacekeepers and peacebuilders; and to empower and engage persons with

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<sup>627</sup> Ibid., France and Belgium.

<sup>628</sup> Resolution [2475 \(2019\)](#), second preambular paragraph and para. 8.

<sup>629</sup> Ibid., para. 9.

<sup>630</sup> Ibid., para. 10.

disabilities in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction and peacebuilding, ensuring that persons with disabilities and their organizations were partners of the discussions of the Security Council.<sup>631</sup> The representative of the United States welcomed especially the resolution's paragraphs on data collection, capacity-building and the meaningful participation and leadership of persons with disabilities during every stage of a conflict, and looked forward to more regular briefings by people with disabilities and their representative organizations.<sup>632</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation expressed support for the resolution's humanitarian principles and its aims to improve support and protection for persons with disabilities in areas of conflict while pointing out that a number of its provisions went beyond the mandate of the Security Council. He clarified that, in his delegation's view, the call in operative paragraph 11 of the resolution to comply with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities pertained only to article 11 of the Convention, which related to situations within the Council's purview. Similarly, he stated that activities for the protection of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, had to be carried out strictly in line with the tried-and-tested principle of the so-called division of labour in the United Nations system, and that genuinely constructive efforts to protect persons with disabilities were possible only when each body dealt with the issue in a way that was fully consistent with the mandate entrusted to it. In addition, he noted that the Russian Federation assumed that operative paragraph 10 would be applied without detriment to the Security Council's working methods and in accordance with its provisional rules of procedure. He expressed strong support for the position that all groups in society should receive equal protection during armed conflicts, as laid down in international law, and that the consideration of one category of people should not be at the expense of any other group.<sup>633</sup> The representative of China stated that the Council should not replicate or replace the work of human rights agencies or social welfare agencies dedicated to those with disabilities and that the issue was a sub-item under the agenda for the protection of civilians in armed conflict and should be addressed in full observance of all Council resolutions and agreements on that agenda.<sup>634</sup> Finally, the representative of the United Kingdom, co-

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<sup>631</sup> [S/PV.8556](#).

<sup>632</sup> Ibid.

<sup>633</sup> Ibid.

<sup>634</sup> Ibid.

penholder of resolution [2475 \(2019\)](#), thanked the Russian Federation and China for voting in favour of the resolution despite the doubts they had expressed. He agreed with the Russian representative that the Council should not be creating new legal obligations, and that they had been careful not to do so. He also agreed that all citizens and civilians should be protected and that that should not just be declaratory but also through concrete actions, as reflected in the resolution.<sup>635</sup>

Throughout 2019, the Council continued the practice of hearing briefings by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs concerning the protection of civilians in armed conflict under country and region-specific items.<sup>636</sup> The Council also included protection-related provisions in most of its resolutions and presidential statements in relation to both country- or region-specific and thematic items.<sup>637</sup>

The Council focused on multiple aspects and used a variety of language formulas to address the protection of civilians in its decisions; selected provisions of those decisions are listed in table 2. In particular, the Council (a) condemned all forms of attacks against civilians, especially against women and children and including attacks against schools, hospitals and medical facilities; (b) called upon all parties to conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law and called for accountability measures against perpetrators of such crimes; (c) demanded that all parties to armed conflict ensure unhindered access for delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, and ensure safety of humanitarian and medical personnel; (d) emphasised the primary responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to protect civilians; (e) requested additional monitoring mechanisms as well as reporting arrangements in order to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and (f) adopted or expressed its intention to adopt targeted measures, such as sanctions, against perpetrators. In addition, the Council practice of strengthening the mandates of United Nations peace operations with a view to protecting civilians continued to evolve. During the reporting period, the Council continued to request several missions to take the protection of civilians under threat of physical violence as specific priorities and benchmarks of their mandates,

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<sup>635</sup> Ibid.

<sup>636</sup> In 2019, the Council was briefed by the Office 32 times at public meetings and 24 times in consultations, at a total of 56 briefings. See for further details prior to 2019, *Repertoire, Supplement 2018*, part I, sect. 29.

<sup>637</sup> For information on other cross-cutting issues before the Council, see part I, sect. 29, and sect. 31.

with particular attention, but not limited to women, children and internally displaced persons, including by creating a secure environment for the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, strengthening local community engagement and empowerment, early warning and information-sharing mechanisms.<sup>638</sup>

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<sup>638</sup> For additional information on mandates and decisions relevant to peacekeeping and political missions, see part X.



**Table 1**  
**Meetings: Protection of civilians in armed conflict**

<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.8534</a> 23 May 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict <a href="#">(S/2019/373)</a>		63 Member States <sup>a</sup>	Eight invitees <sup>b</sup>	Secretary-General, 13 Council members, <sup>c</sup> all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
	Letter dated 8 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General <a href="#">(S/2019/385)</a>					
<a href="#">S/PV.8543</a> 11 June 2019	Missing persons in armed conflict  Letter dated 3 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General <a href="#">(S/2019/458)</a>	Draft resolution submitted by 68 Member States <sup>e</sup> <a href="#">(S/2019/475)</a>	55 Member States <sup>f</sup>	Director for Operations and Advocacy of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, President of ICRC	All Council members, <sup>g</sup> invitees under rule 39 <sup>h</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2474 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8556</a> 20 June 2019		Draft resolution submitted by 68 Member States <sup>i</sup> <a href="#">(S/2019/503)</a>	55 Member States <sup>j</sup>		Seven Council members <sup>k</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2475 (2019)</a> 15-0-0

<sup>a</sup> Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>b</sup> President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Executive Director of the Center for Civilians in Conflict, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the United Nations, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security of the North Atlantic Treaty

Organization (NATO), Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations.

<sup>c</sup> Indonesia (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Germany was represented by its Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office. South Africa spoke on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>d</sup> Cambodia was represented by its Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Netherlands and Romania were represented by their respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs. Canada was represented by its Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Norway spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; Switzerland spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict; Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Viet Nam spoke on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

<sup>e</sup> Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Uruguay.

<sup>f</sup> Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

<sup>g</sup> Kuwait (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>h</sup> The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross participated in the meeting via videoconference from Geneva.

<sup>i</sup> Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>j</sup> Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

<sup>k</sup> China, France, Dominican Republic (speaking on behalf of Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait and Peru), Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

**Table 2**  
**Selection of provisions relevant to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, by theme and agenda item**

	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
<b>Condemnation and demands of cessation of attacks and acts of violence against civilian and civilian facilities and abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law</b>			
<b>Country and region-specific</b>	Peace and security in Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/6</a>	Eighth, ninth
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	4, 24
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	7, 10, 11
		Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	12
	The situation in Mali	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/2</a>	Ninth
	The situation in the Middle East	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/9</a>	Fifth
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	25, 26
		Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a>	26
		Resolution <a href="#">2497 (2019)</a>	26
<b>Thematic</b>	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution <a href="#">2474 (2019)</a>	1
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	1
<b>Calls for compliance with and accountability under applicable international humanitarian law human rights law and relevant Security Council resolutions by all parties</b>			
<b>Country and region-specific</b>	Peace and security in Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/15</a>	Eighth
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	21, 23
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	4, 5, 6, 35
		Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	6, 8, 34, 50 (b), (c)
	The situation in Guinea-Bissau	Resolution <a href="#">2458 (2019)</a>	19
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	15, 35, 36, 53
	The situation in the Middle East	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/9</a>	Second
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2461 (2019)</a>	16
		Resolution <a href="#">2498 (2019)</a>	4
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	34, 35
	Peace consolidation in West Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/7</a>	twenty-seventh
	The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/8</a>	second, third
<b>Thematic</b>	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution <a href="#">2475 (2019)</a>	1, 2
	Threats to international peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2482 (2019)</a>	16
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	17, 21

22<sup>nd</sup> Supplement (2019)

**Demands for humanitarian access and safety of humanitarian and medical personnel and facilities**

Country and region-specific	Peace and security in Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/6</a>	Ninth
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	32 (d), 49
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	36
		Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	35
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	54
	The situation in the Middle East	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/9</a>	Ninth
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2461 (2019)</a>	18
		Resolution <a href="#">2472 (2019)</a>	31
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	2
		Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a>	25
Resolution <a href="#">2497 (2019)</a>		23	
Thematic	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution <a href="#">2474 (2019)</a>	12
		Resolution <a href="#">2475 (2019)</a>	3

**Affirmation of primary responsibility of States and parties to the conflict to protect civilians**

<b>Country and region-specific</b>	Peace and security in Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/15</a>	Ninth
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	fourth preambular paragraph
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	sixth preambular paragraph, 17
		Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	fourth preambular paragraph
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	second preambular, 55
<b>Thematic</b>	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution <a href="#">2474 (2019)</a>	twelfth preambular paragraph
		Resolution <a href="#">2475 (2019)</a>	fifth preambular paragraph
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	sixth preambular paragraph

**Requests for specific monitoring and analysis of and reporting on protection of civilians**

<b>Country and region-specific</b>	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	54
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	51
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2472 (2019)</a>	16, 32
		Resolution <a href="#">2498 (2019)</a>	34
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	36, 38
		Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a>	27, 35

<b>Thematic</b>	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Resolution <a href="#">2474 (2019)</a>	9, 19
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	2, 22, 27, 32
<b>Imposition of targeted measures against perpetrators of violations against civilians in armed conflict</b>			
<b>Country and region-specific</b>	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	fifteenth and twenty-fourth preambular paragraphs
		Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	5
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2498 (2019)</a>	21
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	tenth preambular paragraph, 3
<b>Inclusion of mission-specific protection mandates and benchmarks<sup>a</sup></b>			
<b>Country and region-specific</b>	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	32(a)(i)-(iv), (b)(vii), 33(d)(i)-(iii), 33(e)(i),(iv),(vii)
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	23 (a), 24, 29 (i)(a)-(g), 29(ii)(c), 37
		Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	25, 29(i)(a)-(g), 29(ii)(e), 36, 42, 47
	The question concerning Haiti	Resolution <a href="#">2466 (2019)</a>	10
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	16, 20, 28(b)(iii), 28(c)(i)-(iii), 28(f)
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	7(a)(i)-(viii), 7(b)(i), 7(c)(i),(iv), 10, 14, 17, 18
		Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a>	12
		Resolution <a href="#">2495 (2019)</a>	3(iii)
		Resolution <a href="#">2497 (2019)</a>	13

<sup>a</sup> For additional information on mandates and decisions relevant to peacekeeping and political missions, see part X.

### **30. Women and peace and security**

In 2019, the Security Council held two high-level meetings and adopted two resolutions<sup>639</sup> in relation to the item entitled “Women and Peace and Security”. Both meetings took the form of open debates.<sup>640</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in Table 1.

On 23 April 2019, at the initiative of Germany which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>641</sup> the Council held an open debate under the sub-item “Sexual violence in conflict”. At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and two civil society representatives. In his briefing to the Council, the Secretary-General noted that the recommendations contained in his 2019 report on conflict-related sexual violence focused mainly on strengthening prevention in the context of the Council’s actions on country-specific resolutions, mandates of peace operations, sanctions regimes and peacemaking efforts and stressed the need to strengthen justice and accountability by, inter alia, increasing support to national authorities in their justice reform efforts and ensuring support for survivors and their families.<sup>642</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict echoed the Secretary-General’s recommendations, particularly the need for a survivor-centred approach, and urged the Council to consider additional targeted measures to apply pressure on parties to conflict who had been repeatedly identified as credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of conflict-related sexual violence.<sup>643</sup> Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Denis Mukwege expressed support for the Secretary-General’s recommendations and the work of his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and welcomed the draft resolution tabled at the meeting for its focus on children born of rape, the need for a survivor-centred approach, the imposition of sanctions, ensuring justice and accountability,

<sup>639</sup> Resolutions [2467 \(2019\)](#) and [2493 \(2019\)](#).

<sup>640</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>641</sup> A concept note was circulated by letter dated 11 April 2019 ([S/2019/313](#)).

<sup>642</sup> See [S/PV.8514](#). See also [S/2019/280](#).

and providing reparations. Recalling the crimes of sexual violence committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) against Yazidi women in Iraq and Syria, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Nadia Murad from Iraq called for serious action to bring the perpetrators to justice and expressed hope that the Council would continue to support the United Nations Investigative Team for the Promotion of Accountability for Crimes Committed by ISIL (Da'esh) in Iraq that was established in 2018. Amal Clooney, as legal counsel to Nadia Murad and other Yazidi women and girls reported on milestones achieved in national legal proceedings against ISIL (Da'esh) but noted that those did not come close to full accountability and, thus, proposed that the Council consider options to address international accountability. Inas Miloud, an indigenous woman from Libya who spoke on behalf of the Tamazight Women's Movement and the non-governmental organization Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, highlighted the stories of Libyan survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly the experiences of indigenous women targeted due to their ethnicity, men and boys in Libyan detention centers and prisons, and women human rights defenders who suffered for their activism.

At the meeting, Council members and other Member States addressed a variety of issues, including the importance of and the means to strengthen accountability in the fight against conflict-related sexual violence, the need for a holistic support for survivors of sexual violence and children born of rape, and the protection of women human rights defenders. Speakers expressed concern and condemnation over the use of sexual violence in conflict as a weapon of war. Some speakers explicitly recalled that conflict-related sexual violence was a threat to international peace and security.<sup>644</sup> Participants stressed the importance of meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes in order to address the issue of sexual violence and outlined national and regional efforts in that regard.

At the meeting, the Council adopted resolution [2467 \(2019\)](#), with the abstention of two permanent members, namely the Russian Federation and China. In explaining his country's vote, the representative of the Russian Federation noted that at the last minute they had succeeded in agreeing to exclude the provisions that were wholly unacceptable and protested that there had been no explanation to attempts to use a thematic resolution to

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<sup>644</sup> Ibid., Peru, Kuwait, Albania, Slovenia, Mexico, Morocco and United Arab Emirates.

intrusively expand the mandates of various United Nations mechanisms and bodies by directing them to tackle the issue of combating sexual violence. He added that together with China his delegation had drafted an alternative text on the subject of sexual violence in conflict, which corresponded much more accurately to the objectives of the meeting. Explaining his country's abstention, the representative of China said that his country's propositions and concerns had not been fully reflected. He said that the Council should address sexual violence in conflict in line with its mandate, instead of going too far to address what should have been entrusted to other bodies. He added that for the establishment of special mechanisms, it was important to have extensive discussions well in advance and it was vital to fully respect the sovereignty of host countries and support their Governments in playing a leading role. Finally, he said that any related sanctions measures should strictly comply with the Council's mandates and be subject to case-by-case deliberations. The representative of the United Kingdom also expressed regret that the language on services for survivors of sexual violence, recognizing the acute need for those services to include comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care, including safe termination of pregnancies, did not meet with the support of all the Council members.

By resolution [2467 \(2019\)](#), the Council reiterated its demand for the complete cessation by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence and its call for those parties to make and implement specific time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence and encouraged Member States to strengthen legislation to foster accountability for sexual violence.<sup>645</sup> The Council also encouraged the continued strengthening of efforts to monitor and document sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and called for a more systematic, reliable and rigorous approach to gathering accurate, reliable timely and sex-disaggregated information on sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, in such a way that will not put survivors at risk.<sup>646</sup> Within the scope of the relevant criteria for designation, and consistent with relevant resolutions, the Council urged existing sanctions committees to apply targeted sanctions against those who perpetrate and direct sexual violence in conflict.<sup>647</sup> The Council also called upon Member States to enhance investigation

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<sup>645</sup> Resolution [2467 \(2019\)](#), paras. 1 and 3.

<sup>646</sup> Ibid., para. 9.

<sup>647</sup> Ibid., para. 10.



and prosecution of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations and encouraged them to adopt a survivor-centred approach, including by ensuring that prevention and response to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations respected the rights and prioritized needs of survivors and ensured the full and meaningful participation of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.<sup>648</sup> The Council further called upon Member States to make effective remedy and assistance available to victims of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations and encouraged Member States and other relevant actors to give due consideration to the establishment of a survivors' fund.<sup>649</sup>

On 29 October 2019, at the initiative of South Africa which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>650</sup> the Council held an open debate under the sub-item "Towards the successful implementation of the women, peace and security agenda: moving from commitments to accomplishments in preparation for the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#)". The meeting was resumed twice and was held over a period of two days, on 29 October and 4 November, straddling the Presidencies of South Africa and the United Kingdom.

At the outset of the meeting on 29 October, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2493 \(2019\)](#), recognizing the opportunity presented by the number of significant anniversaries in 2020, particularly the 20th anniversary of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), and called on all Member States to commit to the promotion of women and girls' empowerment in peace and security processes and to use those anniversaries to intensify their national efforts and international cooperation.<sup>651</sup> In that context, the Council urged Member States to commit to implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda and its priorities by ensuring and promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes.<sup>652</sup> The Council also urged Member States supporting peace processes to facilitate women's full, equal and meaningful inclusion and participation in peace talks from the outset, both in negotiating parties' delegations and in the mechanisms set up to implement

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<sup>648</sup> Ibid., paras. 14 and 16.

<sup>649</sup> Ibid., para. 17.

<sup>650</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 8 October 2019 ([S/2019/801](#)).

<sup>651</sup> Resolution [2493 \(2019\)](#), eleventh preambular paragraph.

<sup>652</sup> Ibid., para. 2.

and monitor agreements.<sup>653</sup> The Council urged Member States to increase their funding on women, peace and security including through more aid in conflict and post-conflict situations for programmes that further gender equality and women's economic empowerment and security.<sup>654</sup> The Council requested the Secretary-General to include in his next annual report on the implementation of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and its subsequent resolutions, (a) further information on, progress made and the remaining challenges in the Women, Peace and Security agenda as well as recommendations to address new and emerging challenges, (b) the implementation of the appointment of gender advisers and/or women protection advisers, provisions to facilitate women's full and effective participation and protection, and (c) an assessment of the progress and commitments made on dedicated gender expertise in expert groups and monitoring teams in sanctions committees and how this commitment was met.<sup>655</sup> Further to the vote, a number of Council members made statements. The representative of the United States said that the resolution referred to previous documents that included references to sexual and reproductive health and noted that her country could not accept references to sexual and reproductive health or any references to safe termination of pregnancy or language that would promote abortion or suggest a right to abortion. She also regretted that the resolution fell short of putting the full weight and support of the Council behind the women who were putting their lives on the line every day to build peace also leaving out key aspects of the Action for Peacekeeping Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.<sup>656</sup> The representative of the United Kingdom, addressing the implementation gap regarding relevant resolutions, indicated that the full implementation needed to include sexual and reproductive health services. She noted that not all Member States agreed with this, but from the perspective of the United Kingdom sexual and reproductive health services were a vital part of public services for women in all countries and a vital part of ensuring that women could play a truly equal role in the building of their countries. She also expressed disappointment that the resolution was not more ambitious in scope. She noted that it would have broken new ground if it had included explicit language on women human rights defenders and their protection and security. She also regretted that it

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<sup>653</sup> Ibid., para. 3.

<sup>654</sup> Ibid., para. 5.

<sup>655</sup> Ibid., para. 10.

<sup>656</sup> [S/PV.8649](#).

did not include broader recognition of civil society's role in implementation. The latter point was also raised by the representatives of Belgium and France.<sup>657</sup>

At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, and two civil society representatives. The Secretary-General stated that while the women and peace and security agenda was a top priority for the United Nations as a whole, the commitments reflected during the Council meetings on this agenda item was not translating into real change around the world far or fast enough and that the pace was too slow for the women and girls whose lives depended on it and for the effectiveness of efforts to maintain international peace and security. Despite some progress, he noted that women still faced exclusion from many peace and political processes, attacks against women human rights defenders had continued to increase and women and girls had continued to suffer the consequences of conflict in general and of gender-based and sexual violence, in particular. He outlined Secretariat initiatives to implement new and stronger policies, including the inclusion of the agenda as one of the eight priority pillars of his Action for Peacekeeping initiative. The Executive Director of UN Women also highlighted the stark contrast between the expressed support from Member States and regional and international organizations for the women and peace and security agenda, and reality. She discussed the results of the independent assessment conducted by UN-Women on progress in the implementation of the gender-related recommendations of the three peace and security reviews that the United Nations had conducted in 2015, including areas of progress such as the stronger integration of gender considerations in preventing violent extremism and the increase in the number of countries that had adopted a national action plan on women and peace and security. However, she also highlighted the decrease of gender-related provisions contained in peace agreements and asked the Council to address the issue of participation and inclusion of women in peace processes. The African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security noted that while Africa continued to lead in the adoption of national actions plans on women and peace and security, their implementation also continued to lag in areas such as inclusion of women in

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<sup>657</sup> Ibid., Belgium and France.

political and peace processes and in curbing violence against women. She emphasized, inter alia, that national action plans should have a clear accountability framework, support for women's organizations was crucial in addressing the gaps identified, and young people should have a bigger role and be allowed to take the lead on women and peace and security. Lina Ekomo, who spoke on behalf of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (Femwise-Africa) and the African Women Leaders Network, recalled the Central African women's efforts at inclusion in their country's peace process, their lack of access to the negotiations which resulted in the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic (Political Agreement) and the substantial difficulties they faced in monitoring the implementation of the Agreement. Alaa Salah, who spoke on behalf of the non-governmental Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, discussed the role of Sudanese women in historical and recent political struggles, the need to protect women's rights, and the lack of accountability and justice for human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, in the Sudan. She called for the Council and the international community, to, inter alia, support accountability and end impunity, support greater representation of women in the Sudan's peace processes, and ensure that women human rights defenders could carry out their work without fear of reprisals.

Participants emphasized the need for meaningful participation of women in all aspects of peace and security, including at the decision-making level of peace processes, expressed appreciation for the gender parity strategy for United Nations peace operations and stressed the important role of civil society in the implementation of the agenda, including through their briefings to the Security Council. Recalling the forthcoming twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution [1325 \(2005\)](#), speakers noted that serious gaps remained between commitment to the agenda and its actual implementation and saw the lead-up to the anniversary as a period for stocktaking and review and an opportunity to mobilize resources and support for tangible actions. Concerning the Secretary-General's reporting on increased political violence against women, speakers expressed concern over the safety and protection of women human rights defenders.

During the period under review, the Informal Experts Group on Women and Peace and Security continued to be convened in accordance with resolution [2242 \(2015\)](#).<sup>658</sup> By resolution [2467 \(2019\)](#), the Council expressed its intention to consider the information, analysis and recommendations of the Informal Experts Group, acknowledging UN Women's important role in this regard, and emphasized that sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and all other aspects of the agenda should continue to be addressed in that forum.<sup>659</sup>

The Council referred to women and peace and security related issues under multiple items of its agenda in 2019. As summarised in table 2 below, the Council addressed in its decisions a wide variety of measures in connection with the women and peace and security agenda and in particular, (i) demanded the representation and participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution and in public affairs and governance; (ii) called for the participation of women in peacekeeping operations, including through the appointment of women's protection and gender advisers; (iii) called for gender mainstreaming to be taken into account as a crosscutting issue; and (iv) called for measures to combat sexual violence including through monitoring, analysing and reporting on conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence as well as the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence. The Council also called for Member States to adopt a survivor-centred approach in preventing and responding to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. In addition, during the period under review, the Council referred to the funding of women and peace and security related national programmes, the economic empowerment of women and the role of women in countering terrorism and violent extremism in various women and peace and security related provisions.

<sup>658</sup> See [S/2019/232](#), [S/2019/253](#), [S/2019/296](#) and [S/2019/591](#).

<sup>659</sup> Resolution [2467 \(2019\)](#), para. 4. See also resolution [2493 \(2019\)](#), para. 7.

Table 1

**Meetings: Women and peace and security**

<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.8514</a> 23 April 2019	Sexual violence in conflict Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence ( <a href="#">S/2019/280</a> ) Letter dated 11 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/313</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Germany ( <a href="#">S/2019/328</a> )	64 Member States <sup>a</sup>	10 invitees under rule 39, <sup>b</sup> Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all members, <sup>c</sup> 61 invitees under rule 37, <sup>d</sup> all other invitees <sup>e</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a> 13-0-2 <sup>f</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8649</a> <a href="#">S/PV.8649 (Resumption 1)</a> 29 Oct 2019	Towards the successful implementation of the women, peace and security agenda: moving from commitments to accomplishments in preparation for the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution <a href="#">1325 (2000)</a> Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/800</a> ) Letter dated 8 October 2019 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/801</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by 22 Member States <sup>g</sup> ( <a href="#">S/2019/841</a> )	77 Member States <sup>h</sup>	Eight invitees under rule 39, <sup>i</sup> Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine	Secretary-General, all members, <sup>j</sup> 70 invitees under rule 37, <sup>k</sup> all other invitees <sup>l</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2493 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8649 (Resumption 2)</a> 4 Nov 2019						

<sup>a</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

<sup>b</sup> Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; Dr. Denis Mukwege, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Ms. Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Ms. Amal Clooney, Barrister; and Ms. Inas Miloud, Tamazight Women's Movement; Permanent Observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations; Principle Advisor for Gender and the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security of the European External Action Service; NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security; Permanent Observer of the Africa Union to the

United Nations; Permanent Observer of the Economic Community of Central African States to the United Nations.

<sup>c</sup> Equatorial Guinea was represented by its Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Germany was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs; and the United Kingdom was represented by its Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

<sup>d</sup> Cyprus, Guatemala and Latvia did not make statements. Finland was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Hungary was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Republic of Korea was represented by its Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Serbia was represented by its Assistant Minister for Construction, Transport and Infrastructure. The representative of Estonia spoke on behalf of Latvia and Lithuania. The representative of Norway spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries. The representative of Qatar spoke on behalf of the 51 members of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect.

<sup>e</sup> The Principle Advisor for Gender and the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security of the European External Action Service spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine.

<sup>f</sup> *In favour*: Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, *Against*: None *Abstaining*: China, Russian Federation.

<sup>f</sup> Armenia, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Georgia, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Liberia, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

<sup>h</sup> Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

<sup>i</sup> Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security; Ms. Lina Ekomo, on behalf of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation and the African Women Leaders Network; Ms. Alaa Salah, civil society activist and community leader; Special Representative of the NATO Secretary-General for Women, Peace and Security; Principal Adviser on Gender and the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women and Peace and Security of the European External Action Service; Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations; and Senior Adviser on Gender Issues of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.



<sup>j</sup> South Africa was represented by its Minister for International Relations and Cooperation and Germany was represented by its Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office.

<sup>k</sup> Bulgaria, Denmark, Ghana, Maldives, Myanmar, North Macedonia and San Marino did not make statements. Guatemala was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Liberia was represented by its Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Norway was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs who spoke on behalf of the five Nordic countries, Republic of Korea was represented its Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Sweden was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Canada spoke on behalf of 56 Member States representing all five regional groups of the United Nations. The representative of the Philippines spoke on behalf of the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

<sup>l</sup> The Special Representative of the NATO Secretary-General for Women, Peace and Security did not make a statement. The Principle Advisor for Gender and the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security of the European External Action Service spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.



**Table 2**  
**Selection of provisions relevant to women and peace and security, by theme and agenda item**

	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
<b>Representation and participation of women in political processes at all levels, including decision-making</b>			
<b>Country- and region-specific</b>	Peace and security in Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/15</a>	Seventh
	Peace consolidation in West Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/7</a>	Fifteenth
	The question concerning Haiti	<a href="#">S/RES/2466 (2019)</a>	12
		Resolution <a href="#">2476 (2019)</a>	3
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution <a href="#">2470 (2019)</a>	2(e)
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	32
		Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	2
	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution <a href="#">2489 (2019)</a>	5(f)
	The situation in Guinea-Bissau	Resolution <a href="#">2458 (2019)</a>	6(d)
	The situation in Mali	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/2</a>	Third
		Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	5, 56
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2461 (2019)</a>	9
		Resolution <a href="#">2472 (2019)</a>	27
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	10, 44
	The situation in the Middle East	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/9</a>	Twelfth
<b>Thematic</b>		Resolution <a href="#">2485 (2019)</a>	25
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	23
		Resolution <a href="#">2493 (2019)</a>	6, 10(b)
<b>Participation of women in peacebuilding and in conflict prevention and resolution</b>			
<b>Country- and region-specific</b>	Peace and security in Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/15</a>	Seventh, Tenth
	Peace consolidation in West Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/7</a>	Sixteenth
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	4, 8, 38

	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
<b>Thematic</b>		Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a>	18, 19
		Resolution <a href="#">2497(2019)</a>	18, 19
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	32
	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution <a href="#">2489 (2019)</a>	5(f)
	The situation in Cyprus	Resolution <a href="#">2453 (2019)</a>	10
		Resolution <a href="#">2483 (2019)</a>	4(e)
	The situation in Mali	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/2</a>	Seventh
		Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	4
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2461 (2019)</a>	9
		Resolution <a href="#">2472 (2019)</a>	27
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	8, 32(b)(iii), 32(b)(iv), 32 (b) (v)
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	20, 23
		Resolution <a href="#">2493 (2019)</a>	2, 3, 4, 9(a), 10(b)
<b>Economic empowerment of women / funding of national programmes</b>			
<b>Country- and region-specific</b>	Peace and security in Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/15</a>	Seventh
	Peace consolidation in West Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/7</a>	Twenty-third
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	16 (c), 28, 35
<b>Thematic</b>		Resolution <a href="#">2493 (2019)</a>	5
<b>Conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence</b>			
<b>Country- and region-specific</b>	Peace and security in Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/15</a>	Seventh
	Peace consolidation in West Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/7</a>	Twenty-third
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	4, 7(a)(i), 7(c), 26, 29, 35,
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	4, 7, 8, 29(i)(b), 30(i)(d), 33,

	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
<b>Thematic</b>			39, 46(ii), 46(vi)
		Resolution <a href="#">2502</a> (2019)	6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 29(i)(c), 29(ii)(k),33, 34, 50(c)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480</a> (2019)	9, 28 (c) (iii), 28 (e) (ii)53, 57, 58,
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2461</a> (2019)	16, 17, 20, 28, 29, 21
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499</a> (2019)	24, 25, 32(a)(iii), 33(d)(ii), 33(e)(vii)
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467</a> (2019)	6, 8, 15, 16(a), 16(d), 24, 28, 31, 22, 32,
	Threats to international peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2482</a> (2019)	8
<b>Gender mainstreaming, gender expertise and gender-sensitive responses</b>			
<b>Country- and region-specific</b>	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459</a> (2019)	7(a)(vi), 17
		Resolution <a href="#">2497(2019)</a>	28
	The question concerning Haiti	Resolution <a href="#">2466</a> (2019)	12
		Resolution <a href="#">2476</a> (2019)	3
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution <a href="#">2470</a> (2019)	2(e)
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2502</a> (2019)	32
	The situation in Cyprus	Resolution <a href="#">2453</a> (2019)	10
	The situation in Libya	Resolution <a href="#">2486</a> (2019)	5
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2498</a> (2019)	29
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499</a> (2019)	32(a)(iii), 33(c)(i), 33(c)(ii)

	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
Thematic	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	11, 36
		Resolution <a href="#">2493 (2019)</a>	10 (c)
Women's Protection and Women's Protection Advisers			
Country- and region-specific	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	7 (a)(i), 17
		Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a>	29
	The question concerning Haiti	Resolution <a href="#">2476 (2019)</a>	2
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2463 (2019)</a>	32, 33
		Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	32, 33
	The situation in Guinea-Bissau	Resolution <a href="#">2458 (2019)</a>	6(d)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	28 (c) (iii)
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	32 (a) (iii), 44
Thematic	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	22, 23
		Resolution <a href="#">2493 (2019)</a>	10 (b)
Role of women in countering terrorism and violent extremism			
Country- and region-specific	Peace and security in Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/15</a>	Tenth
	Peace consolidation in West Africa	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/7</a>	Seventeenth
Thematic	Threats to international peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2482 (2019)</a>	17
Participation of women in peacekeeping operations			
Country- and region-specific	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution <a href="#">2459 (2019)</a>	17
		Resolution <a href="#">2469 (2019)</a>	28
		Resolution <a href="#">2497(2019)</a>	28
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	41

	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
	The situation concerning Western Sahara	Resolution <a href="#">2468 (2019)</a>	11
	The situation in Cyprus	Resolution <a href="#">2453 (2019)</a>	14
		Resolution <a href="#">2483 (2019)</a>	12
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	46
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution <a href="#">2472 (2019)</a>	18
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	38
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution <a href="#">2477 (2019)</a>	11
		Resolution <a href="#">2485 (2019)</a>	24
		Resolution <a href="#">2503 (2019)</a>	12
<b>Thematic</b>	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2493 (2019)</a>	2
<b>Participation of women in the security sector and in security sector reform (SSR)</b>			
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2502 (2019)</a>	20, 29(ii)(f), 32
	The situation in Libya	Resolution <a href="#">2486 (2019)</a>	5
<b>Country- and region-specific</b>	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2480 (2019)</a>	56
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution <a href="#">2499 (2019)</a>	13, 44
	Women and peace and security	Resolution <a href="#">2467 (2019)</a>	23, 26
<b>Thematic</b>		Resolution <a href="#">2493 (2019)</a>	10 (b)

### **31. Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts**

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings under the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts” and adopted two resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter. Two of the meetings took the form of briefings,<sup>660</sup> one was held as an open debate,<sup>661</sup> and one was convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>662</sup> The Council unanimously adopted two resolutions: resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) on the financing of terrorism; and resolution [2501 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) concerning individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban, for a period of twelve months, until December 2020. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the Council continued to focus under this agenda item on the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da’esh) and the sanctions measures against it as well as on several other issues, such as the threat posed by returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters. The Council also addressed in 2019 the issue of preventing and combating the financing of terrorism, in connection to which it unanimously adopted resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#). In 2019, the Council heard most briefings by the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). In addition, the Council was briefed twice by the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), once by the President of the Financial Action Task Force and once by an expert in anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism.

On 11 February 2019, the Council heard the briefing by the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT on the eighth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da’esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat.<sup>663</sup> He explained that the reports were prepared by CTED and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team (Monitoring

<sup>660</sup> [S/PV.8460](#) and [S/PV.8605](#). For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>661</sup> [S/PV.8496](#).

<sup>662</sup> [S/PV.8686](#).

<sup>663</sup> See [S/2019/103](#).

Team). He also noted that ISIL (Da'esh) remained a threat as a global organization with a centralized leadership despite the decrease in the number of international attacks and plots in 2018, adding that this threat was further increased by returning, relocating or released foreign terrorist fighters. In terms of ISIL's financial strength, it was further noted that despite some loss of revenue due to territorial setbacks, ISIL (Da'esh) sustained its operations through criminal activities as well as accessible reserves, in cash or investment in businesses.<sup>664</sup> After the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, the Council heard a briefing by the Executive Director of CTED, who stressed that ISIL (Da'esh) continued to present the international community with many complex challenges despite its dwindling controlled territory, further warning that of all international terrorist organizations, ISIL (Da'esh) remained the most likely to carry out a large-scale, complex attack.

On 28 March 2019, at the initiative of France, which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>665</sup> the Council held a high-level open debate on preventing and combating the financing of terrorism, which was presided by the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France.<sup>666</sup> At the outset of the meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#), under Chapter VII of the Charter. In this resolution, the Council reaffirmed resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and in particular its decisions that all States should prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and refrain from providing any form of support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts.<sup>667</sup> By this resolution, the Council also decided that all States should, in a manner consistent with their obligations under international law, ensure that their domestic laws establish serious criminal offenses sufficient to prosecute the wilful provision or collection of funds, financial assets or economic resources with the intention that such funds should be used for the benefit of terrorist organizations or individual terrorists for any purpose, including but not limited to recruitment, training, or travel, even in the absence of a link to a specific terrorist act.<sup>668</sup> The Council also called upon Member States to conduct financial investigations in terrorism related cases and to seek ways to address the challenges

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<sup>664</sup> [S/PV.8460](#).

<sup>665</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 14 March 2019 ([S/2019/239](#)).

<sup>666</sup> [S/PV.8496](#).

<sup>667</sup> Resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>668</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 5.

in obtaining evidence to secure terrorist financing convictions.<sup>669</sup> It also called upon Member States to more effectively investigate and prosecute cases of terrorist financing and to apply effective, proportionate, and dissuasive criminal sanctions to individuals and entities convicted of terrorist financing activity as well as to intensify the timely exchange of information, enhance the traceability and transparency of financial transactions and strengthen international cooperation to prevent and counter the financing of terrorism.<sup>670</sup>

Following the adoption of resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#), the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT stressed that the adoption of the resolution came at a critical time as recent terrorist attacks around the world had demonstrated that financial flows continued to reach terrorist groups from both illegal and legal means. He further noted that while several Security Council resolutions had focused on countering the financing of terrorism, this resolution helped consolidate the various requirements into a single document and expanded the focus to key emerging issues, including innovative terrorist financing typologies.<sup>671</sup>

At the same meeting, the President of the Financial Action Task Force stressed that terrorist groups continued to obtain funding from a wide range of sources to conduct terrorist attacks, as well as to maintain and grow their terrorist organizations, and therefore combatting all these aspects of terrorist financing was top priority shared by the Security Council and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). He also underlined that fewer than one fifth of the countries around the world that the FATF had assessed to date were effectively applying the targeted financial sanctions and prosecutions that were necessary in line with resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#). An expert in anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism from Kenya, noted in her briefing that new technologies, such as mobile money-transfer services were arguably the single most effective contributor to global financial-inclusion initiatives, which particularly in developing countries, had facilitated access to cheap and reliable financial services to an ever increasing formerly unbanked population segment. She also recognized that while innovative financial technologies could offer significant economic opportunities, they also presented a risk of being misused by criminals for money laundering and other criminal activity, including terrorist financing. She further

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<sup>669</sup> Ibid., para. 7.

<sup>670</sup> Ibid., paras. 8, 19, 20 and 28.

<sup>671</sup> [S/PV.8496](#).



stated that the Council should take cognizance of the need for Member States to put in place the necessary measures to combat the financing of terrorism and money laundering without stifling financial inclusion and hence promote sustainable development in those countries.

Further to the briefers, speakers at the meeting emphasized the need for States to fully implement the relevant Council resolutions and foster international cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism.

During his second briefing, on 27 August 2019, the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT presented the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat. He reiterated that challenges remained regarding foreign terrorist fighters, returnees and relocators. He further stressed that Member States faced significant and multifaceted challenges related to the repatriation of their nationals, including women and children, from territories previously controlled by ISIL and that Member States had the primary responsibility for their own nationals, adding that policies and actions that led to statelessness should be avoided. He stressed that the lull in attacks directed by ISIL could be only temporary and that the international community needed to remain vigilant to mitigate the risk posed by the evolution of ISIL (Da'esh) and its affiliates and deny it new recruits to prevent its resurgence.<sup>672</sup> In her briefing to the Council, the Executive Director of CTED addressed the gender dimensions of terrorism and violent extremism. She noted that significant knowledge gaps remained regarding the number and profiles of women who had travelled to and returned from ISIL-held territory and stressed that women tended to receive limited rehabilitation and reintegration support, thereby potentially putting them at greater risk of marginalization and recidivism.

On 16 December 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2501 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of the Monitoring Team established pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution [1526 \(2004\)](#) for a period of twelve months until December 2020.<sup>673</sup> In the resolution the Council also welcomed efforts to initiate inclusive intra-Afghan negotiations

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<sup>672</sup> [S/PV.8605](#).

<sup>673</sup> Resolution [2501 \(2019\)](#), para. 2. For more information on the Monitoring Team, see part IX, sect. I.

aimed at securing a durable peace settlement that ended the conflict in Afghanistan and ensured that Afghanistan was never again a safe haven for international terrorism.<sup>674</sup>

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<sup>674</sup> Resolution [2501 \(2019\)](#), eighth preambular paragraph. For more information on the situation in Afghanistan, see part I. sect. 17.

**Meetings: Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts**

<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.8460</a> 11 February 2019	Eighth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat ( <a href="#">S/2019/103</a> )			Under-Secretary-General, Office of Counter-Terrorism, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8496</a> 28 March 2019	Preventing and combating the financing of terrorism  Letter dated 14 March 2019 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/239</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by 68 Member States <sup>a</sup> ( <a href="#">S/2019/268</a> )	72 Member States <sup>b</sup>	Under-Secretary-General, Office of Counter-Terrorism, President of the Financial Action Task Force, expert in anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, Permanent Observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Special Representative of the International Criminal Police Organization to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	All Council members <sup>c</sup> , 47 invitees under rule 37 <sup>d</sup> , all other invitees <sup>e</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2462 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8605</a> 27 August 2019	Ninth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat ( <a href="#">S/2019/612</a> )			Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8686</a>		Draft resolution submitted by				Resolution <a href="#">2501 (2019)</a>

<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>
16 December 2019		the United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/945</a> )				15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

<sup>a</sup> Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>b</sup> Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Gabon, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

<sup>c</sup> France (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Indonesia was represented by its Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs; and South Africa was represented by its Minister of Defence and Military Veterans.

<sup>d</sup> Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Viet Nam. Canada was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Estonia was represented by Minister of Defence; Georgia was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; Ireland was represented by its Minister of defence; the Philippines was represented by its Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Romania was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Slovenia was represented by its State Secretary and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Tajikistan was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Norway spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

<sup>e</sup> The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism participated in the meeting via video tele-conference from Rome; and Ms. Mercy Baku, an expert in anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of

terrorism, participated in the meeting via tele-conference from Nairobi. The Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine also aligned themselves with the statement.

## 32. Briefings

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings in the form of briefings that were not explicitly connected to any specific item before it.<sup>675</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the tables below.

In 2019, two of the meetings were held under the item “Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council”. On 20 May 2019, the Council held a joint briefing of the three committees related to counterterrorism, namely, the Committee established pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#), the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The briefings covered the work of the three committees, including their ongoing cooperation and that of their groups of experts in implementing counter-terrorism measures in the areas of sanctions, terrorism financing, border management and non-proliferation. Briefers and Council members discussed specifically the evolving threat posed by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da’esh), Al-Qaida and its affiliates and by returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters as well as the means of addressing such threats, including through the implementation of the Addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and of resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) to counter the financing of terrorism, adopted on 28 March 2019. Participants also discussed the nexus between international terrorism and transnational organized crime; the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials to non-State actors and of their use for terrorist purposes; the surge in violent extremism motivated by racism, intolerance, misogyny, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia; and the upcoming comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).<sup>676</sup> In addition, on 17 December 2019, the Council held the

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<sup>675</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>676</sup> [S/PV.8528](#).

customary end-of-the-year briefing by the outgoing Chairs of the various subsidiary bodies.<sup>677</sup>

Consistent with prior practice, the Council held one meeting under the item “Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe”. The Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) briefed the Council on the situation concerning Ukraine, including on his January trip to the country, as well as the work of the OSCE towards conflict resolution and mediation in Transnistria, Georgia and Nagorno-Karabakh. He emphasized that preventing and resolving conflicts and mitigating their impact on people was one of the top priorities of Slovakia’s OSCE chairmanship. Another priority was working towards a safer future through a comprehensive approach including preventive action to tackle terrorism and violent extremism, and enhanced cooperation within the women and peace and security and the youth and peace and security agendas. In addition, the Chairperson-in-Office underscored the importance of effective multilateralism as a fundamental problem-solving and war-preventing tool in international relations. In elaborating on these priorities, the Chairperson-in-Office highlighted areas of opportunities for stronger cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations.<sup>678</sup>

Following established practice, the Council heard one briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice at a closed meeting.<sup>679</sup> In addition, the Council was briefed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the first time since November 2017. He focused his briefing on three areas, namely, working together to solve peace and security crises, particularly the recent military escalation in Libya; supporting countries hosting large numbers of refugees, specifically in regard to the Venezuelan refugees being received by neighbouring countries; and removing obstacles

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<sup>677</sup> [S/PV.8688](#).

<sup>678</sup> [S/PV.8479](#).

<sup>679</sup> [S/PV.8653](#).

to solutions to forced displacement and ensuring dignified secure and safe returns in the cases of refugees from Syria and Myanmar.<sup>680</sup>

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<sup>680</sup> [S/PV.8504](#). For more information on the last briefing to the Council by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, see [S/PV.8083](#). See also *Repertoire, Supplement 2016-2017*, part I, sect. 35.



**Meetings: briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council**

<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>Decisions and vote (for- against- abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8528</a> 20 May 2019					Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions <a href="#">1267 (1999)</a> , <a href="#">1989 (2011)</a> and <a href="#">2253 (2015)</a> concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1540 (2004)</a> ; <sup>a</sup> Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1373 (2001)</a> concerning counter-terrorism; all other Council members	
<a href="#">S/PV.8688</a> 17 December 2019					Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">2127 (2013)</a> concerning the Central African Republic; Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1373 (2001)</a> concerning counter-terrorism, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">2140 (2014)</a> and Chair of the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals; Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1518 (2003)</a> , Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1591 (2005)</a> concerning the Sudan and Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">2206 (2015)</a> concerning South Sudan; Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1533 (2004)</a> concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and other Procedural Questions; Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">2048 (2012)</a> concerning Guinea-Bissau	

<sup>a</sup> Before his briefings as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) concerning non-proliferation, the representative of Indonesia delivered a joint statement on behalf of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) concerning non-proliferation, on the continuing cooperation among the three committees and their respective expert groups. The representative of Indonesia spoke a fourth time in his national capacity.

### Meetings: Briefings by the Chairperson-in-Office of OSCE

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against- abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8479</a> 7 March 2019				Chairperson-in-Office of All Council Members, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic	invitee	

### Meetings: Briefings by the President of the International Court of Justice

<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>Decisions and vote (for- against- abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8653</a> 31 October 2019 (closed)				President of the International Court of Justice	Council members, President of the International Court of Justice	

### Meetings: Briefings by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

<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>Decisions and vote (for- against- abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8504</a> 9 April 2019				United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	13 Council members, <sup>a</sup> invitee	

<sup>a</sup> The representative of Equatorial Guinea spoke on behalf of the three African members of the Council, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

### 33. Security Council mission

During the period under review, the Security Council dispatched five missions to the field to (i) West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea Bissau) (ii) the Sahel (Mali and Burkina Faso) (iii) Iraq and Kuwait, (iv) Colombia and (v) South Sudan and Ethiopia. The missions were comprised of representatives of all members of the Council. Further to the missions, the Council held four meetings under the item entitled "Security Council mission", at which it heard briefings by the representatives of the Council members leading or co-leading the missions. The Council did not convene any meeting nor issue any report on its last mission to South Sudan. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.<sup>681</sup>

During the missions, as reported during the briefings, Council members met with Government officials,<sup>682</sup> members of the Parliament,<sup>683</sup> representatives of political parties,<sup>684</sup> including, in some cases, the political opposition,<sup>685</sup> and civil society organizations,<sup>686</sup> including women's non-governmental organizations.<sup>687</sup> In addition, during its mission to West Africa, Council members met with representatives of the partner organizations involved in the peacebuilding process in Guinea-Bissau, the diplomatic corps and the group of five regional and international partners, including the African Union, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the United Nations.<sup>688</sup> During the mission to the Sahel region, Council members held a working session with the Permanent Secretary of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the Force Commander of the Joint Force on the security aspects of the activities of the Group of Five for the Sahel.<sup>689</sup> Furthermore, during its mission to

<sup>681</sup> For more information on the composition and reports of the missions, see part VI, sect. II.A.

<sup>682</sup> [S/PV.8470](#), West Africa region: Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau; [S/PV.8492](#), Sahel region: Mali and Burkina Faso; [S/PV.8571](#), Iraq and Kuwait; [S/PV.8580](#), Colombia; [S/2020/192](#), South Sudan.

<sup>683</sup> [S/PV.8470](#), Guinea-Bissau and [S/PV.8571](#), Iraq.

<sup>684</sup> [S/PV.8470](#), Guinea-Bissau; [S/PV.8492](#), Mali; [S/PV.8580](#), Colombia; and [S/2020/192](#), South Sudan.

<sup>685</sup> [S/PV.8492](#), Mali; [S/PV.8580](#), Colombia; and [S/2020/192](#), South Sudan.

<sup>686</sup> [S/PV.8470](#), Guinea-Bissau; [S/PV.8492](#), Sahel region: Mali and Burkina Faso; [S/PV.8571](#), Iraq; [S/PV.8580](#), Colombia; and [S/2020/192](#), South Sudan.

<sup>687</sup> [S/PV.8470](#), Guinea-Bissau; [S/PV.8492](#), Mali; [S/PV.8580](#), Colombia; and [S/2020/192](#), South Sudan.

<sup>688</sup> [S/PV.8470](#), West Africa region: Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau.

<sup>689</sup> [S/PV.8492](#), Sahel region: Mali and Burkina Faso.

Colombia, Council members met with representatives of the private sector and academia.<sup>690</sup> During the briefing on the mission to Iraq and Kuwait, both co-leads of the mission drew attention to the fact that it was the first time that the members of the Security Council visited Iraq.<sup>691</sup> At the meeting, in addition to the representatives of Council members co-leading the mission, the representatives of the Russian Federation and Iraq made statements in regard to the situation in the country.<sup>692</sup>

During its mission to South Sudan, the Council met with the signatories to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, including the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, representatives of opposition political parties and key stakeholder groups.<sup>693</sup> During the second part of the mission to Ethiopia, Council members participated in the thirteenth annual joint consultative meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council on developments related to the situations in Libya, South Sudan and the Central African Republic, as well as the Sahel region. Council members and members of the Peace and Security Council also met in the context of the fourth informal seminar to engage and exchange views on topical issues relevant to the work and mandates of both institutions.<sup>694</sup>

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<sup>690</sup> [S/PV.8580](#), Colombia.

<sup>691</sup> [S/PV.8571](#), Kuwait and United States.

<sup>692</sup> *Ibid.*, Russian Federation and Iraq.

<sup>693</sup> [S/2019/825](#) and [S/2020/192](#).

<sup>694</sup> [S/2020/192](#).

## Meetings: Security Council mission

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8470</a> 26 February 2019	Briefing by Security Council mission to West Africa (13 to 17 February 2019)	Letter dated 8 February 2019 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/123</a> )		Two Council members (Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea)
		Report of the Security Council mission to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau ( <a href="#">S/2019/303</a> )		
<a href="#">S/PV.8492</a> 27 March 2019	Briefing by Security Council mission to the Sahel (21 to 25 March 2019)	Letter dated 20 March 2019 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/252</a> )		Four Council members (Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Russian Federation)
		(No report issued)		
<a href="#">S/PV.8571</a> 11 July 2019	Briefing by Security Council mission to Iraq and Kuwait (27 to 30 June 2019)	Letter dated 27 June 2019 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/533</a> )	Iraq	Three Council members (Kuwait, Russian Federation, United States, Iraq)
		(No report issued)		
<a href="#">S/PV.8580</a> 19 July 2019	Briefing by Security Council mission to Colombia (11 to 14 July 2019)	Letter dated 10 July 2019 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/557</a> )		Two Council members (Peru, United Kingdom)
		Report of the Security Council mission to the Republic of Colombia, 11–14 July 2019 ( <a href="#">S/2019/827</a> )		
<a href="#">S/2019/825</a>	Security Council mission to Ethiopia and South Sudan (19 to 23 October 2019)	(No meeting was held and no report issued)		

### **34. The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security**

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings, including two high-level meetings, and issued one presidential statement in connection with the item entitled “The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security”. Two of the meetings took the form of briefings under the sub-item entitled, “International humanitarian law”, while the third meeting was convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>695</sup> More information about the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes is given in the table below.

Deliberations in the Council in 2019 under this item focused on the connection between the implementation of international humanitarian law and the safeguarding of the humanitarian space in conflict situations, as well as on how to ensure the implementation of and respect for international humanitarian law in contemporary protracted and complex conflicts, on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. In this regard, Council members emphasized the role of the Council in ensuring compliance with and preventing violations of international humanitarian law, the need for strengthening of the law to address the challenges in modern conflict, building capacity and awareness of State and non-State actors to ensure implementation and accountability. With respect to humanitarian action, speakers noted the need to avoid the politicization of assistance and its delivery in accordance with humanitarian principles and respect for national sovereignty.

On 1 April 2019, the Council held its first meeting under the item since 21 February 2014 and was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and a Professor of Practice at Harvard Law School.<sup>696</sup> The Under-Secretary-General stated that ensuring greater respect for international humanitarian law was one of the most

<sup>695</sup> For more information on the format of meetings see part II, sect. I.

<sup>696</sup> [S/PV.8499](#). For more information on the meetings held in 2014, see [S/PV.7113](#) and [S/PV.7115](#) and *Repertoire, Supplement 2014-2015*, part I, sect. 36.

effective ways to safeguard the humanitarian space and called for the promotion of policies and practices to strengthen adherence to the law and the broadening and deepening of understanding and acceptance of existing rules. He noted that Council members and Member States should enable humanitarian and medical activities through the coordination and advocacy for humanitarian access, the protection of medical care, and by minimizing the impact of sanctions and counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian action. The Under-Secretary-General added that States needed to do much better in holding individuals to account for serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.<sup>697</sup>

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross indicated that the space for impartial humanitarian action was under threat due to the disregard of human dignity, the questioning of the applicability of the law, and the politization of humanitarian aid for political gain or the control of populations. He referred to complex challenges in modern conflict such as terrorism and sanctions regimes and counter-terrorism measures which were hindering the delivery of neutral and impartial humanitarian action. The President called on States to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and for hostilities to be conducted in a manner that protected civilians and with respect for the basic principles of distinction, precaution and proportionality.<sup>698</sup> The Professor of Practice at Harvard Law School focused on the importance of ensuring that counter-terrorism measures, including measures adopted by the Security Council, do not inhibit the principled humanitarian action foreseen in, or required by, international humanitarian law and on the steps that the Council could take to further safeguard humanitarian action and strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law. In this regard, she urged the Council to guard against overly broad and vague notions of what constitutes unlawful support to terrorism, to ensure that none of the activities that underlie principled humanitarian action form part or all of the basis for subjecting individuals or entities to sanctions, to urgently consider comprehensive exemptions for principled humanitarian action, and to uphold respect for the legal protection for principled humanitarian action.<sup>699</sup>

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<sup>697</sup> Ibid. .

<sup>698</sup> Ibid.

<sup>699</sup> Ibid.

On 13 August 2019, at the initiative of Poland, which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>700</sup> the Council held a briefing on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and heard statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and a representative of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.<sup>701</sup> In his remarks, the Under-Secretary-General noted that the Council played a crucial role in ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and that the United Nations, including its peacekeepers, were both obligated to respect and were protected under international humanitarian law. In this connection, he appealed to the Council and Member States to further reflect upon ways to ensure that attacks against peacekeepers were properly investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted.<sup>702</sup>

The President of the Committee of the International Red Cross acknowledged that international humanitarian law remained a key tool for States to deal with contemporary challenges of conflict, including counter-terrorism operations in armed conflict, offering concrete examples of its positive impact. This notwithstanding, he stated that efforts to ensure its respect were inadequate and called on States to watch over their legal responsibilities and take practical steps for ambitious and thorough interpretation of the law, underscoring the need to constantly reflect on the meaning and development of the law to meet the challenges of warfare today and in the future.<sup>703</sup> The representative of the Geneva Academy of International and Humanitarian Law called for the mainstreaming of international humanitarian law and finding new ways for its implementation. She also underscored the importance of non-State actors' ownership of humanitarian norms and the benefits of peer pressure among States for its implementation.<sup>704</sup>

On 20 August 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement, reaffirming the fundamental importance of the Geneva Conventions for the protection of those affected by armed conflict, on the occasion of their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.<sup>705</sup> The Council recalled its primary

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<sup>700</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 5 August 2019 ([S/2019/629](#)).

<sup>701</sup> [S/PV.8596](#).

<sup>702</sup> Ibid.

<sup>703</sup> Ibid.

<sup>704</sup> Ibid.

<sup>705</sup> [S/PRST/2019/8](#), first paragraph.



responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and the need to promote respect for the rules and principles of international humanitarian law.<sup>706</sup> The Council encouraged States to comply with their international humanitarian law obligations and reaffirmed its strong condemnation of violations in this regard.<sup>707</sup> In particular, the Council expressed serious concern and condemned violations such as the indiscriminate attacks targeting civilians and civilian objects such as schools, the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, the unlawful denial of access to humanitarian assistance and humanitarian personnel, and the attacks on medical personnel and humanitarian personnel and other medical facilities.<sup>708</sup> The Council recalled that States Parties to the Geneva Conventions had an obligation to try persons alleged to have committed a grave breach of the Conventions, before their own courts, or if that State Party preferred, to hand them over for trial to another State Party concerned.<sup>709</sup>

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<sup>706</sup> Ibid.

<sup>707</sup> Ibid., second and third paragraphs.

<sup>708</sup> Ibid., third paragraph.

<sup>709</sup> Ibid., fourth paragraph.

## Meetings: the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security

<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.8499</a> 1 April 2019	International humanitarian law			Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Professor of Practice, Harvard Law School	All Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8596</a> 13 August 2019	International humanitarian law  Letter dated 5 August 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/629</a> )			Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, representative of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights	13 Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees <sup>c</sup>	I
<a href="#">S/PV.8599</a> 20 August 2019						<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/8</a>

<sup>a</sup> Germany (President of the Council) was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs; Kuwait was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; France was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Poland was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>b</sup> Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, the Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States. Poland (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Germany was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs. The representative of South Africa spoke on behalf of the three African members of the Council, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

<sup>c</sup> The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross participated in the meeting via videoconference from Geneva.

## 35. Items relating to non-proliferation

### A. Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting in relation to the item entitled “Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction”. The meeting took the form of a briefing.<sup>710</sup> More information on this meeting, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

On 19 March 2019, the Council heard the briefing of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).<sup>711</sup> He focused on the progress made by Member States in implementing the resolution, including the outcome of the 2016 comprehensive review, including resolution [2325 \(2016\)](#). He stressed that since the adoption of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), significant progress had been made towards its implementation. Nevertheless, he noted that in resolution [2325 \(2016\)](#), the Council had recognized that the full and effective implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) was a long-term task that would require continual efforts at the national, regional and international levels. As of March 2019, 182 countries had submitted initial reports providing the Committee with information on the measures they had taken, or planned to take, to comply with their obligations under the resolution. He also informed the Council that he had sent letters to non-reporting States seeking their first reports as well as notes verbales to reporting States requesting up-to-date information to assist the Committee in its preparations for the next comprehensive review.

He further emphasized the importance of taking practical steps at the national level to implement the resolution by continuing to develop national implementation action plans, as encouraged by paragraph 5 of resolution [2325 \(2016\)](#) as well as to exchange information among Member States, and establish national points of contact. He also recalled that in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution [1977 \(2011\)](#), the Security Council, inter alia, had decided to conduct a review of the status of implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) prior to the expiry of the

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<sup>710</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>711</sup> [S/PV.8487](#).

Committee's mandate in April 2021. In this regard, the Committee had been mandated to include, if necessary, recommendations on adjustments to its mandate and submit to the Council a report on the conclusions of the review. In this regard, he informed the Council that the Committee had begun its preparatory work for the upcoming comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The Chair also expressed concern over the ongoing financial challenges affecting the United Nations, and stressed that if the situation would not be remedied before the end of April 2019, the Committee would face serious challenges in meeting its obligations to the Council and realizing the activities agreed upon under its current programme of work. After the briefing, Council members emphasized the importance of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), expressed support for the comprehensive review in 2021 and underlined the significance of the Committee's role in assisting States to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their access by non-State actors.

In 2019, the Council also heard briefings by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) under a separate item of the agenda entitled "Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council".<sup>712</sup>

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<sup>712</sup> See [S/PV.8528](#). For more details, see part I, sect. 33.

**Meetings: non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction**

<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.8487</a> 19 March 2019					All Council members <sup>a</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> The representative of Indonesia spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

## B. Non-proliferation

In 2019, the Security Council held three meetings, including one high-level meeting,<sup>713</sup> under the item entitled “Non-proliferation” and did not adopt any decision. All meetings took the form of briefings. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

Under this item, the Council heard briefings by Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs as well as by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

On 2 April 2019, the Council held a high-level meeting under the sub-item “Supporting the Non-Proliferation Treaty ahead of the 2020 Review Conference”. At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs as well as by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs stressed that the potential consequences of a nuclear war would be global and affect all Member States and that it was therefore entirely appropriate that the Security Council discussed measures related to preventing such a catastrophic outcome, in particular the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty as the one instrument that had perhaps played the greatest role in doing so.<sup>714</sup> She further noted that there were four key elements to the success of the Treaty: the inclusion of verifiable non-proliferation obligations via safeguards on peaceful nuclear activities; the inclusion of legally binding disarmament commitments to pursue nuclear disarmament; the establishment of a strategic balance across the three pillars of the Treaty, namely, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; as well as its near

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<sup>713</sup> [S/PV.8500](#). For further information on high-level meetings, see part II, sect. I.A.

<sup>714</sup> [S/PV.8500](#).

universality, which provided clear authority and ensured almost global subscription to its normative framework. She cautioned that the durability of the Treaty should not be taken for granted in an international environment defined by competition over cooperation, and the acquisition of arms prioritized over the pursuit of diplomacy. She encouraged all States to view the Review Conference as the golden opportunity to make the practical gains that would ensure the Treaty's continued viability. The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency provided an overview of the activities of the Agency, including the conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements with Treaty-members, declaring all nuclear material in peaceful nuclear activities. Despite encouraging developments in implementing the additional protocols to the Treaty, he warned that the Agency was faced with challenges, such as the steady increase in the amount of nuclear material and the number of nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, along with continuing pressure on its regular budget. He also reported on the nuclear programmes of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which remained at the top of the Agency's agenda. He stated that the Agency continued to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and noted that the implementation of its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, the Additional Protocol and additional transparency measures under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) amounted to the most robust verification system in existence anywhere in the world. With regard to the DPRK and despite the lack of direct access, the Director General stated that the Agency had continued to monitor the country's nuclear programme and evaluate all safeguards-relevant information available to it, including open-source information and satellite imagery. He expressed hope that the ongoing international developments would lead to an agreement and to the implementation of concrete denuclearization measures, stressing that any agreement on denuclearization would be accompanied by an effective and sustainable verification mechanism. On the Middle East, he recalled the work of the Agency in the past concerning modalities for a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs provided briefings to the Security Council twice, in June and December 2019 respectively, in relation to the seventh and eighth reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).<sup>715</sup> At both meetings, the representative of Belgium briefed the Council as the Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) on the status of the Procurement Working Group's decisions and on the implementation of the resolution.<sup>716</sup>

On 26 June 2019, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs recalled the Secretary-General's regret about the decision of the United States not to extend waivers with regard to the trade in oil with the Islamic Republic of Iran and not to fully renew waivers for non-proliferation projects in the framework of the JCPOA, since this could impede the ability of Islamic Republic of Iran and other Member States to implement certain provisions of the Plan. She also referred to the Secretary-General's concern about Iran's announcement, on 8 May, that it would not commit itself to respecting the JCPOA limits on its enriched uranium stockpile and heavy water reserves, should other participants not fulfil its demands, especially in the areas of banking and oil. Recalling the Secretary-General, she encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue to implement all its nuclear-related commitments despite the considerable challenges faced and encouraged it to carefully consider and address the concerns expressed by Member States about its activities in relation to the restrictive measures contained in annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).<sup>717</sup> The Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Coordinator of the Joint Commission established by the JCPOA, stated that the European Union was resolutely committed to the JCPOA and remained committed to providing tangible results and economic dividends to the Iranian people. He also noted that while the JCPOA addressed nuclear non-proliferation

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<sup>715</sup> [S/2019/492](#) and [S/2019/934](#).

<sup>716</sup> [S/PV.8564](#) and [S/PV.8695](#).

<sup>717</sup> [S/PV.8564](#).



aspects, a series of events outside the nuclear domain were increasingly worrying and that the European Union had repeatedly urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from activities that could deepen mistrust, such as ballistic missiles tests, inconsistent with resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Further to the briefings, most Council members spoke in support of the JCPOA. The representative of the United States stated that although the United States had made clear its willingness to engage in dialogue to negotiate a deal that would better serve international peace and security, it intended to do everything in its power to curb malign Iranian behaviour, including through updates to the “sanctions regime” established pursuant to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed that, in the year since the United States withdrew from the JCPOA, his country exercised its policy of strategic patience in order to preserve the JCPOA but Iran’s goodwill and maximum restraint, as well as the repeated promises by other participants to seek practical solutions, yielded no concrete results.

On 19 December 2019, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs reported to the Council that the Islamic Republic of Iran had surpassed JCPOA-stipulated limits on its uranium enrichment level, as well as limits on its stockpiles of heavy water and low-enriched uranium under the monitoring of the IAEA since July 2019. She welcomed the initiatives of the other participants in the JCPOA that might contribute to the goals of facilitating legitimate business with Iran and the preservation of the Plan, and reiterated the call for Iran to carefully consider and address the concerns expressed by Member States about its activities in relation to the restrictive measures set out in annex B to the resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). She also expressed concern over the escalating tensions in the region, stating that the Secretary-General continued to call on Member States to exercise maximum restraint and prevent further escalation amid heightened tensions.<sup>718</sup> The Head of the European Union Delegation stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran had decided to embark on a worrisome path of decreasing its nuclear-related commitments, for which he expressed deep regret and

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<sup>718</sup> [S/PV.8695](#).

strongly urged Iran to change its course of action. Further to the briefings, Council members expressed concern oversteps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to reduce its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. Against the backdrop of the 14 September attack on Aramco oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, the representative of the United States reiterated her country's position while also affirming that the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to defy the Security Council's call in resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) to refrain from activities related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran affirmed that his country continued to be committed to the implementation of the JCPOA. He added, however, that after exercising strategic patience for a year, in the face of apparent continued inaction by the European participants in the JCPOA, and after witnessing that the promises made to his country were not honoured, the Islamic Republic of Iran was left with no other option than to act and take the necessary measures to rectify the imbalance created in the JCPOA. Recalling paragraphs 26 and 36 of the JCPOA, he further stated that his country had ceased implementing only some voluntary measures which were not inconsistent with the safeguards-related obligations. He added that as soon as the full implementation of the JCPOA by other participants was guaranteed, the Islamic Republic of Iran would immediately reverse all its measures.<sup>719</sup>

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<sup>719</sup> Ibid., p. 23. See also Annex A to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), paras. 26 and 36.

## Meetings: Non-proliferation

<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.8500</a> 2 April 2019	Supporting the Non-proliferation Treaty ahead of the 2020 Review Conference			Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency	All Council members <sup>a</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8564</a> 26 June 2019	Letter dated 13 June 2019 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2231 (2015)</a> addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/488</a> )  Seventh report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution <a href="#">2231 (2015)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/492</a> )  Letter dated 21 June 2019 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2231 (2015)</a> addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/514</a> )	Islamic Republic of Iran		Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees <sup>c</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8695</a> 19 December 2019	Letter dated 4 December 2019 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2231 (2015)</a> addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/925</a> )  Eighth report of the Secretary-General	Islamic Republic of Iran		Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members <sup>d</sup> , all invitees <sup>e</sup>	

on the  
implementation of  
Security Council  
resolution [2231](#)  
(2015) (S/2019/934)

Letter dated 16  
December 2019  
from the Security  
Council Facilitator  
for the  
implementation of  
resolution [2231](#)  
(2015) addressed to  
the President of the  
Security Council  
(S/2019/952/Rev.1)

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<sup>a</sup> France was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Germany was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs; Indonesia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Kuwait was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Poland was presented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; and the United States was represented by its Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

<sup>b</sup> The Representative of Belgium briefed the Council in his capacity as Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

<sup>c</sup> The Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations spoke on behalf of the High representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Coordinator of the Joint Commission established by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

<sup>d</sup> The Representative of Belgium briefed the Council in his capacity as Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#). Kuwait was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>e</sup> The Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations spoke on behalf of the High representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Coordinator of the Joint Commission established by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

## C. Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings under this item; one meeting was convened to adopt a decision and the second meeting took the form of a briefing.<sup>720</sup> The Council adopted a resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts in support of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#). More information on the meetings, including speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

On 10 April 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2464 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of the Panel of Experts appointed pursuant to resolution [1874 \(2009\)](#) for a period of 12 months, until 24 April 2020.<sup>721</sup> Further to the adoption of the resolution, Council members made statements. While some expressed concerns about the continued evasion of sanctions measures and the need for the full implementation of existing measures,<sup>722</sup> others raised concerns about the humanitarian impact of sanctions on civilians.<sup>723</sup> The representative of the United Kingdom said that the inadequate provision of humanitarian assistance was due to the Government policies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, not to sanctions, and called for the continuous monitoring of the effective operations of the humanitarian exemptions process through the Committee.<sup>724</sup>

Some Council members also underlined the critical role of the Panel in reporting and investigating sanctions violations,<sup>725</sup> while others raised the need for the Panel of Experts to be guided by the principles of impartiality and objectivity and operate solely

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<sup>720</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>721</sup> Resolution [2464 \(2019\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#) and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.

<sup>722</sup> [S/PV.8507](#), United States, France, United Kingdom.

<sup>723</sup> Ibid., Russian Federation, Equatorial Guinea and China.

<sup>724</sup> Ibid., United Kingdom.

<sup>725</sup> Ibid., United States, United Kingdom.

through the use of verified information on a basis of respectful cooperation with all Member States.<sup>726</sup>

On 11 December 2019, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific of the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations on the troubling developments in recent months related to the nuclear weapon and ballistic-missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Assistant Secretary-General stated that the country had conducted over ten missile launches to date, including the most recent one on 7 December 2019. Meanwhile, he noted that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had suspended its diplomatic engagement, whether working-level talks with the United States or intra-Korean contacts. He recalled the Secretary-General's call on the parties to resume dialogue and for the international community to support the parties in such endeavors. The Assistant Secretary-General pointed out that international humanitarian operations remained critical to the livelihood of over ten million people and that the human rights and humanitarian situation would only be improved through resumed diplomacy.<sup>727</sup> Further to the briefing, speakers reiterated the importance of strict and full implementation of relevant Council resolutions and, in that regard, some advocated for the modification of the sanctions measures in line with the political progress, pointing out that the political settlement was another important but under-stressed component of the relevant resolutions. In this connection, speakers underlined the importance of a united Council.<sup>728</sup>

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<sup>726</sup> Ibid., Russian Federation, Equatorial Guinea and China.

<sup>727</sup> [S/PV.8682](#).

<sup>728</sup> For further details on this discussion, see part VII, sect. III.B.

**Meetings: Non-proliferation / Democratic Republic of Korea**

<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. 8507</a> 10 April 2019		Draft resolution submitted by United States ( <a href="#">S/2019/302</a> )			Six Council members <sup>a</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2464 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV. 8682</a> 11 December 2019			Japan, Republic of Korea	Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations	All Council members, all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> China, Equatorial Guinea, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

### 36. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

In 2019, the Council held two meetings (including one high-level meeting) under the item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”. One meeting took the form of a briefing, and one was an open debate.<sup>729</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the Security Council heard briefings from a variety of speakers, including the Secretary-General, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and representatives from other international and regional organizations such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank and experts from civil society and non-governmental organizations.

On 18 July 2019, at the initiative of Peru, which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>730</sup> the Council convened a briefing under the sub-item, “Strengthening partnerships for successful nationally-owned transitions”. The Secretary-General stated that managing nationally owned and forward-looking transitions was a priority for the entire United Nations system adding that the United Nations role in transition processes had to be comprehensive and coherent and work in an integrated way to address the interlinked and often stubborn drivers of conflict. He highlighted the need for strong partnerships between the United Nations and other organizations, including regional and subregional organizations and international financial institutions and noted the convening power and advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission.<sup>731</sup> Following the briefing by the Secretary-General, the Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group of the World Bank and the Director, Transition States Coordination Office of the African Development Bank focused on the importance of partnerships to address the challenges posed by fragility and conflict in countries around the world.<sup>732</sup> The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, in his capacity as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, briefed the Council about the principal purpose of the Commission in filling the vacuum of institutional and structural capacity and to support countries in transition in the light of the growing risk of the resumption of conflict.

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<sup>729</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>730</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 27 June 2019 ([S/2019/540](#)).

<sup>731</sup> [S/PV.8579](#).



He indicated that the Commission's sessions had become opportunities to gain a better understanding of the multidimensional challenges being faced in peace operations, offering a more holistic approach to the challenges faced by countries affected by conflict extending beyond the imperatives of peace and security. In this regard, he noted that the Council could take advantage of the capacity of the Commission as a platform for promoting coherence between the peacebuilding efforts of the United Nations and other organizations.

In the ensuing discussion, Council members commended the role of the Peacebuilding Commission and its increased engagement with the Council. Most Council members emphasized the importance of transition planning and management with some proposing changes to the content of the reports of the Secretary-General in mission contexts.<sup>733</sup> In addition, Council members spoke in favour of partnerships to support countries affected by conflict, while taking into account their particular circumstances, needs and priorities he emphasizing also the importance national ownership. The representative of the Russian Federation cautioned that the provision of assistance to States in the area of peacebuilding and peacekeeping in the United Nations system required both proper coordination of efforts and an appropriate division of labour, adding that specialized United Nations bodies and international mechanisms already existed to meet those objectives. After most Council members spoke, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire (a Council member), as well as the representatives of Haiti and Timor Leste, invited under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, spoke to share their countries' experiences in regard to nationally-owned transitions.

On 19 November 2019, at the initiative of the United Kingdom, which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>734</sup> the Security Council convened an open debate under the sub-item "The role of reconciliation in maintaining international peace and security". At the meeting the Council heard the briefings of the Secretary-General as well as representatives of academia, civil society and a regional organization, invited under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure.<sup>735</sup> The Secretary-General affirmed that successful reconciliation contributed to preventing a recurrence of conflict and to building more peaceful, resilient and prosperous societies. He made reference to the wave of protests around the world and urged

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<sup>733</sup> Ibid., United Kingdom and Indonesia.

<sup>734</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 11 November 2019 ([S/2019/871](https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire)).

<sup>735</sup> For further information on participation in meetings, see part II, sect. VII.

Governments to respond to those protests with respect for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and urged Governments to address people's grievances through dialogue and reconciliation to counter deep polarization. He indicated that the United Nations was working to integrate reconciliation frameworks into peacemaking and peacebuilding activities in countries throughout the world and noted that successful reconciliation was both a goal and a process.<sup>736</sup> The Dean of the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution of George Mason University focused on the importance of reconciliation for achieving lasting peace. Echoing the Secretary-General, he said that reconciliation was not only an outcome but a process; tailor-made, agile enough to adapt to changing socioeconomic and political post-conflict dynamics. He affirmed that reconciliation needed to happen all the time and everywhere — sometimes even as the first option to achieve peace and that designing effective reconciliation required the involvement of relevant local actors, particularly women and young people. The representative of the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre in Somalia focused on the experience in her country which, as she said, was a State that collapsed devastatingly in 1991 and remained trapped in a spiral of prolonged violent anarchy and warfare. She mentioned that successful strategies for peacebuilding and national reconciliation needed to involve as many sectors of the population as possible. In this regard, she denounced that women-led civil society groups all over the world that were able to speak to the underlying drivers of violence and significantly influence the reconciliation process were systematically excluded and urged the Council to utilize resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) to advance women's inclusion in adjusting the challenges to reconciliation and to mandate inclusive gender decision-making in the design, implementation and monitoring of reconciliation strategies. She also called on the Council to work the existing mechanisms of the United Nations family, including the Peacebuilding Fund.

During the discussion, several Council members shared the experience of their countries' national reconciliation processes,<sup>737</sup> and others agreed on the importance of national ownership and involvement of women and youth throughout the whole reconciliation process.<sup>738</sup> Council members also highlighted the role of the Peacebuilding

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<sup>736</sup> [S/PV.8668](#).

<sup>737</sup> Ibid., South Africa, Belgium and Côte d'Ivoire.

<sup>738</sup> Ibid., Dominican Republic, Germany, Belgium, France, Indonesia, Equatorial Guinea, United States of America and Poland.

Commission in providing advice and integrated strategic recommendations for peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery, in particular in the case of country-specific configurations.<sup>739</sup> Speakers focused on the importance of reconciliation for lasting peace as well as on the close association between reconciliation and transitional justice as well as on the need to ensure that processes of reconciliation were inclusive of women, youth and religious leaders. During the debate, speakers also addressed the need for the Council to focus on transitions from conflict to post-conflict situations to achieve sustainable peace and security, including by considering the use of special political missions.<sup>740</sup>

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<sup>739</sup> Ibid., Kuwait, Germany, Indonesia and Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>740</sup> For further details on the discussion, see part VI, sect. IV.

## Meetings: Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

<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.8579</a> 18 July 2019	Strengthening partnerships for successful nationally-owned transitions  Letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/540</a> )		Haiti and Timor-Leste <sup>a</sup>	Senior Director of Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group of the World Bank; Director of Transition States Coordination Office of the African Development Bank; Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia (Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission)	Secretary-General, all Council members <sup>b</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8668</a> <a href="#">S/PV.8668 (Resumption)</a> 19 November 2019	The role of reconciliation in maintaining international peace and security  Letter dated 11 November 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/871</a> )		39 Member States <sup>c</sup>	Dean of the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University; Director of Programs and Development, Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre; Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See	Secretary-General, all Council members <sup>d</sup> , all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> Haiti was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship and Timor-Leste was represented by its Minister for Legal Reforms and Parliamentary Affairs.

<sup>b</sup> Peru was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>c</sup> Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam.

<sup>d</sup> United Kingdom was represented by its Minister of State for the Commonwealth, the United Nations and South Asia.

### 37. Threats to international peace and security

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings, including one high-level meeting,<sup>741</sup> and adopted two resolutions in connection with the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security”. Pertaining to the meetings held under this item, one meeting was held as a debate, one was held as an open debate, two were convened to adopt decisions of the Council and three took the form of briefings.<sup>742</sup> During this period, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da’esh) established pursuant to resolution [2379 \(2017\)](#) until 21 September 2020.<sup>743</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the Council held two thematic discussions under this item on mercenary activities as a source of insecurity and destabilization in Africa and on the linkages between international terrorism and organized crime. In connection with the latter, the Council adopted resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#). The Council also held three meetings under this item to discuss the progress of the work of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by ISIL (Da’esh). In addition, the Council held a dedicated briefing to discuss the issue of the acquisition, proliferation, deployment and use of missiles, including ballistic missiles, in armed conflict against the backdrop of heightened tensions relating to the United States’ withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and subsequent medium-range missile testing.

On 4 February 2019, at the initiative of Equatorial Guinea which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>744</sup> the Council held a high-level debate under the sub-item “Mercenary activities as a source of insecurity and destabilization in Africa”. At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. In his briefing, the Secretary-General focused on the use of mercenaries and

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<sup>741</sup> [S/PV.8456](#).

<sup>742</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>743</sup> Resolution [2490 \(2019\)](#), para. 2.

<sup>744</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 31 January 2019 ([S/2019/97](#)).

other foreign fighters and the negative impact of their activities in worsening conflict and threatening stability. He called for the bolstering of legal regimes to combat mercenary activities, globally and nationally, for increased bilateral, regional and international cooperation, particularly in border management and building the capacity of national institutions responsible for justice, security and human rights, and for enhanced efforts to create opportunities for young people in order to reduce the lure of mercenaries and the threat of radicalization, as well as to address the gender dimension of mercenary activity.<sup>745</sup> The Chairperson of the African Union Commission focused his briefing on the historical link between mercenary activities and destabilization in Africa as well as on its consequences. He also raised concern about the emergence of private security companies that transact with governments in the region. He called for the strengthening of international instruments related to this phenomenon, to provide increased capacity assistance to States to address this scourge and underscored that the fight against it must be part of the overall context of promoting peace and security in the continent. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda, speaking on behalf of the President of Rwanda in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union, indicated that in addition to being involved in active combat, mercenary groups were also increasingly engaging in cyber-attacks and industrial espionage. He called for collective coordinated efforts at the regional and international level focused on disrupting the financial networks as well as cross-border recruitment for mercenary activities. In the discussion that ensued, Council members and invitees agreed that the phenomenon of mercenarism constituted a threat to the peace and security of Africa and elaborated on its root causes and impact on the continent, with a focus on the Central African region. They called for international, regional and subregional cooperation in finding solutions for the prevention of mercenarism, supporting States in the region to strengthen the rule of law, and for addressing the gaps in the international legal framework for ending impunity in the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries and foreign fighters. Speakers also discussed the need for improving oversight and regulation of private military companies active in the region.

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<sup>745</sup> [S/PV.8456](#).

On 9 July 2019, at the initiative of Peru which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>746</sup> the Council held an open debate under the sub-item entitled “Linkages between international terrorism and organized crime”. During the meeting, the Council was briefed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and an international consultant at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The Executive Director of UNODC highlighted four priorities for addressing the linkages between transnational organized crime and terrorism, namely, effective implementation of international commitments, provision of technical assistance to build up specialized expertise and capacities including training for law enforcement agents, reinforcement of investment mechanisms for inter-agency, regional and international cooperation, including information and intelligence-sharing, and integration of action against terrorism and crime across the pillars of the United Nations. He also briefed the Council on the activities of UNODC to address trafficking in persons and firearm trafficking, as well as for preventing radicalization and recruitment in prisons and combating corruption and illicit financing of criminal and terrorist activities.<sup>747</sup> The Executive Director of CTED briefed the Council on the activities of the Executive Directorate, and discussed the need to intensify and accelerate the exchange of financial intelligence in order to identify potential linkages between terrorism and organized crime, to strengthen the role of financial intelligence units, to overcome inter-institutional barriers to information-sharing at the investigative and prosecutorial levels, and to conduct terrorism-financing national risk assessments. The international consultant summarized her research findings on the crime-terrorism nexus, concluding that there was no doubt that linkages between organized crime and terrorism existed and warned that expanded linkages could increase vulnerability to terrorism by groups with enhanced criminal capacities while also increasing vulnerability to criminal groups with a heightened propensity towards the use of indiscriminate violence. Following the briefings, speakers discussed the relationship between organized crime and terrorism as a threat to international peace and security and the response at the national, regional and international levels in order to dismantle criminal networks and combat terrorism.

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<sup>746</sup> A concept note was circulated by letter dated 27 June 2019 ([S/2019/537](#)).

<sup>747</sup> [S/PV.8569](#).

Following the open debate, on 19 July 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#). In the resolution, the Council called on Member States to enhance the coordination of efforts in the global response to linkages between international terrorism and organized crime, and on the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate to integrate those issues into its country assessments and analyses.<sup>748</sup> The resolution also called upon Member States to strengthen efforts to counter illicit activities that could contribute to the financing of terrorism, such as the illegal production and trafficking in drugs and weapons and the trafficking in persons, and other crimes such as the illicit exploitation and trafficking of natural resources, metals and minerals. The resolution also underlined the importance of border management cooperation and regional and sub regional coordination to combat illicit activities across borders.<sup>749</sup> It further urged Member States to strengthen the capacity of criminal justice systems to combat the linkages between international terrorism and organized crime, to enhance the exchange of information between public authorities and relevant private sector entities, and to explore ways to prevent radicalization to violence within their prisons systems as well as the transfer of skills and knowledge between terrorists and other criminals.<sup>750</sup>

On the work of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by ISIL (Da'esh), the Council heard briefings by the Special Adviser and Head of the Investigative Team twice in 2019 further to his first briefing to the Council on 4 December 2018.<sup>751</sup> Following his second and third reports,<sup>752</sup> he explained that the Investigative Team had made significant progress in the collection, gathering and analysis of digital, testimonial and forensic evidence on the three core areas identified, namely, crimes in Mosul, Sinjar and Speicher. He informed the Council that the Investigative Team had further expanded the scope of investigations to cover diverse communities, regardless of race, religion, tribe or ethnic origin. He also reported that the Investigative Team had received three formal requests from States in its role in support to domestic prosecutions in relation to

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<sup>748</sup> Resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#), paras. 1 and 23.

<sup>749</sup> Ibid., paras. 4, 7, 13 and 15.

<sup>750</sup> Ibid., paras. 19 and 20.

<sup>751</sup> For more information on the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2018*, part VI, sect. II and part IX, sect. III.

<sup>752</sup> [S/2019/407](#) and [S/2019/878](#).



ISIL (Da'esh) crimes in addition to inquiries from other States.<sup>753</sup> Most Council members expressed support for the work of the Investigative Team and some reiterated the need for the Investigative Team to fully respect Iraq's national sovereignty and its jurisdiction over crimes committed on Iraqi territory.<sup>754</sup> Further to the briefings, on 20 September 2019, at the request of the Government of Iraq,<sup>755</sup> the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2490 \(2019\)](#) extending the mandate of the Special Adviser and the Investigative Team until 21 September 2020.<sup>756</sup>

In addition to the above activity of the Council in connection with this item, on 22 August 2019, at the request of the Russian Federation, the Council heard a briefing by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. During her briefing, she indicated that the recent collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty had removed one of the few constraints on the development and deployment of destabilizing and dangerous classes of missiles, and underscored that preventing the spread and emergence of destabilizing weapons remained a vital unfinished task for the international community in its shared endeavor to preserve international peace, security and stability.<sup>757</sup> At the meeting, Council members discussed the issue of the acquisition, proliferation, deployment and use of missiles, including ballistic missiles, in armed conflict. Most Council members lamented the termination of the Treaty due to alleged violations of the Treaty, warned against the threat to international peace and security posed by nuclear proliferation, and called for enhanced arm-control arrangements and nuclear-disarmament. The representative of the Russian Federation indicated that following the United States' withdrawal from the Treaty on 2 August 2019, the United States had carried out a test launch of a medium-range missile using an MK-41 launch system on 18 August 2019 underscoring that since August, there were no restrictions on the development and deployment of such systems. The representative of the United States noted that his country's decision to withdraw from the Treaty was in response to the Russian Federation's non-compliance with its own obligations, noting that the Russian Federation had pursued a missile system with a range prohibited by the Treaty, and had developed, produced,

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<sup>753</sup> [S/PV.8573](#) and [S/PV.8675](#).

<sup>754</sup> [S/PV.8573](#), Kuwait, Indonesia, Russian Federation, China and Dominican Republic and [S/PV.8675](#), Kuwait, Indonesia, China, Equatorial Guinea, Dominican Republic and Russian Federation.

<sup>755</sup> [S/2019/760](#).

<sup>756</sup> Resolution [2490 \(2019\)](#), para. 2.

<sup>757</sup> [S/PV.8602](#).

tested and fielded multiple battalions of its “INF-non-compliant” 9M729 missile system over the previous several years. The representative of the United States further indicated that his country’s recent flight test did not violate the United States’ obligations. He added that China possessed approximately 2,000 missiles that would have been prohibited had China been part of the Treaty, and that China had deployed thousands of intermediate-range missiles posing a risk to the United States and its allies. The representative of the United States also noted that since the Treaty no longer existed, his country was taking the steps necessary to address the threat posed by the intermediate-range missiles being deployed by both China and the Russian Federation. In response, the representative of China said that it was unacceptable for the United States to use China as an excuse to withdraw from the Treaty and underlined that China’s land-based intermediate-range missiles were all deployed within Chinese territory, were for defence purposes only and posed no threat to any other country.

**Meetings: Threats to international peace and security**

<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.8456</a> 4 February 2019	Mercenary activities as a source of insecurity and destabilization in Africa  Letter dated 31 January 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/97</a> )		Eight Member States <sup>a</sup>	Chairperson of the African Union Commission	Secretary-General, all Council members, <sup>b</sup> all invitees <sup>c</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8569</a> 9 July 2019	Linkages between international terrorism and organized crime  Letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/537</a> )		39 Member States <sup>d</sup>	Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, International Consultant at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>e</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8573</a> 15 July 2019	Letter dated 17 May 2019 from the Special Adviser and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2019/407</a> )		Iraq	Special Adviser and Head of the Investigative Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution <a href="#">2379 (2017)</a>	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8582</a> 19 July 2019		Draft resolution submitted by 46 Member States <sup>f</sup> ( <a href="#">S/2019/580</a> )	37 Member States <sup>g</sup>		Two Council Resolution members <a href="#">2482</a> (Russian Federation, (15-0-0) Peru) <sup>h</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8602</a> 22 August 2019				High Representative for Disarmament Affairs	All Council members, invitee	
<a href="#">S/PV.8624</a> 20 September 2019	Letter dated 19 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the	Draft resolution submitted by				Resolution <a href="#">2490 (2019)</a>

United Nations addressed to the United  
the President of the Security Kingdom  
Council ([S/2019/760](#)) ([S/2019/761](#))

(15-0-0)

<p><a href="#">S/PV.8675</a> 26 November 2019</p>	<p>Letter dated 13 November 2019 from the Special Adviser and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant addressed to the President of the Security Council (<a href="#">S/2019/878</a>)</p>	<p>Iraq</p>	<p>Special Adviser and Head of the Investigative Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution <a href="#">2379 (2017)</a>, Civil Society briefer (Mr. Kachi)</p>	<p>All Council members and all invitees<sup>i</sup></p>
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<sup>a</sup> Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Sudan.

<sup>b</sup> The meeting was presided over by the President of Equatorial Guinea; Cote d'Ivoire was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; China was represented by its Permanent Representative and Special Representative of the President

<sup>c</sup> The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda participated in the meeting on behalf of the President of Rwanda in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union and Gabon was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Regional Integration. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission participated in the meeting via videoconference from Addis Ababa.

<sup>d</sup> Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Guatemala, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

<sup>e</sup> The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime participated in the meeting via videoconference from Vienna. The representative of Norway spoke on behalf of the five Nordic countries; and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine.

<sup>f</sup> Angola, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Guinea, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States.

<sup>g</sup> Angola, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Guinea, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

<sup>h</sup> The meeting was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru.

<sup>i</sup> Mr. Kachi, the civil society briefer, participated in the meeting via videoconference from Iraq.

### 38. Maintenance of international peace and security

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings, including two high-level meetings under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”. The Council adopted one resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter and issued one presidential statement. Of the seven meetings, two were briefings to the Council, two were debates, one was an open debate and two were convened to adopt decisions.<sup>758</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2019, as in previous periods, the Council held meetings under a broad range of sub-items of both a thematic as well as a regional nature.<sup>759</sup> The thematic sub-items included (i) Addressing the impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security; (ii) Conflict prevention and mediation; and (iii) Implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda. Region-specific sub-items included (i) Challenges to peace and security in the Middle East; and (ii) transnational organized crime at sea as a threat to international peace and security. During the review period, two high-level meetings were devoted by the Council to a thematic and a regional issue, namely to the question of addressing the impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security and to the challenges to peace and security in the Middle East, respectively.<sup>760</sup> In addition, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General in connection with the topic of conflict prevention and mediation. In addition to the Secretary-General’s briefing, the Council heard the briefings of the Chairs of the Elders, Ms. Mary Robinson and former Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon.<sup>761</sup>

In 2019, most of the themes addressed under the thematic sub-items listed above had been considered in the past in relation to the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” but for the issue of transnational organized crime at sea as a threat to international peace and security. On 5 February 2019, at the initiative of Equatorial Guinea which held Presidency for the month,<sup>762</sup> the Council held an open debate on this topic. At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office

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<sup>758</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>759</sup> For more information on new sub-items, see part II, sect. II.A.

<sup>760</sup> [S/PV.8451](#) and [S/PV.8600](#).

<sup>761</sup> [S/PV.8546](#).

<sup>762</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 31 January 2019 ([S/2019/98](#)).

on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission.<sup>763</sup> The Executive Director of UNODC called for the Council's continued engagement with this topic, including by encouraging discussion to identify options for enhancing coordination, as well as recommendations to better prevent and counter transnational maritime crime. The Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission proposed a three-pronged approach at the national, regional and international levels to reduce the threat of transnational organized crime at sea to international peace and security in the Gulf of Guinea region. During the debate that ensued, Council members agreed on the importance of tackling the threat of transnational organized crime at sea to international peace and security through greater international cooperation and highlighted in this context the existing legal framework, including relevant Security Council resolutions. Council members also noted the complexity of the issue and the need to address the root causes.

In 2019, the decisions of the Council addressed some of the themes outlined above. By resolution [2491 \(2019\)](#) adopted on 3 October 2019, adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council renewed for 12 months the authorizations set out in paragraphs 7 to 10 of resolution [2240 \(2015\)](#) for Member States to take action to address the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya.<sup>764</sup> The authorizations included the inspection of vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya suspected of being used for migrant smuggling or human trafficking from Libya, the seizing of vessels confirmed as being used for those purposes, and using all measures commensurate to the specific circumstances in confronting migrant smugglers or human traffickers while inspecting and/or seizing vessels.<sup>765</sup>

In addition, in a presidential statement issued on 22 November 2019, the Council welcomed the attendance and briefing by the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the Council on 5 November 2019 under the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East".<sup>766</sup> In the presidential statement, the Council recalled its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirmed that the proliferation of

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<sup>763</sup> [S/PV.8457](#).

<sup>764</sup> The resolution was adopted further to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [2437 \(2018\)](#) (S/2019/711.)

<sup>765</sup> Resolution [2491 \(2019\)](#), para. 2.

<sup>766</sup> [S/PRST/2019/14](#), first paragraph. See [S/PV.8659](#). For more information, see part I, sect. 22.

chemical weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constituted a threat to international peace and security.<sup>767</sup> The Council reaffirmed its strong support for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, underlined that the objectives of the Convention would not be fully realized as long as there remained States not party to the Convention that could possess or acquire such weapons, and reaffirmed that their use constituted a violation of international law and a threat to international peace and security.<sup>768</sup> Expressing its strong conviction that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons should be held accountable, the Council further noted its strong support for the efforts of the OPCW to ensure the implementation of the Convention's provisions, including those for international verification of compliance.<sup>769</sup>

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<sup>767</sup> [S/PRST/2019/14](#), second paragraph.

<sup>768</sup> *Ibid.*, third, fourth and fifth paragraphs.

<sup>769</sup> *Ibid.*, sixth and seventh paragraphs.

## Meetings: Maintenance of international peace and security

<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.8451</a> 25 January 2019	Addressing the impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security  Letter dated 2 January 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/1</a> )		61 Member States <sup>a</sup>	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; Chief Scientist of the World Meteorological Organization; Research Assistant at the Environmental Security Program of the Stimson Center; Minister Counsellor of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations; Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations; Permanent Observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations; Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See	All Council members <sup>b</sup> , 59 invitees <sup>c</sup> under rule 37, all other invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8457</a> 5 February 2019	Transnational organized crime at sea as a threat to international peace and security  Letter dated 31 January 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/98</a> )		Seven Member States <sup>e</sup>	Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission	All Council members <sup>f</sup> , all invitees <sup>g</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8546</a> 12 June 2019	Conflict prevention and mediation  Letter dated 31 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/456</a> )			Chair of the Elders, Ms. Mary Robinson; Deputy Chair of the Elders and former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon	Secretary-General, all Council members <sup>h</sup> , all invitees	



<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.8577</a> 17 July 2019	Implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda Letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/539</a> )			Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Programme Coordinator of HAKI Africa, Executive Director of Afghans for Progressive Thinking	13 Council members <sup>i</sup> , all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8600</a> 20 August 2019	Challenges to peace and security in the Middle East Letter dated 6 August 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/643</a> )		12 Member States <sup>j</sup>	Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine	All Council members <sup>k</sup> , all invitees <sup>l</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8631</a> 3 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution <a href="#">2437 (2018)</a> ( <a href="#">S/2019/711</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by 28 Member States <sup>m</sup> ( <a href="#">S/2019/788</a> )	23 Member States <sup>n</sup>		8 Council members <sup>o</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2491 (2019)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8673</a> 22 November 2019					Three Council members (France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom)	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/14</a>

<sup>a</sup> Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federal States of), Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Qatar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Somalia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

<sup>b</sup> Belgium was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence; Dominican Republic (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Germany was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs; Indonesia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Kuwait was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Poland was represented by its Secretary of State in the Ministry of Environment; and United Kingdom was represented by its Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

<sup>c</sup> Canada was represented by its Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Estonia was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; Fiji was represented by its Attorney General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications and Climate Change; Hungary was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade; Nicaragua was represented by its Minister Adviser to the President; Norway was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Guatemala, Haiti, Maldives, and Philippines were represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Belize spoke on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States; the representative of Nauru spoke on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum; the representative of Tuvalu spoke on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States. The representative of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine. Micronesia (Federal States of) and Somalia did not make statements.

<sup>d</sup> The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme participated in the meeting via videoconference from Davos, Switzerland.

<sup>e</sup> Italy, Japan, Norway, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago.

<sup>f</sup> Equatorial Guinea (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

<sup>g</sup> The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Executive Secretary of the Gulf of Guinea Commission participated in the meeting via videoconference from Vienna and Luanda, respectively.

<sup>h</sup> Kuwait (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>i</sup> The representative of Equatorial Guinea spoke on behalf of the African members of the Security Council (Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa).

<sup>j</sup> Bahrain, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates.

<sup>k</sup> Germany was represented by its State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office; Poland (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; and the United States was represented by its Secretary of State.

<sup>l</sup> The representative of United Arab Emirates spoke on behalf of the Arab Group except for Iraq. The representative of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the Republic of North Macedonia.

<sup>m</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

<sup>n</sup> Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden

<sup>o</sup> China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Kuwait, Russian Federation and United Kingdom.

### **39. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security**

In 2019, the Security Council held five meetings, including three high-level meetings,<sup>770</sup> in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”. Of the total five meetings, two took the form of briefings, one was held as a debate and two took the form of an open debates.<sup>771</sup> In 2019, the Council adopted one resolution,<sup>772</sup> and issued one presidential statement in connection with this item.<sup>773</sup> Two meetings focused on the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union on peace and security issues in 2019.<sup>774</sup> In addition, in 2019, the Council conducted a mission to Addis Ababa to hold the thirteenth annual joint consultative meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council on 21 and 22 October.<sup>775</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

On 27 February 2019, at the initiative of Equatorial Guinea which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>776</sup> the Council held a high-level open debate to consider the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on Silencing the Guns in Africa. At the outset of the meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2457 (2019) which, inter alia, welcomed the African Union’s determination to achieve the goal of Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 and encouraged the United Nations and the African Union to strengthen their efforts to coordinate their engagement in a mutually supportive manner, across the range of possible responses to conflict.<sup>777</sup> The Council also heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, and the Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes on the collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union and the means to achieve a conflict-free Africa through the “Silencing the

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<sup>770</sup> [S/PV.8473](#), [S/PV.8548](#) and [S/PV.8626](#).

<sup>771</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>772</sup> Resolution [2457 \(2019\)](#).

<sup>773</sup> [S/PRST/2019/5](#).

<sup>774</sup> [S/PV.8473](#) and [S/PV.8650](#).

<sup>775</sup> For more information on the mission, see part I, sect. 34.

<sup>776</sup> A concept note was circulated by letter dated 13 February 2019 ([S/2019/169](#)).

<sup>777</sup> Resolution [2457 \(2019\)](#)

Guns in Africa by the Year 2020” initiative. The Under-Secretary-General stated that the United Nations-African Union strategic partnership had become a cornerstone of United Nations peace and security initiatives in Africa. She also highlighted the work of the two organizations in the Central African Republic, Sudan and Somalia. She further underlined that it was vital that the international community lent its support to Africa in achieving the silencing of the guns.<sup>778</sup> The African Union High Representative noted the impressive progress made in consolidating the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, including the 2017 Joint Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, while also recognising that issues of governance and leadership continued to be a major source of instability and conflict in Africa. He emphasized the importance of the Security Council to positively respond to the African Union’s calls concerning access to United Nations assessed contributions to fund African Union peace support operations. He added that African Union-led operations were responding to threats on behalf of the United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council, which bore the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.<sup>779</sup> The Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes cautioned that an initiative like Silencing the Guns by 2020 was merely a mitigation tool that, in the absence of good governance and the urgent transformation of the structural drivers of conflicts, would be meaningless. He added that many parts of Africa were reaching a dangerous tipping point and called on Council members to take collective action.<sup>780</sup> Council members acknowledged the ambitious nature of building a conflict-free Africa and focused on the importance of addressing the factors contributing to violence in the continent such as poor governance, corruption and underdevelopment. In this regard, Council members called for greater cooperation and emphasized their respective contributions to it. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, presiding over the meeting, spoke in his national capacity and called on the Council to continue to strengthen the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa. The representative of South Africa stated that the African Peace and Security Architecture should be the central framework of the Council’s Chapter VIII engagement with the African Union on peace and security matters.<sup>781</sup> The representative

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<sup>778</sup> [S/PV.8473](#).

<sup>779</sup> Ibid.

<sup>780</sup> Ibid.

<sup>781</sup> Ibid.

of Kuwait, commending the exceptional cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union under Chapter VIII of the Charter, noted that robust Security Council mandates and sustainable and predictable funding were required for the preservation of the positive developments between the two organizations.<sup>782</sup> Several speakers also emphasized the importance of sustainable and predictable funding of African peace support operations through United Nations assessed contributions,<sup>783</sup> as well as strong regional architecture through regional economic communities and regional mechanisms such as the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.<sup>784</sup>

On 12 March 2019, the Council heard a briefing by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the European Union's support to the United Nations and its commitment to multilateralism. The High Representative highlighted the European Union-United Nations cooperation, particularly in the peacekeeping missions in Africa and conflict resolution, reconciliation and support for global priorities including climate change, non-proliferation, and disarmament.<sup>785</sup> Council members acknowledged the commitment and contribution of the European Union to multilateralism and expressed appreciation for its cooperation with the United Nations. Several Council members underscored the importance of trilateral cooperation among the United Nations, the European Union and the African Union with regard to issues in Africa.<sup>786</sup> In addition, the representative of Kuwait suggested that the tripartite cooperation among the United Nations, the European Union and the League of Arab States was an effective way of reaching effective solutions to existing conflicts in the region.<sup>787</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation noted and shared the European Union's determined focus on strengthening global multilateralism with the United Nations taking a leading role but suggested that it could not manage to define its own independent political direction and expressed concern about use of restrictive measures and sanctions as a key foreign-policy instrument noting that these unilateral steps had a highly questionable effect and further weakened developing States.<sup>788</sup>

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<sup>782</sup> Ibid.

<sup>783</sup> Ibid., Indonesia, p.18 Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, China, Kuwait, Japan, Norway, Egypt, European Union, Italy, and Canada.

<sup>784</sup> Ibid., Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Dominican Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, United Kingdom, Kazakhstan, Djibouti, Slovakia, and Republic of Korea.

<sup>785</sup> [S/PV.8482](#).

<sup>786</sup> Ibid., Germany, Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, and France.

<sup>787</sup> Ibid.

<sup>788</sup> Ibid.

The representative of China focused on three areas of cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations, namely, in upholding multilateralism, in upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter by respecting the sovereignty of States, and in promoting sustainable development.<sup>789</sup>

On 13 June 2019, at the initiative of Kuwait which held the Presidency for the month, the Council held a meeting to address the cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States.<sup>790</sup> During the meeting, a presidential statement was issued, encouraging the holding of an annual briefing by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States as well as an annual informal meeting between the Security Council members and the members of the Council of the League of Arab States.<sup>791</sup> In the presidential statement, the Council also emphasized the importance of trilateral cooperation and coordination between the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States and welcomed the opening of the United Nations liaison office in the Headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo in June 2019.<sup>792</sup> During the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States commended the initiative to elevate the partnership between the League of Arab States and the Security Council within the general framework governed by Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.<sup>793</sup> Noting the internal political dynamics in the Council as well as the complications and tensions in the “Arab system” curtailing its ability to collectively respond, he expressed conviction that advancing the cooperative partnership with the United Nation was an indispensable means of enabling both the Security Council and the League of Arab States to assume their inherent responsibilities and better discharge their duties in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security in our region.<sup>794</sup> In the ensuing discussion, Council members focused on the impact and benefits of increased cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States in advancing progress for a peaceful Middle East with active conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic, Libya, and Yemen as well as instabilities in the Sudan and Iraq. Speaking in his national capacity, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for

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<sup>789</sup> Ibid.

<sup>790</sup> A concept note was circulated by letter of 31 May 2019 ([S/2019/455](#)).

<sup>791</sup> [S/PRST/2019/5](#).

<sup>792</sup> Ibid.

<sup>793</sup> [S/PV.8548](#).

<sup>794</sup> Ibid.

Foreign Affairs of Kuwait stated that the meeting was convened to consolidate the principle established in Chapter VIII and Article 52 of the Charter and could be considered as the beginning of a new stage in cooperation between the two organizations.<sup>795</sup> Many Council members agreed on the importance of effective partnership between the two organizations in conflict prevention and mediation.<sup>796</sup>

On 25 September 2019, at the initiative of the Russian Federation which held the Presidency for the month,<sup>797</sup> the Council held a ministerial debate on the contribution of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to countering terrorist threats. At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General as well as by the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Acting Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In their briefings, they described their respective frameworks developed in countering terrorism and transnational crime in Central Asia and Afghanistan and emphasized the importance of cooperation.<sup>798</sup> Following the briefings, Council members focused on the importance of cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations in countering terrorism. Council members as well as other speakers made reference to a wide variety of organizations and initiatives undertaken by them to counter terrorism in different parts of the world, including the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States in Africa, the Association of Southeast Asian in Asia and the Organization of American States in the Americas. Some Council members also stressed the need to fully respect obligations under international law and international human rights law in combatting terrorism and violent extremism.<sup>799</sup>

On 30 October 2019, the Council heard a briefing on the regional cooperation with the African Union, particularly on the growing strategic partnership between the two organizations based on a host of mechanisms including the 2018 Joint United Nations-

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<sup>795</sup> Ibid. For further information on this discussion, see part VIII, sect. I.

<sup>796</sup> Ibid. Poland, France, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Peru, Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea.

<sup>797</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 13 September 2019 ([S/2019/742](#)).

<sup>798</sup> [S/PV.8626](#).

<sup>799</sup> Ibid. Belgium, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom, and United States.



African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.<sup>800</sup> Following the briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union and the Permanent Observer for the African Union, Council members welcomed the growing collaboration between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in the areas of crisis response and conflict prevention and spoke about the annual meeting of the two Councils held in Addis Ababa on 21 and 22 October. Council members also focused on the issue of financing of African Union peace operations authorized by the Security Council through assessed contributions underlining the importance of increasing the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of funding and the support to African-led peace operations.<sup>801</sup> Speaking on behalf of the three African members of the Council (South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea), the Minister for Defence and Military Veterans Affairs of South Africa emphasized that the key principles that should direct and shape the partnership and cooperation between the two organizations going forward were meaningful and inclusive collaboration, shared and common approaches, and effective consultative mechanisms, specifically between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council. In this regard and further to the meeting in Addis Ababa, she emphasized the need to translate and elevate some of the commitments made by both Councils into tangible outcomes and to move away from generalities about partnership and cooperation towards decisive and practical steps that the Security Council, in particular, and the United Nations and the African Union, in general, could take to realize the full implementation of this strategic partnership.<sup>802</sup>

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<sup>800</sup> [S/PV.8650](#).

<sup>801</sup> Ibid., United States, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, China, Peru, Dominican Republic, Kuwait, and Belgium.

<sup>802</sup> Ibid.

**Meetings: Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security**

<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.8473</a> 27 February 2019	Silencing the guns in Africa  Letter dated 13 February 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/169</a> )	Draft resolution <a href="#">S/2019/179</a> submitted by 52 Member States <sup>a</sup>	56 Member States <sup>b</sup>	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, Founder and Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations	All Council members <sup>c</sup> , all invitees	Resolution <a href="#">2457 (2019)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV.8482</a> 12 March 2019	European Union			High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy	All Council members, all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8548</a> 13 June 2019	Cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States  Letter dated 31 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/455</a> )			Secretary-General of the League of Arab States	Secretary-General, all Council members <sup>e</sup> , all invitees <sup>f</sup>	<a href="#">S/PRST/2019/5</a>

<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.8626</a> 25 September 2019	The contribution of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in countering terrorist threats  Letter dated 13 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2019/742</a> )		13 Member States <sup>g</sup>	Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Acting Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization; Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States; European Union Special Representative for Central Asia	All Council members <sup>h</sup> , 11 invitees under rule 37 and all other invitees <sup>i</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8650</a> 30 October 2019	African Union  Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa, including on the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union ( <a href="#">S/2019/759</a> )			Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union; Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations <sup>j</sup>		

<sup>a</sup> Algeria, Angola, Belgium, Canada, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine.

<sup>b</sup> Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan,

Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine.

<sup>c</sup> Equatorial Guinea was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Germany was represented by the State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office.

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

<sup>e</sup> Kuwait was represented by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Poland was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>f</sup> Ireland was represented by its Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement., Norway spoke on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. the Acting Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations spoke on behalf of the European Union and the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina.

<sup>g</sup> Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

<sup>h</sup> Belgium was represented by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Development Cooperation; China by the State Councilor and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Equatorial Guinea by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; France by its Minister of State attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Germany by its Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office; Kuwait by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Poland by its Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Russian Federation by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; South Africa by its Minister for International Relations and Cooperation.

<sup>i</sup> Although invited under rule 37, the representatives of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan did not make statements. All speakers invited under rule 37 were represented at the ministerial level.

<sup>j</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union and Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations joined the meeting via video-teleconference from Djibouti.