

34. Items relating to non-proliferation

A. Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings, including one high-level meeting, in relation to the item entitled “Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction”. Both meetings took the form of briefings.⁵³⁵ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

On 18 January 2018, the Council held a high-level meeting under the sub-item entitled “Confidence-building measures”, further to a concept note circulated by Kazakhstan.⁵³⁶ At that meeting, the Secretary-General noted that the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery were taking place in an environment of increasing military budgets and the over-accumulation of weapons, coupled with a serious growth in regional tensions. He added that, in such a geopolitical context, confidence-building measures that supported arms control, non-proliferation and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction were extremely important. In that context, he expressed his belief that the United Nations could play a central role in assisting Member States in developing, augmenting and supporting confidence-building measures. He added that such measures were not an end in themselves and that preventing, mitigating and resolving conflict required comprehensive political solutions, including verifiable disarmament and non-proliferation. He expressed his intention to explore opportunities to generate new direction and impetus for the global disarmament agenda. He further stressed that, going forward, the Security Council in particular could provide leadership by demonstrating unity and continuing to highlight the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as essential means for building confidence.⁵³⁷ Following the Secretary-General’s briefing, speakers focused, among

other issues, on the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime, including the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as well as the recently adopted Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.⁵³⁸

On 12 April 2018, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) gave a briefing to the Council, focusing on the progress made by Member States in implementing the resolution, including the outcome of the 2016 comprehensive review, and in implementing resolution 2325 (2016), which had been subsequently adopted by the Council. He noted that a report on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) from all Member States remained one of the highest priorities for the Committee, together with the voluntary national action plans. He also provided an overview of the outreach activities undertaken by the Committee and of events that had been attended by members of the Committee and of the Group of Experts.⁵³⁹ Speakers stressed the need for States to fully implement resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent relevant resolutions, including the recently adopted resolution 2325 (2016). Also on 12 April 2018, the Chair of the Committee transmitted to the President of the Security Council its seventeenth programme of work for the period from 1 February 2018 to 31 January 2019, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2325 (2016).⁵⁴⁰

In 2018, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee under a separate item of the agenda entitled “Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council”.⁵⁴¹

⁵³⁵ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁵³⁶ S/2018/4, annex.

⁵³⁷ S/PV.8160, pp. 3–4.

⁵³⁸ The Treaty was adopted on 7 July 2017 and was opened for signature by the Secretary-General on 20 September 2017 (A/CONF.229/2017/8).

⁵³⁹ S/PV.8230, pp. 2–4.

⁵⁴⁰ S/2018/340.

⁵⁴¹ S/PV.8364 and S/PV.8428. For more details, see part I, sect. 32.

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>
S/PV.8160 18 January 2018	Confidence-building measures Letter dated 2 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2018/4)				Secretary-General, all Council members ^a	
S/PV.8230 12 April 2018					All Council members ^b	

^a Kazakhstan was represented by its President; in the course of the meeting, the President was replaced by its Minister of Foreign Affairs; Kuwait was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Poland was represented by its President; the Russian Federation was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; the United Kingdom was represented by its Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific; and the United States was represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Member of the President's Cabinet.

^b The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

B. Non-proliferation

In 2018, the Security Council held two meetings under the item entitled “Non-proliferation” and did not adopt any decisions. All meetings took the form of briefings. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Security Council twice in relation to the fifth and sixth reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).⁵⁴²

On 27 June 2018, the Under-Secretary-General stated that the International Atomic Energy Agency had reported to the Council that the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to implement its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. She informed the Council that, on 8 May 2018, the United States had announced its withdrawal from the agreement. She underlined that the Secretary-General deeply regretted that setback and that he believed that issues not directly related to the Plan should be addressed without prejudice to preserving the agreement and its accomplishments. She also stated that the Secretary-General called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider carefully the concerns

expressed by Member States about its activities allegedly contrary to the restrictive measures contained in annex B to resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).⁵⁴³

On 12 December 2018, the Under-Secretary-General stated that the Secretary-General welcomed the reaffirmation by participants in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action of their commitments to its full and effective implementation and that it was essential that the Plan continued to work for all participants, including by delivering tangible economic benefits for the Iranian people. She reported that the Secretary-General regretted the reimposition by the United States of the sanctions lifted pursuant to the Plan, after its withdrawal.⁵⁴⁴

At the same meeting, the Secretary of State of the United States stated that the Charter of the United Nations bestowed upon the Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and that his country would seek to work with all other members of the Council to reimpose the ballistic missile restrictions outlined in resolution [1929 \(2010\)](#).⁵⁴⁵

Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action had been seriously

⁵⁴² [S/2018/602](#) and [S/2018/1089](#).

⁵⁴³ [S/PV.8297](#), p. 2.

⁵⁴⁴ [S/PV.8418](#), p. 2.

⁵⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

challenged by the unilateral and unlawful conduct of the United States in withdrawing from the Plan and reimposing illegal sanctions, which was a clear violation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).⁵⁴⁶

At the meetings on 27 June and 12 December 2018, the representative of the Netherlands gave a briefing to the Council as the Security Council

Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).⁵⁴⁷ The representative of the European Union also gave a briefing to the Council at both meetings on behalf of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as Coordinator of the Joint Commission established by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.⁵⁴⁸

⁵⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 24.

⁵⁴⁷ Ibid., pp. 5–6; and [S/PV.8297](#), pp. 6–7.

⁵⁴⁸ [S/PV.8418](#), pp. 3–5; and [S/PV.8297](#), pp. 4–6.

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>
S/PV.8297 27 June 2018	Letter dated 12 June 2018 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/601) Fifth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2018/602) Letter dated 21 June 2018 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/624)		Germany	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, ^a all invitees	
S/PV.8418 12 December 2018	Letter dated 30 November 2018 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/1070) Sixth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2018/1089)		Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, ^a 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>
	Letter dated 11 December 2018 from the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/1106)					

^a The representative of the Netherlands gave a briefing to the Council in his capacity as Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

C. Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings and adopted one resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter. Of the three meetings held, one was a high-level meeting and the other two took the form of briefings. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

On 21 March 2018, the Council adopted resolution [2407 \(2018\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution [1874 \(2009\)](#) until 24 April 2019. Also in that resolution, the Council decided that the mandate of the Panel would apply also with respect to the measures imposed in resolutions [2270 \(2016\)](#), [2321 \(2016\)](#), [2356 \(2017\)](#), [2371 \(2017\)](#), [2375 \(2017\)](#) and [2397 \(2017\)](#) and expressed its intent to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding a further extension no later than 24 March 2019.⁵⁴⁹

On 17 September 2018, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs gave a briefing to the Council. She remarked that, while there had been positive developments related to the nuclear-weapon and ballistic-missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in recent months, there continued to be signs of the development and maintenance of both programmes. She expressed hope that the positive developments, together with the various summits held between the leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea and between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, would contribute to advancing sustainable peace and

complete and verifiable denuclearization on the Korean peninsula, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. In addition, she gave a briefing on the United Nations Command, which had been established in accordance with resolution [84 \(1950\)](#). She explained that, in resolution [84 \(1950\)](#), the Council had recommended that all Member States providing military forces and other assistance to the Republic of Korea made such forces and other assistance available to a "unified command under the United States of America" and that it had requested the United States to designate the commander of such forces. She noted that the United Nations Command was not a United Nations operation or body, nor did it come under the command and control of the United Nations.⁵⁵⁰ During the ensuing discussion, some speakers noted that the United Nations Command was a legacy of the Cold War era.⁵⁵¹ While some speakers questioned its current legitimacy and legality,⁵⁵² others deemed it inappropriate to openly debate the legal status of the United Nations Command or its action on a specific issue that was not part of the agenda.⁵⁵³ Speakers welcomed the inter-Korean dialogue and, in particular, the upcoming inter-Korean summit, as well as the Singapore summit between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States.⁵⁵⁴ Most speakers underlined the importance of the full implementation of the sanctions measures in facilitating the diplomatic efforts and stressed that the

⁵⁵⁰ [S/PV.8353](#), pp. 2–3.

⁵⁵¹ *Ibid.* p. 9 (China), p. 12 (United Kingdom) and p. 20 (Russian Federation).

⁵⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 9 (China) and p. 20 (Russian Federation).

⁵⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 22 (Republic of Korea).

⁵⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 6 (Sweden), pp. 7–9 (China), p. 9 (Kuwait), p. 10 (Equatorial Guinea), p. 12 (Côte d'Ivoire), p. 14 (Poland), p. 15 (Netherlands), p. 16 (Plurinational State of Bolivia), pp. 17–18 (Ethiopia), p. 22 (Republic of Korea) and p. 22 (Japan).

⁵⁴⁹ Resolution [2407 \(2018\)](#), para. 1. For information on the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#), see part IX, sect. I.B.

unity of the Council remained critical.⁵⁵⁵ Referring to a midterm report of the Panel of Experts and the controversy over its content, the speakers reaffirmed the instrumental role of the Panel of Experts in monitoring and facilitating the effective implementation of the sanctions measures and stressed the need to uphold its independence and impartiality in fulfilling its role.⁵⁵⁶

⁵⁵⁵ Ibid., pp. 5–6 (Sweden), p. 9 (China), pp. 9–10 (Kuwait), p. 10 (Equatorial Guinea), p. 11 (United Kingdom), pp. 12–13 (Côte d’Ivoire), p. 13 (Peru), p. 14 (Poland), p. 15 (Netherlands), p. 16 (Plurinational State of Bolivia), p. 17 (Kazakhstan), p. 18 (Ethiopia), p. 22 (Republic of Korea) and pp. 22–23 (Japan).

⁵⁵⁶ Ibid., pp. 4–5 (United States), p. 6 (Sweden), p. 7 (France), p. 11–12 (United Kingdom), p. 12 (Côte d’Ivoire), p. 14 (Poland) and p. 15 (Netherlands).

On 27 September 2018, the Council held a high-level meeting presided by the Secretary of State of the United States. At the meeting, speakers commended the continuing diplomatic efforts in denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, in particular the convening of the presidential summits. Speakers also dwelled on the continuing sanctions violations with differing views as to the need for modification of the existing sanctions measures. Nevertheless, many speakers reiterated the need for the Council to remain united in its approach towards the denuclearization of the peninsula.⁵⁵⁷

⁵⁵⁷ S/PV.8363, p. 4 (Kuwait), p. 4 (China), p. 7 (Netherlands), p. 8 (Ethiopia), p. 8 (Poland), p. 13 (Kazakhstan), p. 15 (Peru), p. 16 (Sweden) and p. 20 (Japan).

Meetings: non-proliferation/Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Meeting record and date	Sub-item	Other documents	Rule 37 invitations	Rule 39 and other invitations	Speakers	Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)
S/PV. 8210 21 March 2018	Note by the President of the Security Council (S/2018/171)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2018/238)				Resolution 2407 (2018) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.8353 17 September 2018			Japan, Republic of Korea	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8363 27 September 2018			Japan, Republic of Korea		All Council members, ^a all invitees ^b	

^a Fourteen Council members were represented at the ministerial level: the United States was represented by its Secretary of State; Kuwait was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; China was represented by its State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs; the United Kingdom was represented by its Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs; Equatorial Guinea was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; and Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden were represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

^b Japan and the Republic of Korea were represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

35. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

During the period under review, the Security Council held five meetings (including two high-level meetings), adopted one resolution and issued one presidential statement under the item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”. Two of the meetings took the form of briefings, two were convened for the adoption of a decision and one was a

debate.⁵⁵⁸ As in previous years, in 2018, the presentation of the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission in a formal meeting of the Council in June was followed by an informal interactive dialogue.

⁵⁵⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.