

**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 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 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**

In 2019, the 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 the item in the context of semi-annual briefings by the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>372</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 for Bosnia and Herzegovina provided updates on developments in connection with his two reports for the year.<sup>373</sup> At the meeting on 8 May 2019,<sup>374</sup> the High Representative reported that seven months after 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 cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had moved swiftly to form governments, there had been no appointment of a State-level council of Ministers or of 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 that regard, he implored the country's 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 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.

During the discussion that followed the briefing of 8 May, most Council members welcomed the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote national reconciliation and socioeconomic development and 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 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 for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina. 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

<sup>372</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>373</sup> See [S/2019/364](#) and [S/2019/843](#).

<sup>374</sup> See [S/PV.8522](#).

expressed disagreement with specific aspects of the report, including on the relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He added that it was vital to continue reducing the budget and staffing of the Office of the High Representative, as it had become an impediment to the country's future democratic progress.

In his second briefing to the Council, on 5 November 2019,<sup>375</sup> following the unanimous adoption of resolution 2496 (2019), the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed regret that, more than a year after the general elections in October 2018, no governments had yet been formed at the State or Federation levels. He also expressed regret for the continued slow pace in implementing urgent electoral reforms and strengthening the rule of law, as well as for the continuation of divisive rhetoric. At the same meeting, the Council also heard a briefing by the head of the Bosnia and Herzegovina programme of 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 that regard, she requested that the Council and the international community demand that victims see their right to justice, truth and reparations fully implemented and that the Council support the initiatives aimed at delivering justice and reconciliation.

Prior to the briefing, the Council adopted resolution 2496 (2019), by which, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, it renewed the authorization of the multinational stabilization force, operation Althea of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (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 the resolution.<sup>376</sup> In the resolution, the Council also urged the parties to proceed with the formation of governments at all levels and to prioritize the implementation of comprehensive reforms; it also called on the parties to refrain from any polarizing and unconstructive policy, action and rhetoric.<sup>377</sup>

At the same meeting, during the debate that followed the briefing,<sup>378</sup> most Council members welcomed the unanimous adoption of resolution 2496 (2019) and commended the High Representative for his efforts to promote the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Peace Agreement) and EUFOR-Althea for its contributions to preserving stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The representative of the Russian Federation again said that the report of the High Representative did not provide an objective and balanced picture of what was happening in the country and criticized the continuing bias against Bosnian Serbs and Croats. He added that, given the mention in the report of the serious differences in views between Bosnians, Serbs and Croats on the way forward in developing the statehood of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Office of the High Representative should focus on promoting a culture of dialogue and provide, if necessary, good offices to resolve disputes among Bosnians. He also called on the Council and the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina to step up efforts to close the Office of the High Representative.

<sup>375</sup> See S/PV.8658.

<sup>376</sup> Resolution 2496 (2019) paras. 3–4. For more information on EUFOR-Althea, see part VIII, sect. III.

<sup>377</sup> Resolution 2496 (2019), para. 8.

<sup>378</sup> See S/PV.8658.

## Meetings: the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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.8522 8 May 2019	Letter dated 1 May 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/364)		Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia	High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	

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<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 of TRIAL International, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union	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 Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina Programme of TRIAL International participated in the meeting by videoconference from Sarajevo. The Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine.

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

During the period under review, the 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,<sup>379</sup> and no decisions were adopted by the Council under the item in 2019. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

In a note by the President of the Council dated 7 February 2019,<sup>380</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 by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, in February, June and October,<sup>381</sup> in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#). In 2019, the Council

also heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel.<sup>382</sup>

The briefings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General were focused on the continued tensions and impediments to the resumption of the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina,<sup>383</sup> the changes in Kosovo’s political landscape following the conduct of elections in Serb-majority municipalities and early general elections<sup>384</sup> and the security incident of 28 May 2019, which resulted in the arrest of UNMIK personnel.<sup>385</sup> In his briefing, on 10 June 2019,<sup>386</sup> the United Nations Legal Counsel focused on the legal regime of immunity for United Nations staff members in Kosovo as an element of the response to the events of 28 May and the follow-up to those events. He explained that the 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 UNMIK staff members in order to look into the allegations made by the Kosovo authorities regarding their conduct.

In 2019, Council members addressed the agreement reached on reducing the cycle of meetings and reporting on the item.<sup>387</sup> While some Council

<sup>379</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>380</sup> [S/2019/120](#).

<sup>381</sup> See [S/PV.8459](#), [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).

<sup>382</sup> See [S/PV.8541](#).

<sup>383</sup> See [S/PV.8459](#), [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).

<sup>384</sup> See [S/PV.8541](#) and [S/PV.8655](#).

<sup>385</sup> Ibid.

<sup>386</sup> See [S/PV.8541](#).

<sup>387</sup> See [S/2019/120](#).