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## **Part II**

### **Provisional rules of procedure and related procedural developments**

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## Introductory note

Part II of the present Supplement covers the practice of the Security Council in relation to its provisional rules of procedure and relevant Articles of the Charter of the United Nations. Since the provisional rules of procedure are routinely applied by the Council at its formal meetings, the focus of part II is on special rather than standard application of the rules in the proceedings of the Council.

Owing to the continuing impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the functioning of the Council, part II includes a section devoted exclusively to the procedures and working methods developed and agreed upon by Council members since March 2020. From 1 January to 24 May 2021, the Council did not hold any meetings in the Security Council Chamber. Council members, instead, maintained the practice of holding videoconferences in open and closed formats as a means of continuing the work of the Council. From 25 May until the end of the year, while the Council conducted its meetings mostly in person in the Chamber, some of its work followed a hybrid model, alternating between in-person and virtual modalities. In 2021, videoconferences, whether open or closed, continued not to be considered formal meetings of the Council. This had a direct impact on the application of the provisional rules of procedure and on the ability of the Council to vote.

As a result, Council members also maintained the practice of adopting resolutions by written procedure, the outcome of which was announced at videoconferences and had the same legal status as those voted on in the Security Council Chamber. In addition, statements by the President were adopted following a no-objection procedure and subsequently announced at open videoconferences, and they also had the same status as those adopted in the Chamber. While Council members agreed on procedures for the adoption of draft resolutions and statements by the President, no procedure was agreed upon for procedural votes within the framework of the new working methods.

Part II is divided into 11 sections. Section I provides an overview of the procedural developments and the working methods developed and agreed upon by the members of the Council in response to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following previous supplements, sections II to X are divided according to the order of the relevant chapters of the provisional rules of procedure, as follows: section II, meetings and records (Article 28 of the Charter and rules 1–5 and 48–57); section III, agenda (rules 6–12); section IV, representation and credentials (rules 13–17); section V, presidency (rules 18–20); section VI, Secretariat (rules 21–26); section VII, conduct of business (rules 27, 29, 30 and 33); section VIII, participation (Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter and rules 37 and 39); section IX, decision-making and voting (Article 27 of the Charter and rules 31, 32, 34–36, 38 and 40); and section X, languages (rules 41–47). Section XI deals with the status of the provisional rules of procedure (Article 30 of the Charter).

The remaining rules are covered in other parts of the present Supplement, as follows: rule 28, concerning subsidiary organs of the Council, in parts IX and X and, concerning Security Council missions, in part VI; and rule 61, concerning relations with other United Nations organs, in part IV.

During the period under review, there were no instances of the application of rules 58 to 60 concerning the admission of new Members; the present Supplement therefore contains no material relating to those rules.

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During the period under review, with the gradual improvement of the situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the easing of corresponding health and safety restrictions, the Council progressively resumed holding in-person activities. In 2021, the Council held 164 meetings, compared with 81 in 2020, of which 150 were public (open) and 14 were private (closed). The members of the Council held 67 informal consultations of the whole in 2021, compared with 46 in 2020. In accordance with the working methods of the Council developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the members of the Council also held 147 videoconferences, compared with 269 in 2020, of which 90 were open and 57 were closed. Council members continued to hold informal interactive dialogues and Arria-formula meetings. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the Arria-formula meetings and half of the informal interactive dialogues were held by videoconference. In addition, the Council continued to expand the practice of holding informal “wrap-up” sessions at the end of the month, most of which were held in person.

In 2021, the Council was seized of 69 items and considered 44 items, compared with 42 in 2020. Of those 44 items, 23 concerned country-specific and regional situations and 21 dealt with thematic and other issues.<sup>1</sup>

During the period under review, the Council adopted 57 resolutions and 24 statements by the President. The Council also issued 39 notes by the President and 170 letters from the President. One draft resolution was not adopted owing to the lack of the required nine affirmative votes, while another was not adopted because of the negative vote of a permanent member. In 2021, the continuing difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic on the holding of in-person meetings, in particular during the first half of the year, as well as the absence of a mechanism to vote remotely on procedural matters, effectively impeded the ability of the Council to hold procedural votes. No procedural vote was thus held in 2021.

Aspects relating to the working methods of the Council continued to be raised and discussed by Council members, in particular at the annual open debate on the working methods of the Council, held on 16 June 2021, under the item entitled “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)” (see cases 1 and 4–6).<sup>2</sup> Participants exchanged views on the notion of agility of the Council during the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of the remote procedures developed during the pandemic on the working methods of the Council and the progressive return to in-person activities. Discussions were also focused on how to ensure transparency, efficiency and interactivity in the work of the Council, in particular as it related to the format of Council meetings, the agenda, the role of the Council presidency, participation in Council meetings and other activities, and inclusivity and burden-sharing in the decision-making process.

On 12 July, the Council issued four notes by the President addressing different aspects of the working methods of the Council, including the keeping of a register of training opportunities by the Secretariat for the members of the Council, the role of coordinators in the permanent missions of Council members in the implementation of the working methods, monthly working methods commitments of Council presidencies and multilingualism.<sup>3</sup> On 22 December, the Council issued a fifth note by the President on working methods in extraordinary circumstances.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See S/2022/10.

<sup>2</sup> See S/PV.8798 and S/2021/572.

<sup>3</sup> See S/2021/645, S/2021/646, S/2021/647 and S/2021/648.

<sup>4</sup> See S/2021/1074.

## I. Procedural developments during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

### Note

In 2021, owing to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council continued to implement and further develop the procedures and working methods established at the outset of the pandemic, in March 2020.<sup>5</sup> From 1 January to 24 May 2021, the Council did not hold any in-person meetings or informal consultations of the whole and, instead, convened 135 videoconferences.<sup>6</sup> With the gradual improvement of the situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic, as from 25 May 2021 until the end of 2021, the Council progressively returned to in-person activities, holding meetings in the Security Council Chamber, while continuing to convene open videoconferences. Informal consultations of the whole also resumed in person on 25 May, in the Council Chamber, followed by the alternating use of both the Chamber and the Consultations Room from 15 November.

<sup>5</sup> For more information on the working methods developed by Council members in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. I.

<sup>6</sup> The Council held its 8778th meeting in person on 7 December 2020 (see [S/PV.8778](#)) and its 8779th meeting in person on 25 May 2021 ([S/PV.8779](#)). For more information on the meetings of the Council in 2021, see sect. II below.

In accordance with the practice established in 2020, videoconferences, whether open or closed, were not considered formal meetings of the Council, and during the first half of the year, Council members continued to adopt resolutions through a written procedure, the outcome of which was announced at videoconferences, and those resolutions had the same legal status as those voted on in the Security Council Chamber. Furthermore, the remote working methods did not provide for the holding of procedural votes, and consensus remained the norm in relation to all procedural questions.

Section I covers the practices and procedures developed by the Council in 2021 in relation to its working methods during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Working methods

In 2021, except in the month of July, each President of the Council outlined in a letter to the representatives of the members of the Council the working methods agreed upon by the members for each month, usually maintaining and building on the measures outlined in the previous months. Table 1 below lists all relevant letters from the presidency circulated in 2021 concerning the working methods during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 1

**Letters from the President of the Security Council to the representatives of the members of the Council concerning working methods during the COVID-19 pandemic**

| Date            | Symbol                     | Title                                                                                                                                                     | Presidency     | Summary of working methods agreed upon                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 January 2021  | <a href="#">S/2021/18</a>  | Letter dated 5 January 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council  | Tunisia        | – Combination of videoconferences and in-person meetings of the Council<br>– Working methods reference documents: <a href="#">S/2020/372</a> , <a href="#">S/2020/639</a> and <a href="#">S/2020/996</a> |
| 3 February 2021 | <a href="#">S/2021/106</a> | Letter dated 3 February 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council | United Kingdom | – Combination of videoconferences and in-person meetings of the Council<br>– Working methods reference documents: <a href="#">S/2020/372</a> , <a href="#">S/2020/639</a> and <a href="#">S/2020/966</a> |

## Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2021

| <i>Date</i>      | <i>Symbol</i>              | <i>Title</i>                                                                                                                                               | <i>Presidency</i> | <i>Summary of working methods agreed upon</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 March 2021     | <a href="#">S/2021/245</a> | Letter dated 9 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council     | United States     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Videoconferences only</li> <li>– Working methods reference document: <a href="#">S/2020/372</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1 April 2021     | <a href="#">S/2021/326</a> | Letter dated 1 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council     | Viet Nam          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Videoconferences for majority of discussions; in-person meetings of the Council only if agreed by consensus</li> <li>– Working methods reference documents: <a href="#">S/2020/372</a>, <a href="#">S/2020/639</a> and <a href="#">S/2020/966</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3 May 2021       | <a href="#">S/2021/428</a> | Letter dated 3 May 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council       | China             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Combination of informal videoconferences and in-person meetings of the Council</li> <li>– Working methods reference documents: <a href="#">S/2020/253</a>, <a href="#">S/2020/372</a> and <a href="#">S/2020/966</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1 June 2021      | <a href="#">S/2021/524</a> | Letter dated 1 June 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council      | Estonia           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In-person meetings in the Security Council Chamber for most discussions, and high-level meetings and other special meetings to be held in a virtual format</li> <li>– Working methods reference document: <a href="#">S/2020/372</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3 August 2021    | <a href="#">S/2021/703</a> | Letter dated 3 August 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council    | India             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Majority of meetings to be held in the Security Council Chamber, except for one high-level meeting held by videoconference</li> <li>– Working methods reference document: <a href="#">S/2020/372</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3 September 2021 | <a href="#">S/2021/776</a> | Letter dated 3 September 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council | Ireland           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All meetings to be held in the Security Council Chamber</li> <li>– Participation by non-Council members: through the submission of written statements in open debates; in person in all other meetings to which they were invited under rules 37 or 39 of the provisional rules of procedure or by the President of the Council as agreed by the Council prior to the meeting</li> <li>– Working methods reference document: <a href="#">S/2020/372</a></li> </ul> |
| 5 October 2021   | <a href="#">S/2021/848</a> | Letter dated 5 October 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council   | Kenya             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Majority of Council meetings to be held in the Security Council Chamber, except for one high-level meeting held by videoconference</li> <li>– Working methods reference document: <a href="#">S/2020/372</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

| <i>Date</i>      | <i>Symbol</i>               | <i>Title</i>                                                                                                                                               | <i>Presidency</i> | <i>Summary of working methods agreed upon</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 November 2021 | <a href="#">S/2021/939</a>  | Letter dated 10 November 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council | Mexico            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All meetings of the Council to be held in the Security Council Chamber</li> <li>– Participation by non-Council members: through the submission of written statements in open debates; in person in all other meetings to which they were invited under rules 37 or 39 of the provisional rules of procedure or by the President of the Council as agreed by the Council prior to the meeting</li> <li>– Working methods reference documents: <a href="#">S/2020/372</a> and <a href="#">S/2017/507</a> and other relevant notes by the President on working methods</li> </ul> |
| 6 December 2021  | <a href="#">S/2021/1013</a> | Letter dated 6 December 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council  | Niger             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All meetings of the Council to be held in the Security Council Chamber</li> <li>– Participation by non-Council members: through the submission of written statements in open debates; in person in all other meetings to which they were invited under rules 37 or 39 of the provisional rules of procedure or by the President of the Council as agreed by the Council prior to the meeting</li> <li>– Working methods reference documents: <a href="#">S/2020/372</a> and <a href="#">S/2017/507</a> and other relevant notes by the President on working methods</li> </ul> |

In all letters from the President of the Council outlining the working methods during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was indicated that the modalities of work were only responses to the exceptional and extraordinary circumstances related to the pandemic and that those modalities could be reviewed, revised, adjusted, suspended or discontinued, subject to agreement among all Council members. In all letters except for those dated 3 February and 1 June, it was stated that the working methods would not set a precedent for the future.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, it was noted in the letters dated 5 January, 3 February, 1 April and 3 May that the decision to convene Council meetings in person rested with Council members on the basis of consensus and of guidance from the United Nations medical services and the health and safety advice of the Secretariat.<sup>8</sup>

At the beginning of 2021, in the letter dated 5 January,<sup>9</sup> Council members agreed that in-person meetings would be held as and when it was deemed appropriate and upon the agreement of Council members. It was also provided in the same letter that meetings held in the Security Council Chamber or the Economic and Social Council Chamber would be in strict compliance with the health protocols, guidelines for physical distancing and measures laid out in the annexes to the letters from the President of the Council dated 1 July and 1 October 2020.<sup>10</sup> Videoconferences, on the other hand, would continue to be held in accordance with the remote working methods set out in the letter dated 7 May 2020.<sup>11</sup>

The Council did not hold any in-person meeting in 2021 until 25 May. Accordingly, in the letters outlining the working methods for February, March

<sup>7</sup> See [S/2021/18](#), [S/2021/245](#), [S/2021/326](#), [S/2021/428](#), [S/2021/703](#), [S/2021/776](#), [S/2021/848](#), [S/2021/939](#) and [S/2021/1013](#).

<sup>8</sup> See [S/2021/18](#), [S/2021/106](#), [S/2021/326](#) and [S/2021/428](#).

<sup>9</sup> [S/2021/18](#).

<sup>10</sup> [S/2020/639](#) and [S/2020/966](#).

<sup>11</sup> [S/2020/372](#).



and April 2021,<sup>12</sup> the holding of either all or most Council discussions was envisaged in a virtual format. After the resumption of in-person meetings on 25 May and with the easing of the health restrictions, the working methods for subsequent months provided for the holding of either most or all Council meetings in person in the Security Council Chamber.<sup>13</sup> In that regard, in the letter dated 1 June,<sup>14</sup> while envisaging that most of the meetings would be held in the Security Council Chamber, the presidency of Estonia noted that high-level and a few other special meetings were expected to be held in a virtual format, so as to enable inclusive participation, despite the constraints related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the letter dated 3 August,<sup>15</sup> the presidency of India stated that one high-level meeting was being planned in a virtual format, in view of international travel restrictions and quarantine guidelines. Similarly, in its letter dated 5 October,<sup>16</sup> the presidency of Kenya noted its plan to hold the majority of Council meetings in person, with one high-level meeting in virtual format. In its letter dated 6 December,<sup>17</sup> the presidency of the Niger expressed its intention to hold consultations in the Consultations Room of the Council, for the first time since March 2020. Consultations held in person in the Security Council Chamber had resumed on 25 May 2021.

Concerning health and safety measures, in the letters dated 1 June, 3 August, 3 September and 5 October,<sup>18</sup> the presidencies strongly encouraged delegates and Secretariat staff attending in-person meetings to get vaccinated. Furthermore, in the letters dated 3 August, 3 September, 5 October and 6 December,<sup>19</sup> it was noted that participants should wear masks at all times, except while delivering remarks or taking the floor.

In the letters dated 10 November and 6 December,<sup>20</sup> the presidencies of Mexico and the

Niger, respectively, established that they would each strive to return to the regular conduct of Council business, as provided in the Charter of the United Nations and in the provisional rules of procedure of the Council. The two presidencies further stated that the representatives of Member States who were not members of the Council and had been invited to participate in public meetings of the Council under rule 37 or 39 or by the presidency with the prior agreement of the Council would be allowed in the Security Council Chamber. In addition, Member States not members of the Council would continue to be able to participate in open debates through the submission of written statements. In the same letters, the presidencies also encouraged the implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council dated 30 August 2017<sup>21</sup> and other such notes on working methods, to enhance efficiency and transparency during such an unprecedented and extraordinary time.

While not explicitly addressed in the letters from the President of the Security Council in 2021, aspects of the working methods related to the informal programme of work, adoption of the agenda, accreditation of representatives, conduct of business, participation of non-Council members, announcement of videoconferences, videoconference records, live-streaming of videoconferencing, outcomes of videoconferences, written procedure for the adoption of resolutions and statements by the President remained governed by the measures set out in the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President to the representatives of the members of the Security Council.<sup>22</sup>

In a note issued on 22 December,<sup>23</sup> the President of the Security Council indicated that, drawing on the lessons learned and recalling the temporary, extraordinary and provisional measures set out in the various letters from the President during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council committed itself to maintaining its state of readiness under all circumstances, in an effort to ensure that it could function continuously in accordance with Article 28 of the Charter.

<sup>12</sup> S/2021/106, S/2021/245 and S/2021/326.

<sup>13</sup> See S/2021/524, S/2021/703, S/2021/776, S/2021/848, S/2021/939 and S/2021/1013.

<sup>14</sup> S/2021/524.

<sup>15</sup> S/2021/703.

<sup>16</sup> S/2021/848.

<sup>17</sup> S/2021/1013.

<sup>18</sup> S/2021/524, S/2021/703, S/2021/776 and S/2021/848.

<sup>19</sup> S/2021/703, S/2021/776, S/2021/848 and S/2021/1013.

<sup>20</sup> S/2021/939 and S/2021/1013.

<sup>21</sup> S/2017/507.

<sup>22</sup> S/2020/372. See also S/2020/253 and S/2020/273.

<sup>23</sup> S/2021/1074.

## II. Meetings and records

### Note

Section II covers the practice of the Council concerning meetings, publicity and the records of the Council, in relation to Article 28 of the Charter of the United Nations and rules 1 to 5 and 48 to 57 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council.

### Article 28

1. *The Security Council shall be so organized as to be able to function continuously. Each member of the Security Council shall for this purpose be represented at all times at the seat of the Organization.*

2. *The Security Council shall hold periodic meetings at which each of its members may, if it so desires, be represented by a member of the government or by some other specially designated representative.*

3. *The Security Council may hold meetings at such places other than the seat of the Organization as in its judgment will best facilitate its work.*

### Rule 1

*Meetings of the Security Council shall, with the exception of the periodic meetings referred to in rule 4, be held at the call of the President at any time he deems necessary, but the interval between meetings shall not exceed fourteen days.*

### Rule 2

*The President shall call a meeting of the Security Council at the request of any member of the Security Council.*

### Rule 3

*The President shall call a meeting of the Security Council if a dispute or situation is brought to the attention of the Security Council under Article 35 or under Article 11 (3) of the Charter, or if the General Assembly makes recommendations or refers any question to the Security Council under Article 11 (2), or if the Secretary-General brings to the attention of the Security Council any matter under Article 99.*

### Rule 4

*Periodic meetings of the Security Council called for in Article 28 (2) of the Charter shall be held twice a year, at such times as the Security Council may decide.*

### Rule 5

*Meetings of the Security Council shall normally be held at the seat of the United Nations.*

*Any member of the Security Council or the Secretary-General may propose that the Security Council should meet at another place. Should the Security Council accept any such proposal, it shall decide upon the place and the period during which the Council shall meet at such place.*

### Rule 48

*Unless it decides otherwise, the Security Council shall meet in public. Any recommendation to the General Assembly regarding the appointment of the Secretary-General shall be discussed and decided at a private meeting.*

### Rule 49

*Subject to the provisions of rule 51, the verbatim record of each meeting of the Security Council shall be made available to the representatives on the Security Council and to the representatives of any other States which have participated in the meeting not later than 10 a.m. of the first working day following the meeting.*

### Rule 50

*The representatives of the States which have participated in the meeting shall, within two working days after the time indicated in rule 49, inform the Secretary-General of any corrections they wish to have made in the verbatim record.*

### Rule 51

*The Security Council may decide that for a private meeting the record shall be made in a single copy alone. This record shall be kept by the Secretary-General. The representatives of the States which have participated in the meeting shall, within a period of ten days, inform the Secretary-General of any corrections they wish to have made in this record.*

### Rule 52

*Corrections that have been requested shall be considered approved unless the President is of the opinion that they are sufficiently important to be submitted to the representatives on the Security Council. In the latter case, the representatives on the Security Council shall submit within two working days any comments they may wish to make. In the absence*

*of objections in this period of time, the record shall be corrected as requested.*

*Rule 53*

*The verbatim record referred to in rule 49 or the record referred to in rule 51, in which no corrections have been requested in the period of time required by rules 50 and 51, respectively, or which has been corrected in accordance with the provisions of rule 52, shall be considered as approved. It shall be signed by the President and shall become the official record of the Security Council.*

*Rule 54*

*The official record of public meetings of the Security Council, as well as the documents annexed thereto, shall be published in the official languages as soon as possible.*

*Rule 55*

*At the close of each private meeting the Security Council shall issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General.*

*Rule 56*

*The representatives of the Members of the United Nations which have taken part in a private meeting shall at all times have the right to consult the record of that meeting in the office of the Secretary-General. The Security Council may at any time grant access to this record to authorized representatives of other Members of the United Nations.*

*Rule 57*

*The Secretary-General shall, once each year, submit to the Security Council a list of the records and documents which up to that time have been considered confidential. The Security Council shall decide which of these shall be made available to other Members of the United Nations, which shall be made public, and which shall continue to remain confidential.*

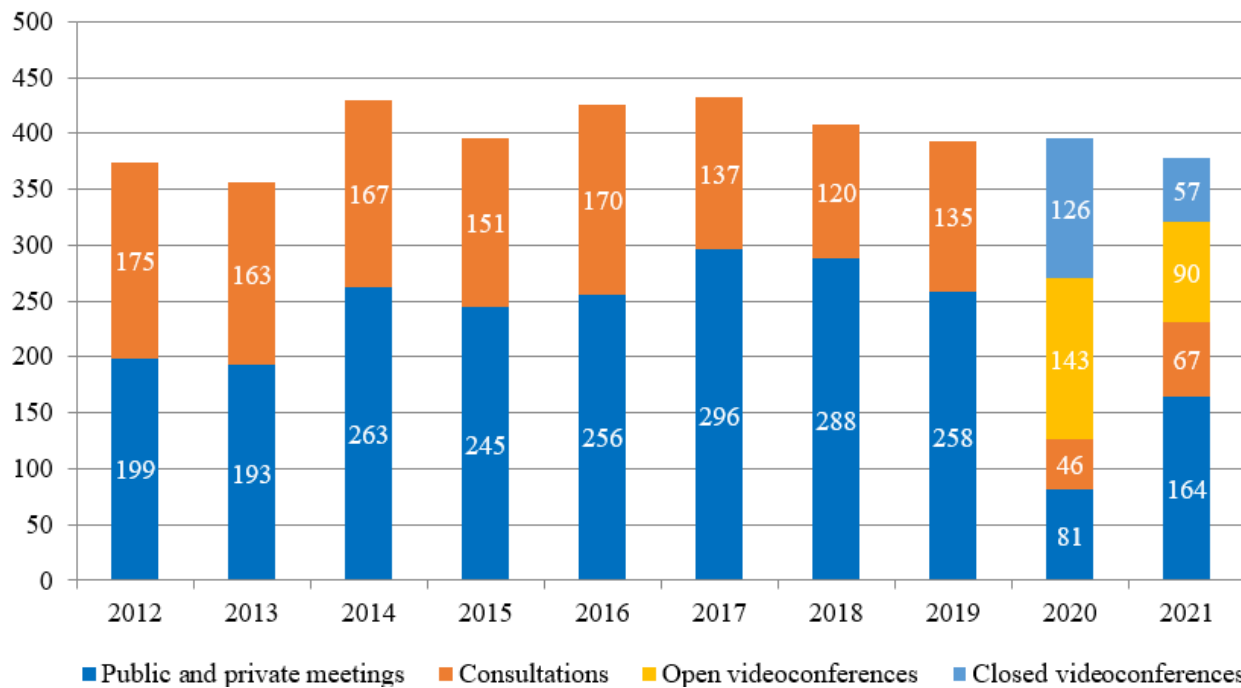
The present section comprises five subsections: A. Meetings, concerning the convening of meetings pursuant to rules 1 to 5 and 48; B. Informal consultations of the whole; C. Other informal meetings of the members of the Security Council; D. Discussions concerning meetings; and E. Records, maintained pursuant to rules 49 to 57.

During the period under review, the Council held 164 meetings, of which 150 were public (open) and 14 were private (closed). The Council also held a total of 67 informal consultations of the whole. In addition, in accordance with the working methods of the Council developed during the COVID-19 pandemic,<sup>24</sup> Council members held 147 videoconferences, of which 90 were open and 57 were closed. Council members also held seven informal interactive dialogues and 32 Arria-formula meetings. Figure I below shows the total number of meetings and informal consultations held from 2012 to 2021, along with the number of open and closed videoconferences held in 2020 and 2021.

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<sup>24</sup> For more information on the working methods developed by the Council in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, see sect. I above and *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. I.

Figure I  
Number of meetings, consultations and videoconferences, 2012–2021



## A. Meetings

### 1. Application of rules relating to meetings

Owing to the health restrictions in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council did not hold any formal meetings from 8 December 2020 to 24 May 2021, thereby exceeding the maximum interval of 14 days between meetings established under rule 1 of the provisional rules of procedure.<sup>25</sup> During the period under review, the Council continued, on

<sup>25</sup> The last in-person meeting of the Council before the interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic was its 8778th meeting, on 7 December 2020, and the first with which it resumed meeting in person was its 8779th meeting, on 25 May 2021.

occasion, to convene more than one meeting a day, and it did so also with respect to videoconferences.

In 2021, the Council did not hold any periodic meetings pursuant to rule 4 or any meetings away from Headquarters pursuant to rule 5.

During the period under review, no communications were received from Member States requesting the Council to convene a meeting that explicitly cited rule 2 or 3 as the basis of the request. Table 2 lists two communications requesting an urgent or special meeting either explicitly or implicitly invoking Article 35 of the Charter, under which Member States or States that are not members of the United Nations may refer disputes to the Council.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>26</sup> For more information on Article 35 of the Charter, see part VI, sect. I.

Table 2  
Letters in which Member States requested an urgent or special meeting

| <i>Letter addressed to the President of the Council<sup>a</sup></i>                                                                                                                   | <i>Summary</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <i>Meeting convened (item and date)</i>                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Letter dated 22 June 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2021/593) | Requesting the Council to take action to preserve peace and security in the region by, inter alia, convening a session on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam dispute to discuss its impact on the peace and security of millions of people who live and survive along the Blue Nile and the main Nile in Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan | <a href="#">S/PV.8816</a><br>Peace and security in Africa<br>8 July 2021 |

| Letter addressed to the President of the Council <sup>a</sup>                                                                                                                | Summary                                                                                                                                                             | Meeting convened (item and date)                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Letter dated 25 June 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2021/607</a> ) | Calling upon the Council to convene an urgent session on the question of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa” | <a href="#">S/PV.8816</a><br>Peace and security in Africa<br>8 July 2021 |

<sup>a</sup> See also [S/2021/600](#), [S/2021/613](#), [S/2021/626](#) and [S/2021/627](#).

### *Complaints raised by Member States concerning the application of rule 3*

During a high-level open videoconference held on 16 May in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question” and the escalation of hostilities in Gaza and Israel that commenced on 10 May,<sup>27</sup> the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence of Ireland expressed strong support for the convening of that meeting, adding that Council members had waited too long to express themselves in an open meeting of the Council. Similarly, the representative of Pakistan expressed regret that the Council had been unable for so long to hold the meeting and take action to halt the Israeli aggression.

In a letter to the President of the Council dated 17 May,<sup>28</sup> the representatives of Angola, the Central African Republic and the Congo to the United Nations recalled the note verbale dated 19 February from the Permanent Mission of Angola by which the latter had requested the Council to convene a special meeting on the Great Lakes region during the presidency of the United Kingdom, to which no response had been received. The representatives reiterated that it was urgent and essential for the President to convene a virtual special meeting with the Heads of State of Angola and the Congo to address all issues related to the political and security situation in the Central African Republic.

## **2. Format**

### *Public meetings*

The Council continued to meet in public, as provided for in rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, mainly for the purposes of: (a) hearing briefings on country-specific, regional situations or thematic issues under its consideration; (b) holding

debates on particular items;<sup>29</sup> and (c) adopting decisions.<sup>30</sup> With the easing of restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, starting in May 2021, the Council progressively returned to in-person activities, resulting in a significant increase in the number of formal meetings and corresponding decrease in videoconferences compared with 2020. In 2021, the Council held a total of 164 meetings, of which 150, or 91.5 per cent, were public, compared with 81 meetings, of which 79, or 97.5 per cent, were public, in 2020. Council members also held 147 videoconferences, of which 90, or 61.2 per cent, were open, in 2021, compared with 269 videoconferences, of which 143, or 53.2 per cent, were open, in 2020.<sup>31</sup>

During the period under review, Council members held 12 meetings and 17 videoconferences at which two or more Council members were represented at the ministerial or higher levels. A total of 22 of those meetings and videoconferences were held in connection with thematic items, and three in connection with regional and country-specific situations. In 2021, the Council held 11 videoconferences and one meeting at which more than half of the Council members were represented at the ministerial or higher levels. On 7 May, Council members held an open videoconference in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” on upholding multilateralism and the United Nations-centred international system, at which all Council members were represented at the ministerial level.<sup>32</sup> In addition, the Council held four meetings and nine videoconferences at

<sup>29</sup> In 2021, the Council continued the practice of holding meetings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., with resumptions in the case of several open debates (see [S/PV.8886](#), [S/PV.8886 \(Resumption 1\)](#), [S/PV.8900](#), [S/PV.8900 \(Resumption 1\)](#), [S/PV.8906](#), [S/PV.8906 \(Resumption 1\)](#), [S/PV.8909](#), [S/PV.8909 \(Resumption 1\)](#), [S/PV.8923](#) and [S/PV.8923 \(Resumption 1\)](#)).

<sup>30</sup> On the formats of public meetings, see also [S/2017/507](#), annex, sect. II.C.1.

<sup>31</sup> For more information on the features of open and closed videoconferences of the Council, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. I.B. For a list of all videoconferences held by the Council in 2021, see annex, table A.1, below.

<sup>32</sup> See [S/2021/456](#).

<sup>27</sup> See [S/2021/480](#).

<sup>28</sup> [S/2021/491](#).

which one or more Council members were represented at the level of Head of State or Government. All four meetings and six of the nine videoconferences were presided over by Heads of State or Government.

Table 3 below lists all high-level meetings and videoconferences held in 2021 at which two or more Council members were represented at the ministerial or higher levels.

Table 3  
**High-level meetings and videoconferences**

| <i>Meeting or videoconference record and date</i> | <i>Item</i>                                                          | <i>Sub-item/topic</i>                                                                                                  | <i>High-level participation</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/2021/24</a><br>6 January 2021       | Maintenance of international peace and security                      | Challenges of maintaining peace and security in fragile contexts                                                       | <p><b>Heads of State or Government (4)</b></p> <p><b>Kenya</b> (President), <b>Niger</b> (President), <b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b> (Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Tunisia</b> (President)</p> <p><b>Ministerial level (7)</b></p> <p><b>France</b> (Minister of State for Tourism, French Nationals Abroad and Francophonie), <b>India</b> (Foreign Secretary), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister of State for the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs), <b>Mexico</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Norway</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>United Kingdom</b> (Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa), <b>Viet Nam</b> (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs)</p> |
| <a href="#">S/2021/48</a><br>12 January 2021      | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts | International cooperation in combating terrorism 20 years after the adoption of resolution <a href="#">1373 (2001)</a> | <p><b>Ministerial level (8)</b></p> <p><b>Estonia</b> (Minister of Defence), <b>India</b> (Minister for External Affairs), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), <b>Kenya</b> (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs), <b>Norway</b> (Minister of Justice and Public Security), <b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b> (Minister of State with responsibility for Foreign Affairs), <b>Tunisia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>United Kingdom</b> (Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <a href="#">S/2021/91</a><br>26 January 2021      | The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question | —                                                                                                                      | <p><b>Heads of State or Government (1)</b></p> <p><b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b> (Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs)</p> <p><b>Ministerial level (6)</b></p> <p><b>Estonia</b> (Deputy Minister of State for Foreign Affairs), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), <b>Mexico</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Norway</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Russian Federation</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Tunisia</b> (Minister of State for Foreign Affairs)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <a href="#">S/2021/157</a><br>17 February 2021    | Maintenance of international peace and security                      | Implementation of resolution <a href="#">2532 (2020)</a>                                                               | <p><b>Heads of State or Government (1)</b></p> <p><b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b> (Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs)</p> <p><b>Ministerial level (12)</b></p> <p><b>China</b> (State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Estonia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>France</b> (Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness), <b>India</b> (Minister for External Affairs), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), <b>Kenya</b> (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs),</p>                                                                                                                                                                                          |

Meeting or  
videoconference record  
and date

Item

Sub-item/topic

High-level participation

|                                                        |                                                        |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                        |                                                        |                                                                                     | <p><b>Mexico</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Norway</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Tunisia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad), <b>United Kingdom</b> (Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs), <b>United States</b> (Secretary of State), <b>Viet Nam</b> (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><a href="#">S/2021/198</a><br/>23 February 2021</p> | <p>Maintenance of international peace and security</p> | <p>Climate and security</p>                                                         | <p><b>Heads of State or Government (9)</b></p> <p><b>Estonia</b> (Prime Minister), <b>France</b> (President), <b>Kenya</b> (President), <b>Niger</b> (Prime Minister), <b>Norway</b> (Prime Minister), <b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b> (Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Tunisia</b> (President), <b>United Kingdom</b> (Prime Minister), <b>Viet Nam</b> (Prime Minister)</p> <p><b>Ministerial level (5)</b></p> <p><b>China</b> (Special Envoy for Climate Change), <b>India</b> (Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), <b>Mexico</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>United States</b> (Special Presidential Envoy for Climate)</p> |
| <p><a href="#">S/2021/250</a><br/>11 March 2021</p>    | <p>Maintenance of international peace and security</p> | <p>Conflict and food security</p>                                                   | <p><b>Ministerial level (7)</b></p> <p><b>Estonia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), <b>Kenya</b> (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs), <b>Norway</b> (Minister for International Development), <b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b> (Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour), <b>United Kingdom</b> (Minister of State for the Commonwealth, the United Nations and South Asia), <b>United States</b> (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet)</p>                                                                                                                              |
| <p><a href="#">S/2021/315</a><br/>29 March 2021</p>    | <p>The situation in the Middle East</p>                | <p>–</p>                                                                            | <p><b>Ministerial level (6)</b></p> <p><b>Estonia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), <b>Norway</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Russian Federation</b> (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Tunisia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad), <b>United States</b> (Secretary of State)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><a href="#">S/2021/346</a><br/>8 April 2021</p>     | <p>Maintenance of international peace and security</p> | <p>Mine action and sustaining peace – stronger partnerships for better delivery</p> | <p><b>Ministerial level (9)</b></p> <p><b>Estonia</b> (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>India</b> (Vice-Minister and Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), <b>Kenya</b> (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs), <b>Norway</b> (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b> (Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade), <b>Tunisia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad), <b>United States</b> (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet), <b>Viet Nam</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs)</p>                               |



Meeting or  
videoconference record  
and date

Item

Sub-item/topic

High-level participation

[S/2021/394](#)  
19 April 2021

Cooperation  
between the  
United Nations  
and regional and  
subregional  
organizations in  
maintaining  
international  
peace and  
security

—

**Heads of State or Government (4)**

**Estonia** (President), **Kenya** (President), **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** (Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Viet Nam** (President)

**Ministerial level (8)**

**China** (Special Representative of the President, State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs), **India** (Minister for External Affairs), **Ireland** (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), **Mexico** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Norway** (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Tunisia** (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad), **United Kingdom** (Minister of State for the Commonwealth, the United Nations and South Asia), **United States** (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet)

[S/2021/415](#)  
27 April 2021

Protection of  
civilians in  
armed conflict

Indispensable  
civilian objects

**Ministerial level (7)**

**Estonia** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Ireland** (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), **Norway** (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Russian Federation** (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** (Minister of State with responsibility for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade), **United States** (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet), **Viet Nam** (Minister for Foreign Affairs)

[S/2021/456](#)  
7 May 2021

Maintenance of  
international  
peace and  
security

Upholding  
multilateralism  
and the United  
Nations-centred  
international  
system

**Heads of State or Government (1)**

**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** (Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs)

**Ministerial level (14)**

**China** (State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Estonia** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **France** (Minister of State for Tourism, French Nationals Abroad and Francophonie), **India** (Foreign Secretary), **Ireland** (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), **Kenya** (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs), **Mexico** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Niger** (Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation), **Norway** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Russian Federation** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Tunisia** (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad), **United Kingdom** (Minister of State for the Commonwealth, the United Nations and South Asia), **United States** (Secretary of State), **Viet Nam** (Minister for Foreign Affairs)

[S/2021/480](#)  
16 May 2021

The situation in  
the Middle East,  
including the  
Palestinian  
question

—

**Ministerial level (6)**

**China** (State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Ireland** (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), **Norway** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Russian Federation** (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Tunisia** (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad), **United States** (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet)



# Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2021

| <i>Meeting or<br/>videoconference record<br/>and date</i> | <i>Item</i>                                     | <i>Sub-item/topic</i>                                                               | <i>High-level participation</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/2021/490</a><br>19 May 2021                 | Peace and security in Africa                    | Addressing root causes of conflict while promoting post-pandemic recovery in Africa | <b>Ministerial level (11)</b><br><br><b>China</b> (State Councillor and Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Estonia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>France</b> (Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs), <b>India</b> (Minister for External Affairs), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), <b>Kenya</b> (Cabinet Secretary for Health), <b>Norway</b> (Minister of International Development), <b>Tunisia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad), <b>United Kingdom</b> (Minister for Africa at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office), <b>United States</b> (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet), <b>Viet Nam</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs) |
| <a href="#">S/2021/601</a><br>22 June 2021                | The situation in Afghanistan                    | –                                                                                   | <b>Ministerial level (6)</b><br><br><b>Estonia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>India</b> (Minister for External Affairs), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence), <b>Norway</b> (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>United Kingdom</b> (Minister of State for the Commonwealth, the United Nations and South Asia), <b>United States</b> (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <a href="#">S/2021/617</a><br>28 June 2021                | Children and armed conflict                     | –                                                                                   | <b>Heads of State or Government (3)</b><br><br><b>Estonia</b> (President), <b>Ireland</b> (President), <b>Niger</b> (President)<br><br><b>Ministerial level (6)</b><br><br><b>India</b> (Foreign Secretary), <b>Norway</b> (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b> (Minister of State with responsibility for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade), <b>United Kingdom</b> (Minister of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office), <b>United States</b> (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet), <b>Viet Nam</b> (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs)                                                                                                              |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8820</a><br>15 July 2021                 | The situation in Libya                          | –                                                                                   | <b>Ministerial level (5)</b><br><br><b>France</b> (Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs), <b>India</b> (Foreign Secretary), <b>Kenya</b> (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs), <b>Tunisia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad), <b>United States</b> (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8822</a><br>16 July 2021                 | Protection of civilians in armed conflict       | Preserving humanitarian space                                                       | <b>Ministerial level (6)</b><br><br><b>France</b> (Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs), <b>India</b> (Foreign Secretary), <b>Kenya</b> (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs), <b>Mexico</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>Tunisia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad), <b>United States</b> (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <a href="#">S/2021/722</a><br>9 August 2021               | Maintenance of international peace and security | Maritime security                                                                   | <b>Head of State or Government (4)</b><br><br><b>India</b> (Prime Minister), <b>Kenya</b> (President), <b>Russian Federation</b> (President), <b>Viet Nam</b> (Prime Minister)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

Meeting or  
videoconference record  
and date

Item

Sub-item/topic

High-level participation

**Ministerial level (9)**

**Estonia** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **France** (Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs), **Ireland** (Minister for Transport and Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications), **Mexico** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Niger** (Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation), **Norway** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** (Minister of Finance and Economic Planning), **United Kingdom** (Secretary of State for Defence), **United States** (Secretary of State)

[S/PV.8838](#)  
18 August 2021

United Nations  
peacekeeping  
operations

Protecting the  
protectors:  
technology and  
peacekeeping

**Ministerial level (3)**

**Estonia** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **India** (Minister for External Affairs), **United States** (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet)

[S/PV.8839](#)  
19 August 2021

Threats to  
international  
peace and  
security caused  
by terrorist acts

–

**Ministerial level (2)**

**India** (Minister for External Affairs), **United States** (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet)

[S/PV.8864](#)  
23 September 2021

Maintenance of  
international  
peace and  
security

Climate and  
security

**Head of State or Government (3)**

**Estonia** (President), **Ireland** (Taoiseach), **Viet Nam** (President)

**Ministerial level (9)**

**France** (Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs), **India** (Vice-Minister, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs), **Kenya** (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs), **Mexico** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Niger** (Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation), **Norway** (Minister for Foreign Affairs), **Tunisia** (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad), **United Kingdom** (Minister of State for the Commonwealth and Development, the United Nations and South Asia), **United States** (Secretary of State)

[S/PV.8865](#)  
27 September 2021

Non-proliferation  
of weapons of  
mass destruction

Comprehensive  
Nuclear-Test-  
Ban Treaty

**Ministerial level (3)**

**Estonia** (Deputy Foreign Minister), **India** (Foreign Secretary), **Ireland** (Minister of State for European Affairs)

[S/PV.8877](#)  
12 October 2021

Peacebuilding  
and sustaining  
peace

Diversity, State-  
building and the  
search for peace

**Head of State or Government (1)**

**Kenya** (President)

**Ministerial level (2)**

**India** (Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs), **United States** (Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet)

[S/PV.8884](#)  
20 October 2021

The situation in  
the Great Lakes  
region

–

**Ministerial level (2)**

**Ireland** (Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora), **Kenya** (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs)

| <i>Meeting or<br/>videoconference record<br/>and date</i>                                        | <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                                                  | <i>Sub-item/topic</i>                                                                 | <i>High-level participation</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/PV.8886</a> and<br><a href="#">S/PV.8886</a><br>(Resumption 1)<br>21 October 2021  | Women and<br>peace and<br>security                                                                                                                           | –                                                                                     | <b>Ministerial level (4)</b><br><br><b>Ireland</b> (Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and<br>Diaspora), <b>Kenya</b> (Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of<br>Kenya), <b>United Kingdom</b> (Minister of State at the Foreign,<br>Commonwealth and Development Office and Prime Minister’s<br>Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in<br>Conflict), <b>United States</b> (Permanent Representative to the United<br>Nations and member of the President’s Cabinet)                                                                                                                          |
| <a href="#">S/2021/941</a><br>28 October 2021                                                    | Cooperation<br>between the<br>United Nations<br>and regional and<br>subregional<br>organizations in<br>maintaining<br>international<br>peace and<br>security | –                                                                                     | <b>Head of State or Government (5)</b><br><br><b>Kenya</b> (President), <b>Norway</b> (Prime Minister), <b>Saint Vincent and<br/>the Grenadines</b> (Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs,<br>National Security, Legal Affairs and Information), <b>Tunisia</b><br>(President), <b>Viet Nam</b> (President)<br><br><b>Ministerial level (4)</b><br><br><b>Estonia</b> (Deputy Foreign Minister), <b>India</b> (Minister for External<br>Affairs), <b>Ireland</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence),<br><b>United Kingdom</b> (Minister for Africa at the Foreign,<br>Commonwealth and Development Office) |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8900</a> and<br><a href="#">S/PV.8900</a><br>(Resumption 1)<br>9 November 2021  | Maintenance of<br>international<br>peace and<br>security                                                                                                     | Exclusion,<br>inequality and<br>conflict                                              | <b>Head of State or Government (1)</b><br><br><b>Mexico</b> (President)<br><br><b>Ministerial level (3)</b><br><br><b>Estonia</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs), <b>India</b> (Minister of State<br>for External Affairs), <b>United States</b> (Permanent Representative to<br>the United Nations and member of the President’s Cabinet)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8909</a> and<br><a href="#">S/PV.8909</a><br>(Resumption 1)<br>22 November 2021 | Small arms                                                                                                                                                   | The impact of<br>the diversion and<br>trafficking of<br>arms on peace<br>and security | <b>Ministerial level (2)</b><br><br><b>India</b> (Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa Division and<br>Overseas Indian Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs), <b>Mexico</b><br>(Secretary for Foreign Affairs)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8923</a> and<br><a href="#">S/PV.8923</a><br>(Resumption 1)<br>9 December 2021  | Maintenance of<br>international<br>peace and<br>security                                                                                                     | Security in the<br>context of<br>terrorism and<br>climate change                      | <b>Heads of State or Government (2)</b><br><br><b>Estonia</b> (President), <b>Niger</b> (President)<br><br><b>Ministerial level (1)</b><br><br><b>United States</b> (Permanent Representative to the United Nations<br>and member of the President’s Cabinet)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

#### *Private meetings*

During the period under review, the Council continued to hold meetings in private, in accordance with rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure. Private meetings continued to constitute a small percentage of all Council meetings, with 14 private meetings of a total of 164 meetings (8.5 per cent) held in 2021 (see figure II).<sup>33</sup>

As indicated in table 4 below, eight of those meetings were held with troop- and police-contributing countries 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”. In 2021, Council members also held two closed videoconferences with troop- and police-contributing countries.

<sup>33</sup> On the formats of private meetings, see also [S/2017/507](#), annex, sect. II.C.2.

Figure II  
Public and private meetings, 2021

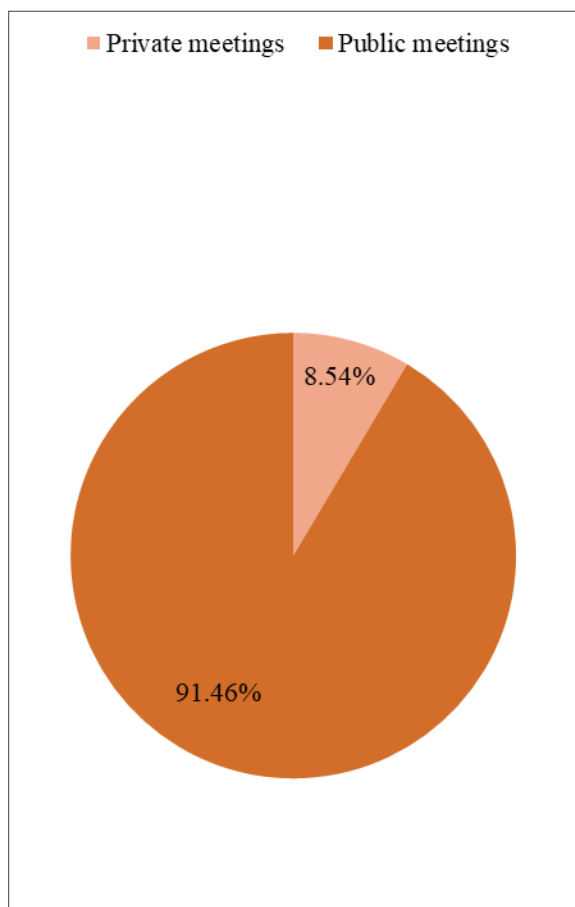


Figure III  
Items discussed at private meetings, 2021

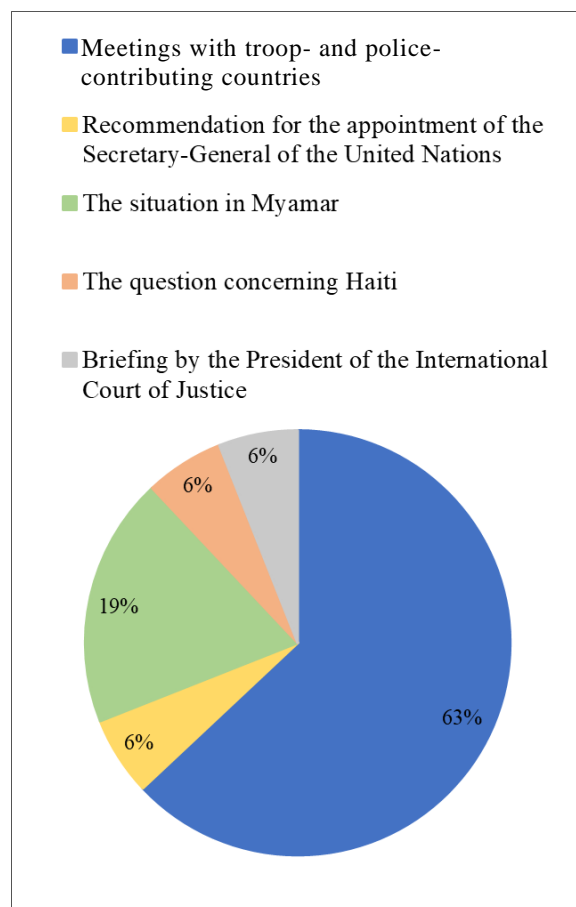


Table 4  
Private meetings

| Item                                                                                                                                                              | Meeting record and date                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1353 (2001)</a> , annex II, sections A and B | <a href="#">S/PV.8788</a> , 7 June 2021<br><a href="#">S/PV.8793</a> , 10 June 2021<br><a href="#">S/PV.8821</a> , 15 July 2021<br><a href="#">S/PV.8832</a> , 6 August 2021<br><a href="#">S/PV.8876</a> , 11 October 2021<br><a href="#">S/PV.8895</a> , 3 November 2021<br><a href="#">S/PV.8916</a> , 3 December 2021<br><a href="#">S/PV.8920</a> , 7 December 2021 |
| The question concerning Haiti                                                                                                                                     | <a href="#">S/PV.8815</a> , 8 July 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| The situation in Myanmar                                                                                                                                          | <a href="#">S/PV.8800</a> , 18 June 2021<br><a href="#">S/PV.8835</a> , 17 August 2021<br><a href="#">S/PV.8898</a> , 8 November 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Item                                                                              | Meeting record and date                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations | <a href="#">S/PV.8789</a> , 8 June 2021     |
| Briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice                   | <a href="#">S/PV.8894</a> , 2 November 2021 |

## B. Informal consultations of the whole

Informal consultations of the whole are not official meetings of the Council. The members gather in private for the purpose of holding discussions and receiving briefings from the Secretariat and representatives of the Secretary-General. These meetings are normally held in the Consultations Room, adjacent to the Security Council Chamber. During the period under review, Council members also held virtual informal consultations by means of closed videoconferences.<sup>34</sup> With the progressive easing of health and safety restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, they resumed holding in-person informal consultations as from 25 May 2021 in the Security Council Chamber, followed by the alternative use of both the Chamber and the Consultations room from 15 November 2021. Frequently, informal consultations or closed videoconferences continued to be held immediately after public meetings or open videoconferences, respectively. In 2021, Council members held 67 informal consultations, compared with 46 in 2020, 135 in 2019 and 120 in 2018 (see figure I).

Pursuant to the Council's established practice, no official records of informal consultations were issued and non-members were not invited.<sup>35</sup> In accordance with the working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual discussions announced as closed videoconferences did not include the participation of non-members and no written statements were published.<sup>36</sup> Frequently, however, statements to the press were issued or elements to the press were read out by the President of the Council after informal consultations or closed videoconferences.

<sup>34</sup> For more information on the working methods adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, see sect. I above and *Repertoire*, 2020, part II, sect. I.

<sup>35</sup> According to the note by the President of 30 August 2017, newly elected members of the Council are invited to observe all meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and the informal consultations of the whole for a period of three months, as from 1 October immediately preceding their term of membership ([S/2017/507](#), annex, para. 140).

<sup>36</sup> See [S/2020/253](#) and [S/2020/372](#).

## C. Other informal meetings of the members of the Security Council

During the period under review, Council members continued to hold informal interactive dialogues and Arria-formula meetings.<sup>37</sup> Informal interactive dialogues and Arria-formula meetings are convened at the initiative of one or more members of the Council. These dialogues are convened with the participation of all Council members, while Arria-formula meetings are convened with the participation of all or some Council members. While the dialogues are presided over by the President of the Council, Arria-formula meetings are not. Frequently, the member or one of the members of the Council convening the Arria-formula meeting also chair it. Neither of the two types of meetings are considered formal meetings of the Council. They are not announced in the *Journal of the United Nations* or in the Council's programme of work, and no official records are prepared. Invitees to informal interactive dialogues and Arria-formula meetings include Member States, relevant organizations and individuals. In the past, Arria-formula meetings were closed to the public; more recently, however, they have been open and broadcast. Informal interactive dialogues are not open to the public or broadcast. In 2021, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council held informal interactive dialogues and Arria-formula meetings both in person and by videoconference.

### *Informal interactive dialogues*

According to the note by the President dated 30 August 2017, when it deems it appropriate, the Council may use informal dialogues to seek the views of Member States that are parties to a conflict and/or other interested and affected parties.<sup>38</sup> During the period under review, the Council held seven such dialogues, including four by videoconference.<sup>39</sup> Six

<sup>37</sup> For more information on informal interactive dialogues and Arria-formula meetings, see [S/2017/507](#), annex, paras. 92, 95 and 97–99.

<sup>38</sup> [S/2017/507](#), annex, para. 92.

<sup>39</sup> For information on the evolution of informal interactive dialogues, see *Repertoire, Supplements 2008–2009 to 2020*.

informal interactive dialogues held in 2021 concerned country-specific or regional situations, while one was on a thematic issue related to cooperation between the

United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security, as shown in table 5.

Table 5  
**Informal interactive dialogues**

| <i>Date</i>                    | <i>Subject</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <i>Participants (including non-members of the Council)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20 January 2021                | The situation in Somalia: electoral developments in Somalia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | All Council members, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 14 April 2021                  | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan: Darfur                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | All Council members, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and Head of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan, Sudan                                                                                                  |
| 20 April 2021                  | The situation in Somalia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | All Council members, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Managing Director of the European External Action Service, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia |
| 29 April 2021 <sup>a</sup>     | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | All Council members, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), UNSMIL Mission Coordinator                                                                                                               |
| 28 May 2021                    | The situation in Libya: European Union military operation in the Mediterranean                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | All Council members                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 15 June 2021 <sup>a</sup>      | Peace and security in Africa: Ethiopia/Tigray                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | All Council members, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia, Commissioner for the National Disaster Risk Management Commission of Ethiopia     |
| 22 September 2021 <sup>a</sup> | Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security: high-level informal interactive dialogue with the troika of the summit of the League of Arab States (Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia) as encouraged in presidential statement <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/2</a> | All Council members, Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia                                               |

<sup>a</sup> Held in person.

#### *Arria-formula meetings*

As provided for in the note by the President dated 30 August 2017, Arria-formula meetings are used by members of the Council as a flexible and informal forum for enhancing their deliberations and contact with civil society and non-governmental organizations.<sup>40</sup> In accordance with the note, Council members may

invite, on an informal basis, any Member State, relevant organization or individual to participate in Arria-formula meetings.

In 2021, Council members held 32 Arria-formula meetings, the highest number since the inception of the format in 1992 and an increase from 22 in both 2019 and 2020. A total of 27 of the Arria-formula meetings were held by videoconference. In terms of publicity, 30 were open (public) and broadcast and 2 were closed

<sup>40</sup> [S/2017/507](#), annex, para. 98.

(private). Of the 30 open meetings, 27 were broadcast on United Nations Web TV, while the other 3 used other platforms.<sup>41</sup> Four of the meetings featured one or more participants at the ministerial or higher levels. In

some instances, Council members and non-Council members transmitted concept notes, summaries and compilations of statements made by participants at those meetings. Arria-formula meetings held during the period under review are listed in table 6.

<sup>41</sup> In 2021, the broadcasting of Arria-formula meetings on United Nations Web TV was agreed by consensus.

Table 6  
Arria-formula meetings

| <i>Date</i>                   | <i>Subject</i>                                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Organizers<sup>a</sup></i>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Summary and/or compilation of statements</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 22 January 2021 <sup>b</sup>  | Media freedom in Belarus <sup>c</sup>                                                                                                                                              | Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States                                                                                 | —                                               |
| 29 January 2021 <sup>b</sup>  | Children and armed conflict, repatriation of children from conflict zones: from camps to homes, call for action                                                                    | Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict                                                                                                                          | <a href="#">S/2021/192</a>                      |
| 24 February 2021 <sup>b</sup> | Upholding the collective security system of the Charter of the United Nations: the use of force in international law, non-State actors and legitimate self-defence                 | Mexico                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <a href="#">S/2021/247</a>                      |
| 8 March 2021 <sup>b</sup>     | Call to lead by example: ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in United Nations-led peace processes                                                      | Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam                                                                                               | <a href="#">S/2021/356</a>                      |
| 12 March 2021 <sup>b</sup>    | Crimea: seven years of violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine <sup>c</sup>                                                                             | Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States | —                                               |
| 17 March 2021 <sup>b</sup>    | Follow-up to the Arria-formula discussion of 12 March 2021 on the situation in Crimea                                                                                              | Russian Federation                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <a href="#">S/2021/397</a>                      |
| 19 March 2021 <sup>b</sup>    | Religion, belief and conflict: advancing the protection of members of religious and belief groups in conflict and the role of religious actors in conflict resolution <sup>c</sup> | Estonia, Norway, United Kingdom, United States                                                                                                                                                                                           | <a href="#">S/2021/318</a>                      |
| 26 March 2021 <sup>b</sup>    | Protecting the peacekeeper: suppressing the deployment of improvised explosive devices against peace operations                                                                    | Belgium, China, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam                               | <a href="#">S/2021/411</a>                      |
| 9 April 2021 <sup>b</sup>     | The situation in Myanmar                                                                                                                                                           | Estonia, France, Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom, United States                                                                                                                                                                          | —                                               |



| <i>Date</i>                    | <i>Subject</i>                                                                                                                                              | <i>Organizers<sup>a</sup></i>                                                                                                                                                                         | <i>Summary and/or<br/>compilation of<br/>statements</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 April 2021 <sup>b</sup>     | Protection of developing nations against political pressure: upholding the integrity of international non-proliferation regimes                             | Russian Federation                                                                                                                                                                                    | —                                                       |
| 5 May 2021 <sup>b</sup>        | Odessa seven years after: neo-Nazism and violent nationalism as drivers of conflict in Ukraine                                                              | Russian Federation                                                                                                                                                                                    | —                                                       |
| 7 May 2021 <sup>b</sup>        | Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on violations against children in situations of armed conflict                                                              | Belgium, Canada, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam                                  | <a href="#">S/2021/591</a>                              |
| 12 May 2021                    | Delivering accountability through innovation and partnership: harnessing technology to deliver justice for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide | Iraq, Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States                                                                                                                                | —                                                       |
| 17 May 2021 <sup>b</sup>       | Impact of emerging technologies on international peace and security                                                                                         | China, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, United Arab Emirates                                                                                                                                       | <a href="#">S/2021/531</a>                              |
| 2 June 2021 <sup>b</sup>       | Circumstances of Maidan and its after-effects in Donbass                                                                                                    | Russian Federation                                                                                                                                                                                    | <a href="#">S/2021/690</a>                              |
| 2 June 2021                    | Strengthening an integrated approach to peace and security in the Sahel through a gendered lens: launch of the Group of Friends of Women of the Sahel       | Chad, Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam, African Union, European Union     | —                                                       |
| 16 June 2021 <sup>b</sup>      | The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism                                         | Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Viet Nam                                                                                   | —                                                       |
| 18 June 2021 <sup>b</sup>      | Addressing the impact of the departure of foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya on the Sahel region                                                   | Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad (as Chair of Group of Five for the Sahel), Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Libya, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Tunisia, African Union | —                                                       |
| 28 July 2021 <sup>b</sup>      | Preventing terrorism and violent extremism through tackling gender stereotypes, masculinities and structural gender inequality                              | Estonia, Mexico, Norway, United Kingdom, United States                                                                                                                                                | <a href="#">S/2021/717</a>                              |
| 29 July 2021 <sup>b</sup>      | Myanmar: crisis, conflict and COVID-19 – where are we now?                                                                                                  | United Kingdom                                                                                                                                                                                        | —                                                       |
| 11 August 2021 <sup>b</sup>    | Humanitarian action: overcoming challenges in situations of armed conflict and counter-terrorism operations                                                 | Kenya                                                                                                                                                                                                 | —                                                       |
| 16 September 2021 <sup>b</sup> | The threat to international peace and security posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons                                                   | Mexico                                                                                                                                                                                                | —                                                       |



# Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2021

| <i>Date</i>                   | <i>Subject</i>                                                                                                                                             | <i>Organizers<sup>a</sup></i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <i>Summary and/or<br/>compilation of<br/>statements</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 October 2021 <sup>b</sup>   | The situation in Belarus <sup>c</sup>                                                                                                                      | Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States | —                                                       |
| 15 October 2021 <sup>b</sup>  | Beyond the inconvenient truths about underdevelopment in Haiti: seeking pan-African solutions/pathways and supporting national dialogue and reconciliation | Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States                   | <a href="#">S/2022/44</a>                               |
| 18 October 2021               | Sea level rise and implications for international peace and security                                                                                       | Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, France, Germany, Guyana, Ireland, Kenya, Malta, Mauritius, Netherlands, Niger, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam                                                                                         | —                                                       |
| 28 October 2021 <sup>b</sup>  | Addressing and countering hate speech and preventing incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence on social media (closed)                         | Kenya, Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | —                                                       |
| 15 November 2021 <sup>b</sup> | Closing the protection gap for widows in conflict and post-conflict settings                                                                               | Estonia, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Viet Nam, African Union and European Union, as Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Women of the Sahel                                                                                                            | —                                                       |
| 29 November 2021              | Accountability in the Syrian Arab Republic                                                                                                                 | Belgium, Canada, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Qatar, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States                                                                                                                                                                                       | <a href="#">S/2021/1112</a>                             |
| 3 December 2021 <sup>b</sup>  | Addressing challenges of children without parental care in conflict settings                                                                               | Malta, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United States, Viet Nam                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | —                                                       |
| 6 December 2021               | Protection of education in conflict                                                                                                                        | Niger, Norway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | —                                                       |
| 20 December 2021 <sup>b</sup> | Preventing civilian impact of malicious cyberactivities (closed)                                                                                           | Estonia, United Kingdom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | —                                                       |
| 22 December 2021 <sup>b</sup> | Situation with national minorities and the glorification of Nazism in the Baltic and Black Sea regions                                                     | Russian Federation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | —                                                       |

<sup>a</sup> The term “organizers” refers to Council members, Member States and entities involved in organizing, sponsoring or hosting the meetings in accordance with concept notes.

<sup>b</sup> Held by videoconference.

<sup>c</sup> High-level meeting.

### *Other informal meetings*

Following the practice started in 2007, the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held their sixth informal joint seminar and fifteenth annual joint consultative meeting, which were conducted by videoconference on 16 and 17 December, respectively.<sup>42</sup> Furthermore, on 18 May, Council members held an in-person informal dialogue with the incumbent Secretary-General to discuss his candidacy to be reappointed for a second term (2022–2026).<sup>43</sup> Council members further continued to hold “sofa talks” at the level of permanent representatives, a practice initiated in 2019 for Council members to raise issues of concern to international peace and security in an informal setting.<sup>44</sup>

## **D. Discussions concerning meetings**

During the period under review, questions pertaining to meetings and videoconferences were raised by the representatives of New Zealand and Switzerland, writing on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, in a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 8 February.<sup>45</sup> While congratulating the Council and the successive presidencies since March 2020 for ensuring business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic and adapting the working methods while ensuring minimum standards of transparency and inclusion, the Group encouraged the Council to revisit and continue to improve upon the adaptations it had made thus far. In that regard, they invited the Council, among other measures, to decide that virtual meetings were formal meetings, to include them in the Council’s programme of work and the *Journal of the United Nations*, to have the Secretariat apply normal record-keeping and to make available to the wider membership in a timely manner any documents agreed to by the Council regarding the adaptation of the working methods in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, in another letter also dated 8 February,<sup>46</sup> the representative of Finland transmitted the report of the eighteenth annual workshop for newly elected

members of the Council, which had been held on 12 and 13 November 2020. It was noted in the report that workshop participants had discussed, among other topics, the format of meetings and other activities of the Council, its impact on its transparency and efficiency and the use of videoconferences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council members and the wider membership also discussed issues pertaining to the format of meetings and other forms of informal gatherings during the annual open debate on the working methods of the Council, held on 16 June under the item entitled “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)” (see case 1).

### **Case 1**

#### **Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)**

On 16 June, at the joint initiative of Estonia, which held the presidency of the Security Council for the month, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Permanent Representative of which chaired the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, the Council convened an open debate under the item “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)” and the sub-item “Working methods of the Security Council”.<sup>47</sup> According to the related concept note circulated ahead of the meeting,<sup>48</sup> the theme of the open debate was “Agility and innovation: lessons for the future from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”. Members and non-members of the Council exchanged views on how to ensure agility in the work of the Council and the lessons learned from the working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also discussed how the format of meetings and other activities of the Council had an impact on its efficiency, effectiveness and transparency and the evolving nature of Arria-formula meetings.

Reflecting on the advantages and disadvantages of the working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, several delegations stressed the need for videoconferences to be considered formal meetings of the Council to which the provisional rules of procedure of the Council would apply.<sup>49</sup> In that regard, the representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the elected members of the Council, stated that

<sup>42</sup> See A/76/2. For information on prior practice concerning the informal joint meetings of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2008–2009 to 2020*. For more information on cooperation with regional and subregional organizations pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter, see part VIII.

<sup>43</sup> See S/2021/683.

<sup>44</sup> See *Repertoire, Supplement 2019*, part II, sect. I.C.

<sup>45</sup> S/2021/121.

<sup>46</sup> S/2021/130.

<sup>47</sup> See S/PV.8798 and S/2021/572.

<sup>48</sup> S/2021/527, annex.

<sup>49</sup> See S/PV.8798 (Kenya, United Kingdom and United States); and S/2021/572 (Austria, New Zealand (on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council) and Republic of Korea).

formalization would allow for the participation of non-members of the Council, the possibility to vote in real time on procedural and substantive matters, provide fully for multilingualism and ensure the attendant record-keeping rather than developing temporary special measures.<sup>50</sup> Expressing concern that the virtual discussions did not have the status of actual meetings of the Council, as a result of which its provisional rules of procedure did not apply, the representative of the United States noted that, for almost a year and a half, the Council had effectively been unable to take any votes on procedural decisions, even when the vast majority of Council members might have supported the decisions in question. He added that the Council should be able to adopt a procedural decision establishing that virtual meetings were indeed meetings of the Council and that its provisional rules of procedure applied to them. According to the representative of the United Kingdom, without the procedural mechanisms for the resolution of disagreements, the Council had at times been unable to discuss new or existing items more substantively or to bring visibility and attention to issues in the open when needed.

Offering a different perspective, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that the videoconference format worked only on a temporary basis and under extraordinary circumstances. According to the representative, as agreed when it was introduced, meetings held in the videoconference format could not be considered formal meetings procedurally, legally or logically. He added that the Council could continue to use videoconferences to convene informal meetings. Similarly, the representative of Cuba underscored the transitory nature of the working methods, which in no way constituted a precedent for the future work of the Council, as they only responded to the exceptional circumstances imposed by the health situation.<sup>51</sup> The representative of France argued that, with the return to the Security Council Chamber, the Council also had to return to its usual working methods, in particular putting an end to virtual meetings.<sup>52</sup>

More generally, multiple delegations called for a continuation of the use of videoconferences and other technological advancements in the Council beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>53</sup> The representative of Kenya said that it was important for the Council to reflect on

those working methods and formalize those that could continue to enhance its work.<sup>54</sup> Similarly, the delegation of Switzerland, in a statement submitted on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, saw great merit in considering the current crisis as a positive opportunity to make permanent some recent adaptations, provided that they reinforced the transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the Council under normal circumstances.<sup>55</sup> The representative of Liechtenstein said that the Council had to retain the improvements in its working methods while ensuring that it did not roll back on pre-COVID-19 standards in areas where pandemic-induced progress had not been so forthcoming.

Several participants stressed the need to develop contingency plans for future extraordinary circumstances based on the new working methods.<sup>56</sup> The representative of Cyprus encouraged the Council to codify its default reaction to similar future crises, so as to have a ready set of working methods to fall back on if it was unable to carry out its work through the physical presence of its members.<sup>57</sup> The representative of Japan opined that new rules should be introduced in the Council's working methods to be better prepared for any contingency. The representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, observed that there should be discussions with the Secretariat to draw lessons from the Council's experience during the pandemic and to put in place adequate contingency planning for similar future challenges. The delegation of Switzerland, on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, indicated that such planning could be based on, *inter alia*, proposals made by the Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. In contrast, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that there was no need to institutionalize the temporary measures.<sup>58</sup> According to him, in the event of a recurrence of a crisis similar to the pandemic, the Council already had a solution, as set out in the letters from the President of the Council, to which it could always return. The representative of China stated that the new measures had enriched the Council's working methods and that good practices needed to be upheld and carried forward, which would

<sup>50</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>51</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>52</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>53</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#) (Kenya and United Kingdom) and [S/2021/572](#) (Brazil, Liechtenstein, Republic of Korea, Slovakia and United Arab Emirates).

<sup>54</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>55</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>56</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Kenya) and [S/2021/572](#) (Austria, Bahrain, Chile, Cyprus, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand (on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council) and Republic of Korea).

<sup>57</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>58</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

help the Council to cope with future emergencies. Nevertheless, he added that the contingency *modus operandi* was only an interim measure and could not replace normal working modalities.

Members and non-members of the Council also exchanged views about the Council's working methods in general, in particular on the format of meetings and other activities of the Council and their impact on the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of its work. For example, the representative of China stated that the Council should be mindful of both efficiency and transparency and strike a balance between open and closed meetings. On behalf of the elected members of the Council, the representative of Kenya said that a healthy balance, in that regard, was needed to enhance the transparency and visibility of the Council's work and to encourage more interactivity of discussions and consensus-building. The representative of Kuwait suggested that, before deciding on the format of a meeting, the President of the Council could consult with speakers to determine whether they had certain information that they would prefer to convey to Council members confidentially.<sup>59</sup> The representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, encouraged Council members to continue to think creatively about tailoring the format and focus of meetings to secure the best chance of a meaningful outcome from their deliberations.

Several delegations<sup>60</sup> expressed the view that the Council should hold more public meetings and that private meetings and informal consultations of the whole should be exceptions and not the rule. The representative of Austria asserted that, while the merit of private conversations in diplomacy could not be underestimated, inclusion and transparency of the Council towards the wider membership and the public had to be enhanced. The representative of Cyprus stated that maintaining a balance between open and private meetings was an artificial dilemma and that the sole criterion that should guide that decision was necessity, in the sense that all meetings that had no reason to be closed should be open. The representative of Singapore, while recognizing the necessity of closed meetings, argued that Member States had the right to at least know what was being discussed by the Council and when. The representatives of Bahrain, Italy and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines described the annual open debate on the working methods of the Council as

an opportunity for the Council to improve its working methods and listen to the wider membership.<sup>61</sup>

In contrast, the representative of France said that Council members should avoid an excess of public meetings to the detriment of decision-making and that too much time was spent in successively presenting the national positions of Council members and too little working on compromises and joint actions.<sup>62</sup> While acknowledging the importance of public meetings, the representative noted that they tended to polarize positions and that a better balance needed to be found. The representative of the United Kingdom opined that more talking in private than in public contributed to the effectiveness of the Council and that holding lengthy meetings, using prepared statements, without moving issues forward, rarely, if ever, fulfilled the Council's mandate.

Some delegations addressed the issue of transparency in informal consultations and the evolving nature of Arria-formula meetings. The representative of Cuba called for the issuance of minutes of informal consultations.<sup>63</sup> The representatives of New Zealand (on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council), Ukraine and the United Kingdom called for the more frequent use of press elements after informal consultations.<sup>64</sup> The representative of New Zealand also said that Council members should use "any-other-business items" in informal consultations to ensure that emerging threats were addressed in a timely manner.<sup>65</sup> While expressing support for the convening of Arria-formula meetings and informal interactive dialogues, the representative of France stated that the priority of the Council should be to ensure effectiveness on a daily basis and that such meetings should not add to the programme of work at the expense of the time needed to deal with crises.<sup>66</sup> The representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, stated that, in order to retain the original benefit of the Arria-formula meetings, Council members should avoid using them as a platform to influence public opinion rather than to inform Council decisions.<sup>67</sup> The representative encouraged Council members to use the format in a manner not to the detriment of issues on the Council's agenda, as well as to seek a balance between open and closed Arria-formula meetings. The representative of Singapore recalled that Arria-formula meetings were originally envisaged as a

<sup>59</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>60</sup> Austria, Brazil, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Italy, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Ukraine.

<sup>61</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and [S/2021/572](#) (Bahrain and Italy).

<sup>62</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>63</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>64</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#) (United Kingdom) and [S/2021/572](#) (New Zealand and Ukraine).

<sup>65</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>66</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>67</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

platform for the Council to discuss sensitive topics with the benefit of external briefers but noted that recent meetings appeared to have been more divisive than consultative. He added that the opt-out nature of those meetings, together with the recent tendency to publicize them widely in a hyperconnected social media platform, risked creating “echo chambers” that further divided the Council. In a similar vein, the representative of Liechtenstein noted that the use of Arria-formula meetings had increased significantly and sometimes in a manner that was clearly not in keeping with their original purpose, bringing “negative atmospherics” to the Council’s work or providing a forum to a small group of States for promoting narrow political interests and narratives. According to the representative, Arria-formula meetings lent important value to the Council’s work on topics for which a formal meeting was not possible, as well as enhancing the Council’s inclusivity and relevance. The representative of El Salvador stated that Arria-formula meetings provided a platform for dialogue and interaction with actors directly involved in situations that put international peace, security and stability at risk.

## E. Records

During the period under review, verbatim records were issued following each public meeting of the Council, in accordance with rule 49 of the provisional rules of procedure, while communiqués were issued following private meetings, in accordance with rule 55. No questions were raised at Council meetings regarding the application of rules 49 to 57 in connection with the preparation, access to and issuance of verbatim records, communiqués or other documents.

In 2021, as part of the working methods of the Council developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, verbatim records of videoconferences were not published.<sup>68</sup> However, in order to ensure the transparency of videoconferences, the President of the Council continued the practice of circulating, within 48 hours of an open videoconference, a compilation of the interventions of the briefers and the members and participating non-members of the Council who requested the inclusion of their statements in the document of the Council. Furthermore, the records and other information relating to videoconferences continued to be published on the website of the Council, while the webcasts of the statements delivered

during open videoconferences were made publicly available and archived.<sup>69</sup>

On 21 October, following the easing of health and safety restrictions at United Nations Headquarters, the Council held its first open debate in the Security Council Chamber since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the participation of non-Council members.<sup>70</sup> In addition to participating in person, interested non-Council members were able to participate through the submission of written statements.<sup>71</sup> The same approach was followed for open debates that were held thereafter in 2021.<sup>72</sup> Furthermore, on the front page of the verbatim records of all in-person open debates held in 2021, whether with or without the in-person participation of non-Council members, it was indicated that, in accordance with the procedure set out in the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Council,<sup>73</sup> which had been agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the official record of the Council would be supplemented by a compilation of statements submitted by interested non-Council members who were unable to participate in person.<sup>74</sup>

The issue of record-keeping in the context of the remote working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic was also raised by members and non-members of the Council in their discussions. For example, during the annual open debate on the working methods of the Council, held on 16 June under the item entitled “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)”, the representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the elected members of the Council, underscored the need for attendant record-keeping in videoconferences.<sup>75</sup> While expressing appreciation for the availability of videoconference recordings on the website of the Council, the representative of Brazil opined that the absence of formal records of meetings held during the COVID-19 pandemic had hampered access to those discussions.<sup>76</sup> Similarly, the representative of Austria opined that a lack of official records from videoconferences could have unintended long-term consequences.

<sup>69</sup> See S/2020/372.

<sup>70</sup> See S/PV.8886, S/PV.8886 (Resumption 1) and S/2021/886.

<sup>71</sup> See S/2021/939 and S/2021/1013.

<sup>72</sup> See, for example, S/2021/732, S/2021/886, S/2021/935, S/2021/952 and S/2021/1026.

<sup>73</sup> See S/2020/372.

<sup>74</sup> See, for example, S/PV.8798 and S/PV.8886.

<sup>75</sup> See S/PV.8798.

<sup>76</sup> See S/2021/572.

<sup>68</sup> See S/2020/273 and S/2020/372.



### III. Agenda

#### Note

Section III deals with the practice of the Council concerning the agenda, in relation to rules 6 to 12 of its provisional rules of procedure.

#### Rule 6

*The Secretary-General shall immediately bring to the attention of all representatives on the Security Council all communications from States, organs of the United Nations, or the Secretary-General concerning any matter for the consideration of the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.*

#### Rule 7

*The provisional agenda for each meeting of the Security Council shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and approved by the President of the Security Council.*

*Only items which have been brought to the attention of the representatives on the Security Council in accordance with rule 6, items covered by rule 10, or matters which the Security Council had previously decided to defer, may be included in the provisional agenda.*

#### Rule 8

*The provisional agenda for a meeting shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to the representatives on the Security Council at least three days before the meeting, but in urgent circumstances it may be communicated simultaneously with the notice of the meeting.*

#### Rule 9

*The first item of the provisional agenda for each meeting of the Security Council shall be the adoption of the agenda.*

#### Rule 10

*Any item on the agenda of a meeting of the Security Council, consideration of which has not been completed at that meeting, shall, unless the Security Council otherwise decides, automatically be included in the agenda of the next meeting.*

#### Rule 11

*The Secretary-General shall communicate each week to the representatives on the Security Council a summary statement of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration.*

#### Rule 12

*The provisional agenda for each periodic meeting shall be circulated to the members of the Security Council at least twenty-one days before the opening of the meeting. Any subsequent change in or addition to the provisional agenda shall be brought to the notice of the members at least five days before the meeting. The Security Council may, however, in urgent circumstances, make additions to the agenda at any time during a periodic meeting.*

*The provisions of rule 7, paragraph 1, and of rule 9, shall apply also to periodic meetings.*

During the period under review, the Secretary-General continued the practice of distributing communications from States, organs of the United Nations or himself concerning any matter for the consideration of the Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and pursuant to rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council. The Secretary-General also continued to draw up a provisional agenda for each meeting of the Council and to communicate the provisional agenda to the representatives on the Council, in accordance with rules 7 and 8. As provided for in the letters from the President of the Council dated 2 April and 7 May 2020,<sup>77</sup> presidencies worked “in the spirit of the Council’s provisional rules of procedure”, ensuring, inter alia, that the agenda was adopted at the outset of the videoconference, pursuant to rule 9, and that any other relevant rules were observed as a matter of practice, under chapter VI, entitled “Conduct of business”. No periodic meetings were held in 2021, and rule 12 was not applied. The present section is focused on the practice and discussion regarding rules 9 to 11 and is organized under the following three main headings: A. Adoption of the agenda (rule 9); B. Matters of which the Security Council is seized (rules 10 and 11); and C. Discussions concerning the agenda.

<sup>77</sup> [S/2020/273](#) and [S/2020/372](#).

## A. Adoption of the agenda (rule 9)

In accordance with rule 9 of the provisional rules of procedure, the first item of the agenda for each meeting of the Council is the adoption of the agenda.

### *Voting on the adoption of the agenda*

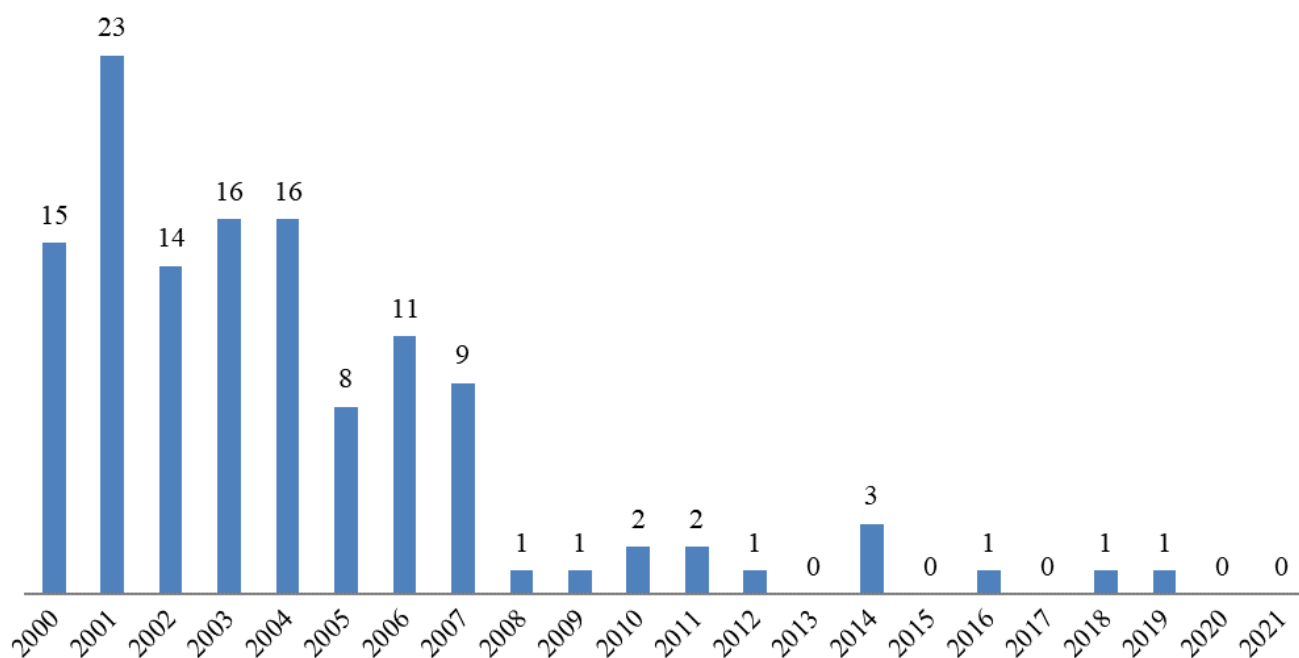
In 2021, no objection was raised to the adoption of the agenda.

### *Newly introduced agenda items*

During the period under review, the Council did not introduce any new items to the list of matters of which it was seized.

From 2000 to 2007, the Council added between 8 and 23 new items every year. Since 2008, however, the number of new items introduced each year has decreased significantly, with no more than three new items introduced in any given year. No new items had been introduced to the list of matters of which the Council was seized since 2019. Figure IV provides information on the number of newly introduced items per year since 2000.

Figure IV  
Number of newly introduced items per year, 2000–2021



### *Consideration of country-specific situations under existing items of a regional nature and region-specific situations under existing thematic items*

During the period under review, the Council continued the practice of using existing items of a regional nature for the consideration of evolving country-specific situations. For example, Council members continued to consider the situations in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen under the items entitled “The situation in the Middle East” and “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”.<sup>78</sup> The Council also considered

the dispute between Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”.<sup>79</sup>

The Council also discussed country- and region-specific situations under thematic items. For example, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations”, Council members deliberated on cooperation between the Council and the League of Arab States.<sup>80</sup> At a meeting held on 22 December under the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,

<sup>78</sup> For more information, see part I, sects. 19 and 20.

<sup>79</sup> For more information, see part I, sect. 9.

<sup>80</sup> See [S/2021/66](#).

the Council adopted resolution [2615 \(2021\)](#), in which it decided that humanitarian assistance and other activities that supported basic human needs in Afghanistan were not a violation of paragraph 1 (a) of resolution [2255 \(2015\)](#).<sup>81</sup> During the meeting, Council members discussed the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.<sup>82</sup> Furthermore, Council members continued to discuss the work of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, established pursuant to resolution [2379 \(2017\)](#), and the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action under the items entitled "Threats to international peace and security"<sup>83</sup> and "Non-proliferation",<sup>84</sup> respectively.

*Inclusion of new sub-items under existing items*

During the period under review, the Council continued the practice of adding new sub-items to existing items for the consideration of evolving general and cross-border threats to international peace and

security. As described in more detail in section I above, videoconferences, whether open or closed, were not considered formal meetings of the Council for all relevant purposes, including for the agenda of the Council and for subsequent inclusion in the summary statement of the Secretary-General on matters of which the Council is seized.<sup>85</sup> Accordingly, while the Secretary-General continued to notify the General Assembly of the matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security that were being dealt with by the Council in the context of meetings, he did not do so when those matters were discussed in the context of open videoconferences.<sup>86</sup> Similarly, videoconferences were focused on a variety of topics that were not considered as formal sub-items. Tables 7 and 8 provide a list of new sub-items and topics introduced in 2021, in chronological order of their introduction.<sup>87</sup>

<sup>85</sup> For more information, see part IV, sect. I.C.

<sup>86</sup> See [A/76/300](#).

<sup>87</sup> The tables exclude cases of routine sub-items or topics relating to briefings on Council missions, briefings by the Chairs of Council committees, letters addressed to the President of the Council, reports of the Secretary-General and meetings of the Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B.

Table 7  
New sub-items added to existing items at formal meetings

| Meeting record and date                                    | Item                                             | New sub-item                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/PV.8822</a><br>16 July 2021                  | Protection of civilians in armed conflict        | Preserving humanitarian space                                                                                         |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8837</a><br>18 August 2021                | United Nations peacekeeping operations           | Protecting the protectors                                                                                             |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8838</a><br>18 August 2021                | United Nations peacekeeping operations           | Protecting the protectors: technology and peacekeeping                                                                |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8851</a><br>8 September 2021              | United Nations peacekeeping operations           | United Nations transitions                                                                                            |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8865</a><br>27 September 2021             | Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction | Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty                                                                                 |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8877</a><br>12 October 2021               | Peacebuilding and sustaining peace               | Diversity, State-building and the search for peace                                                                    |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8900</a><br>9 November 2021 <sup>a</sup>  | Maintenance of international peace and security  | Exclusion, inequality and conflict                                                                                    |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8906</a><br>16 November 2021 <sup>a</sup> | Maintenance of international peace and security  | Peace and security through preventive diplomacy: a common objective to all the principal organs of the United Nations |



## Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2021

| <i>Meeting record and date</i>                             | <i>Item</i>                                     | <i>New sub-item</i>                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/PV.8909</a><br>22 November 2021 <sup>a</sup> | Small arms                                      | The impact of the diversion and trafficking of arms on peace and security |
| <a href="#">S/PV.8923</a><br>9 December 2021 <sup>a</sup>  | Maintenance of international peace and security | Security in the context of terrorism and climate change                   |

<sup>a</sup> The 8900th, 8906th, 8909th and 8923rd meetings were resumed in the afternoon of the same day (see [S/PV.8900 \(Resumption 1\)](#), [S/PV.8906 \(Resumption 1\)](#), [S/PV.8909 \(Resumption 1\)](#) and [S/PV.8923 \(Resumption 1\)](#)).

Table 8

### New topics introduced in connection with existing items at open videoconferences

| <i>Videoconference record and date</i>         | <i>Item</i>                                                          | <i>Topic</i>                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/2021/24</a><br>6 January 2021    | Maintenance of international peace and security                      | Challenges of maintaining peace and security in fragile contexts                                                       |
| <a href="#">S/2021/48</a><br>12 January 2021   | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts | International cooperation in combating terrorism 20 years after the adoption of resolution <a href="#">1373 (2001)</a> |
| <a href="#">S/2021/90</a><br>25 January 2021   | Maintenance of international peace and security                      | Follow-up on the implementation of resolution <a href="#">2532 (2020)</a>                                              |
| <a href="#">S/2021/157</a><br>17 February 2021 | Maintenance of international peace and security                      | Implementation of resolution <a href="#">2532 (2020)</a>                                                               |
| <a href="#">S/2021/250</a><br>11 March 2021    | Maintenance of international peace and security                      | Conflict and food security                                                                                             |
| <a href="#">S/2021/346</a><br>8 April 2021     | Maintenance of international peace and security                      | Mine action and sustaining peace – stronger partnerships for better delivery                                           |
| <a href="#">S/2021/415</a><br>27 April 2021    | Protection of civilians in armed conflict                            | Indispensable civilian objects                                                                                         |
| <a href="#">S/2021/456</a><br>7 May 2021       | Maintenance of international peace and security                      | Upholding multilateralism and the United Nations-centred international system                                          |
| <a href="#">S/2021/501</a><br>24 May 2021      | United Nations peacekeeping operations                               | Improving safety and security of peacekeepers                                                                          |
| <a href="#">S/2021/621</a><br>29 June 2021     | Maintenance of international peace and security                      | Cybersecurity                                                                                                          |
| <a href="#">S/2021/722</a><br>9 August 2021    | Maintenance of international peace and security                      | Maritime security                                                                                                      |

## B. Matters of which the Security Council is seized (rules 10 and 11)

During the period under review, pursuant to rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure and the note by the President dated 30 August 2017,<sup>88</sup> the Secretary-

<sup>88</sup> [S/2017/507](#), annex, paras. 15 and 16.

General continued to communicate each week to the members of the Council a summary statement of matters of which the Council was seized and of the stage reached in their consideration.<sup>89</sup> The practice of including an agenda item in the summary statement upon its adoption at a formal meeting of the Council remained unchanged. As explained above, however,

<sup>89</sup> See, for example, [S/2021/10/Add.1](#) and [S/2021/10/Add.2](#).

since videoconferences were not considered formal meetings of the Council, the Secretary-General did not include in his weekly summary statement matters that were discussed in open videoconferences.

In accordance with the note by the President dated 30 August 2017, the preliminary annual summary statement of matters of which the Council is seized issued in January each year by the Secretary-General, identifies the items that have not been considered by the Council during the preceding three calendar years and which are therefore subject to deletion. An item is deleted unless a Member State notifies the President of the Council, by the end of February, of its request that the item be retained on the list, in which case the item will remain on the list for an additional year. If no Member State requests the item's retention on the list,

the first summary statement issued in March of that year reflects its deletion.<sup>90</sup>

During the period under review, in accordance with rule 11 and the note by the President dated 30 August 2017, the Council continued the practice of reviewing the summary statement at the beginning of each year in order to determine whether the Council had concluded its consideration of any items.<sup>91</sup> In 2021, of the 17 items identified for deletion in January, 3 were deleted and 14 were retained for one additional year at the request of Member States (see table 9).<sup>92</sup>

<sup>90</sup> S/2017/507, annex, paras. 15 and 16.

<sup>91</sup> See S/2021/10.

<sup>92</sup> See S/2021/10/Add.10.

Table 9  
**Items proposed for deletion from the summary statement, 2021**

| <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <i>Date of first and last consideration</i> | <i>Status in March 2021</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The India-Pakistan question                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 6 January 1948; 5 November 1965             | Retained                    |
| The Hyderabad question                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 16 September 1948; 24 May 1949              | Retained                    |
| Letter dated 20 February 1958 from the representative of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General                                                                                                                             | 21 February 1958; 21 February 1958          | Retained                    |
| Letter dated 11 July 1960 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council                                                                                                        | 18 July 1960; 5 January 1961                | Retained                    |
| Letter dated 31 December 1960 from the Minister for External Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council                                                                                                   | 4 January 1961; 5 January 1961              | Retained                    |
| The situation in the India/Pakistan subcontinent                                                                                                                                                                                  | 4 December 1971; 27 December 1971           | Retained                    |
| Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council | 9 December 1971; 9 December 1971            | Retained                    |
| Complaint by Cuba                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 17 September 1973; 18 September 1973        | Retained                    |
| The situation between Iran and Iraq                                                                                                                                                                                               | 26 September 1980; 31 January 1991          | Retained                    |
| Letter dated 1 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council                                                                                 | 2 October 1985; 4 October 1985              | Retained                    |
| Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council                                                                                  | 21 April 1988; 25 April 1988                | Retained                    |
| Letter dated 2 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council                                                                                   | 9 February 1990; 9 February 1990            | Retained                    |
| The situation in Georgia                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 8 October 1992; 15 June 2009                | Retained                    |

# Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2021

| <i>Item</i>                                                                                       | <i>Date of first and last consideration</i> | <i>Status in March 2021</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| General issues relating to sanctions                                                              | 17 April 2000; 3 August 2017                | Deleted                     |
| The situation in Côte d'Ivoire                                                                    | 20 December 2002; 30 June 2017              | Deleted                     |
| Briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator | 6 December 2007; 10 March 2017              | Deleted                     |
| The situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea                                        | 22 December 2014; 11 December 2017          | Retained                    |

## *Items considered at Security Council meetings*

Following the deletion of 3 items in March 2021, the Council remained seized of 66 items during the review period. Of those 66 items, the Council considered 41 items at its formal meetings, of which 21 were country- or region-specific and 20 were thematic. Council members also considered 31 items in the context of open videoconferences, of which 20 were country- or region-specific and 11 were thematic.

Council members considered a total of 44 items at meetings and videoconferences held in 2021, compared with 42 in 2020. Of those 44 items, 23 addressed country-specific or regional situations and 21 addressed thematic or other issues.

Table 10 provides an overview of the items of which the Council was seized and their consideration at formal meetings of the Council and discussion at open videoconferences in 2021.

Table 10

## **Items of which the Council is seized and their consideration at formal meetings and discussion at open videoconferences, 2021**

| <i>Item</i>                                                                                           | <i>Considered at a formal meeting</i> | <i>Discussed at an open videoconference</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Country-specific and regional situations</b>                                                       |                                       |                                             |
| <b>Africa</b>                                                                                         |                                       |                                             |
| Peace and security in Africa                                                                          | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| The situation in Burundi                                                                              | No                                    | No                                          |
| Central African region                                                                                | Yes                                   | No                                          |
| The situation in the Central African Republic                                                         | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| The situation in Côte d'Ivoire                                                                        | No                                    | No                                          |
| The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo                                         | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| The situation in the Great Lakes region                                                               | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| The situation in Guinea-Bissau                                                                        | No                                    | No                                          |
| The situation in Liberia                                                                              | No                                    | No                                          |
| The situation in Libya                                                                                | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| The situation in Mali                                                                                 | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| The situation in Somalia                                                                              | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| Letter dated 20 February 1958 from the representative of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General | No                                    | No                                          |
| Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                         | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |

| <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <i>Considered at a<br/>formal meeting</i> | <i>Discussed<br/>at an open<br/>videoconference</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Letter dated 1 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council                                                                                                       | No                                        | No                                                  |
| Letter dated 19 April 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council                                                                                                        | No                                        | No                                                  |
| Peace consolidation in West Africa                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| The situation concerning Western Sahara                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes                                       | No                                                  |
| <b>Americas</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                           |                                                     |
| 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 ( <a href="#">S/2016/53</a> )                                  | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| Complaint by Cuba                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | No                                        | No                                                  |
| Letter dated 11 July 1960 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council                                                                                                                              | No                                        | No                                                  |
| Letter dated 31 December 1960 from the Minister for External Affairs of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council                                                                                                                         | No                                        | No                                                  |
| Letter dated 2 February 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council                                                                                                         | No                                        | No                                                  |
| The question concerning Haiti                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| The situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No                                        | No                                                  |
| <b>Asia</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                           |                                                     |
| The situation in Afghanistan                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| The situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea                                                                                                                                                                                              | No                                        | No                                                  |
| The Hyderabad question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | No                                        | No                                                  |
| The India-Pakistan question                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No                                        | No                                                  |
| The situation in the India/Pakistan subcontinent                                                                                                                                                                                                        | No                                        | No                                                  |
| The situation in Myanmar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| <b>Europe</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                           |                                                     |
| The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| The situation in Cyprus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| The situation in Georgia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No                                        | No                                                  |
| Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2014/136</a> )                                                                      | No                                        | No                                                  |
| 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 ( <a href="#">S/2014/264</a> )                                                          | No                                        | Yes                                                 |
| Letter dated 13 March 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2018/218</a> ) | No                                        | No                                                  |

# Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2021

| <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <i>Considered at a formal meeting</i> | <i>Discussed at an open videoconference</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Security Council resolutions <a href="#">1160 (1998)</a> , <a href="#">1199 (1998)</a> , <a href="#">1203 (1998)</a> , <a href="#">1239 (1999)</a> and <a href="#">1244 (1999)</a>                                                                            | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| <b>Middle East</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                       |                                             |
| Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/10409</a> ) | No                                    | No                                          |
| The situation between Iran and Iraq                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | No                                    | No                                          |
| The situation concerning Iraq                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| The situation between Iraq and Kuwait                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No                                    | No                                          |
| The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| <b>Subtotal, country-specific and regional situations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>21 items</b>                       | <b>20 items</b>                             |
| <b>Thematic and other issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                       |                                             |
| Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes                                   | No                                          |
| Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe                                                                                                                                                              | No                                    | Yes                                         |
| Briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes                                   | No                                          |
| Briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator                                                                                                                                                             | No                                    | No                                          |
| Briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes                                   | No                                          |
| Children and armed conflict                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| Consideration of the draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly                                                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                   | No                                          |
| Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security                                                                                                                             | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| General issues relating to sanctions                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | No                                    | No                                          |
| Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2017/507</a> )                                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                   | No                                          |
| International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes                                   | No                                          |
| Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1353 (2001)</a> , annex II, sections A and B                                                                                             | Yes                                   | No                                          |
| Non-proliferation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                   | No                                          |
| Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea                                                                                                                                                                                                       | No                                    | Yes                                         |
| Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |
| Peacebuilding and sustaining peace                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                   | No                                          |
| Protection of civilians in armed conflict                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes                                   | Yes                                         |

| <i>Item</i>                                                                                               | <i>Considered at a<br/>formal meeting</i> | <i>Discussed<br/>at an open<br/>videoconference</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Security Council mission                                                                                  | Yes                                       | No                                                  |
| Small arms                                                                                                | Yes                                       | No                                                  |
| The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security | No                                        | No                                                  |
| Threats to international peace and security                                                               | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts                                      | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| United Nations peacekeeping operations                                                                    | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| Women and peace and security                                                                              | Yes                                       | Yes                                                 |
| <b>Subtotal, thematic and other issues</b>                                                                | <b>20 items</b>                           | <b>11 items</b>                                     |
| <b>Total number of items<sup>a</sup></b>                                                                  | <b>69 items</b>                           | <b>69 items</b>                                     |
| <b>Total number of items considered</b>                                                                   | <b>41 items</b>                           | <b>31 items</b>                                     |

<sup>a</sup> In 2021, the Council considered two items, entitled “Recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations” (see [S/PV.8789](#)) and “Date of election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice” (see [S/PV.8808](#)), that had not been on the list of items of which the Council was seized.

## C. Discussions concerning the agenda

During the period under review, Council members discussed the agenda and matters of which the Council was seized in several meetings and videoconferences. At the open videoconference held on 20 January in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that the Council needed to take the proper time to consider the political and humanitarian situations in the Syrian Arab Republic and return to separate meetings for each issue, as had been the Council’s practice over many years.<sup>93</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation responded that separate meetings for each issue were already included in the February 2021 programme of work of the Council. He proposed an understanding that there would be no mixing of the two files, as had often been the case in previous meetings, when political and humanitarian files on the Syrian Arab Republic had become “practically indistinguishable”, according to the statements of some Council members.

At the annual open debate on the working methods of the Council held on 16 June under the item entitled “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/507](#))”, the representative of China expressed concern with the

swelling of the number of items before the Council and stated that it should maintain the continuity of its work priorities and be prudent when introducing new topics for consideration.<sup>94</sup> The representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, proposed that Council members should reflect on and have a frank discussion about the ever-increasing workload and proliferation of meetings.<sup>95</sup> Rather than scheduling routine meetings on every report of the Secretary-General, the Council should dedicate more resources to acute crisis situations. The delegation of Ukraine expressed the conviction that the Council should utilize its precious time more effectively, giving due attention to the issues on the agenda primarily aimed at upholding respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Member States, addressing and preventing armed conflicts and facilitating the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter.

Concerning the working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the representative of the United Kingdom acknowledged how far the Council had adapted to challenging circumstances, noting that there had been downsides that had affected the Council’s capacity to fulfil its mandate, including

<sup>93</sup> See [S/2021/75](#).

<sup>94</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>95</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

to face new challenges.<sup>96</sup> She added that, owing to the objections of a single Council member, the Council had not held formal meetings by videoconference since March 2020 and that, without the procedural mechanisms for the resolution of disagreements, the Council had not been able to discuss new or existing agenda items more substantively or bring attention to issues in the open when needed. Similarly, the representative of Japan indicated that requiring consensus for the adoption of agenda items in videoconferences hindered the Council's capacity to deal flexibly with impending issues and that his delegation saw no reason to apply different rules for agenda-setting in videoconferences.<sup>97</sup>

At a meeting held on 20 October in connection with the item entitled "The situation in the Great Lakes region", the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region highlighted the removal of Burundi from the agenda of the Council and the closure of the mission of African Union human rights observers and military experts, which reflected the serious commitment of the International Conference to deepen and consolidate democracy in the Great Lakes region.<sup>98</sup> The representatives of China and India underscored that the successful removal of Burundi from the agendas of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council reflected the positive trajectory of the region's development in the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region.<sup>99</sup> Thanking Council members for having removed Burundi from the Council's agenda, the representative of Burundi stated that his country had returned to peace and security and that the Government had put in place a national programme to capitalize on peace and social stability and promote economic growth.

In 2021, the agenda of the Council was also discussed in relation to the issue of climate and security in connection with the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security" (see cases 2 and 3).<sup>100</sup>

<sup>96</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>97</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>98</sup> See [S/PV.8884](#). The item entitled "The situation in Burundi", which was last considered by the Council at a formal meeting on 30 October 2019 (see [S/PV.8652](#)), remained in the summary statement by the Secretary-General of matters of which the Council was seized (see [S/2021/10](#)).

<sup>99</sup> See [S/PV.8884](#).

<sup>100</sup> For more information about discussions on the connection between climate and security and the primary responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, see part V, sect. I.B.

## Case 2

### Maintenance of international peace and security

On 23 February, at the initiative of the United Kingdom, which held the presidency of the Security Council for the month,<sup>101</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference in connection with the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security" and focused on climate and security.<sup>102</sup> At the videoconference, the President of France said that the climate and security agenda needed to be structured and that it concerned prevention and effectiveness, which justified its referral to the Council and support for appointing a special envoy for climate security to coordinate all efforts. He expressed his support for having the Secretary-General report on an annual basis to the Council on the impact of climate on international security in order to foresee issues, make warnings and draft recommendations, so that the Council would be enabled to play its role. The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of Kenya noted that the climate and security nexus was already affecting Africa, whose files dominated the Council's agenda. The delegation of Belgium called for the mainstreaming of climate risk throughout the agenda of the Council. The delegation of Guatemala opined that, owing to its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Council should integrate climate security assessments into all mandated reports of situations on its agenda. The delegation of Latvia stated that integrating climate and security into the Council's agenda, including with regard to its conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts, would allow for a more focused and efficient approach to many thematic issues. More specifically, the delegations of Austria, Slovenia and Spain argued for the inclusion of climate and security into the women and peace and security agenda of the Council, with El Salvador and Portugal also calling for this approach with respect to the protection of civilians and youth and peace and security agendas.

Other participants cautioned against the inclusion of climate and security as an item of the Council. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that the Council had not addressed the issue of climate change in the context of its repercussions on international peace and security and had only considered country-specific cases in a range of States and regions, primarily on the African continent, where climate

<sup>101</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 17 February 2021 ([S/2021/155](#)).

<sup>102</sup> See [S/2021/198](#).



change and natural disasters had been said to be a major threat to stability and the root cause of related problems. He added that the connection between climate and conflict could therefore only be considered with regard to concrete country- and region-specific cases. The delegation of Argentina said that there was a need to promote adequate and flexible cooperation among the various bodies of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter mandates established for the specialized agencies, funds and programmes and that such cooperation must not be carried out in such a manner as to add the issue of climate change to the agenda of the Council.

### Case 3 Maintenance of international peace and security

At a meeting held on 23 September at the initiative of Ireland, which held the presidency of the Security Council for the month,<sup>103</sup> the Council convened a high-level open debate under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” and sub-item entitled “Climate and security”.<sup>104</sup> In his statement, the Taoiseach of Ireland, underlining the need to better understand the interplay between climate change and the country and regional situations on the Council’s agenda, said that the Council should invite the Secretary-General to submit a periodic report on how climate change was threatening the maintenance of international peace and security.<sup>105</sup> The Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Niger, as Co-Chair of the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security alongside Ireland, said that his country considered the placement of the issue on the Council’s agenda to be timely. Similarly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad of Tunisia stated that the attention that the Council paid to climate

change, environmental disasters and pandemics when discussing them as items on its agenda reflected its conviction as to the need to integrate those risks into its work. The representative of Portugal opined that the influence of climate change on security should be considered throughout the Council’s horizontal agendas and that information gathered and shared by the climate security mechanism across the United Nations system was crucial to that end.<sup>106</sup>

In contrast, the representative of China said that, on the basis of its mandate emanating from the Charter of the United Nations and the Council’s existing agenda, the Council needed to “get it right” in terms of the manner and extent of its engagement in discussing and addressing issues related to climate and security.<sup>107</sup> He emphasized the need for the Council to focus on climate-change-reduced risks under country-specific items and to support United Nations specialized agencies in helping countries in conflict to better meet the challenge. The representative of the Russian Federation said that the persistent and insistent attempts to advance the premise of climate change as a threat to international peace and security in the Council agenda introduced a completely unnecessary political component to an already complicated and sensitive discussion. He added that the inclusion or non-inclusion of any theme or issue on the Council’s agenda should not be a gauge of its importance or relevance. Moreover, the question of climate change would not benefit in any way from incorporation into the Council’s agenda, and yet misunderstandings and duplications would be abundant in such a scenario. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran also suggested that, instead of placing climate change security risks on its agenda, the Council should allow relevant platforms to continue considering and properly addressing the issue.<sup>108</sup>

<sup>106</sup> See [S/2021/815](#).

<sup>107</sup> See [S/PV.8864](#).

<sup>108</sup> See [S/2021/815](#).

<sup>103</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 9 September 2021 ([S/2021/782](#)).

<sup>104</sup> See [S/PV.8864](#) and [S/2021/815](#).

<sup>105</sup> See [S/PV.8864](#).

## IV. Representation and credentials

### Note

Section IV covers the practice of the Council concerning representation and the credentials of its members, in relation to rules 13 to 17 of the provisional rules of procedure.

### Rule 13

*Each member of the Security Council shall be represented at the meetings of the Security Council by an accredited representative. The credentials of a representative on the Security Council shall be communicated to the Secretary-General not less than twenty-four hours before he takes his seat on the Security*



*Council. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or of the Government concerned or by its Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Head of Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs of each member of the Security Council shall be entitled to sit on the Security Council without submitting credentials.*

#### Rule 14

*Any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Security Council and any State not a Member of the United Nations, if invited to participate in a meeting or meetings of the Security Council, shall submit credentials for the representative appointed by it for this purpose. The credentials of such a representative shall be communicated to the Secretary-General not less than twenty-four hours before the first meeting which he is invited to attend.*

#### Rule 15

*The credentials of representatives on the Security Council and of any representative appointed in accordance with rule 14 shall be examined by the Secretary-General who shall submit a report to the Security Council for approval.*

#### Rule 16

*Pending the approval of the credentials of a representative on the Security Council in accordance with rule 15, such representative shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives.*

#### Rule 17

*Any representative on the Security Council, to whose credentials objection has been made within the Security Council, shall continue to sit with the same rights as other representatives until the Security Council has decided the matter.*

During the period under review, in accordance with rule 13 of the provisional rules of procedure, the credentials of the representatives of the members of the Council were communicated to the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General subsequently submitted his report to the Council pursuant to rule 15. Such reports were transmitted to the Council when there were changes in the representation of the members of the Council,<sup>109</sup> as well as when representatives of the newly elected members of the Council were designated prior to the beginning of each

term.<sup>110</sup> In accordance with the letters dated 2 April and 7 May 2020 from the President of the Council, Council members continued to conduct videoconferences “in the spirit” of the provisional rules of procedure, which included ensuring that all Council members participating in a virtual discussion were represented by appropriately credentialed delegates, pursuant to rule 13.<sup>111</sup>

No discussions regarding the interpretation and application of rules 13 to 17 arose during the period under review. However, the issue of authorization to represent a Member State was raised in two meetings and one communication in relation to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At a meeting held on 8 June under the item entitled “International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals”, the President of Serbia stated that the representative of the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the meeting, Sven Alkalaj, was not speaking on behalf of that country.<sup>112</sup> In that regard, the President referred to a letter from the presiding Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which the Chairman said that the statement of the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina did not have the real consent of the Presidency and that it was only a private opinion.

At a meeting held on 29 June under the item entitled “The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, the representative of the Russian Federation recalled the letter from the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and questioned whether the statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina made at the meeting reflected the position of all constituent entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina as it had, according to the letter, not been agreed with all the entities of that country.<sup>113</sup> In a subsequent remark, responding to a question from the Minister as to whether he was authorized to ask the question he had posed, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that he was fully authorized to speak on behalf of his Government and that he had submitted his credentials to the Secretary-General.

<sup>110</sup> For the reports of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representatives and deputies and alternate representatives of members of the Council elected for the periods 2021–2022 and 2022–2023, see [S/2020/1318](#) and [S/2021/1111](#).

<sup>111</sup> See [S/2020/273](#) and [S/2020/372](#).

<sup>112</sup> See [S/PV.8790](#).

<sup>113</sup> See [S/PV.8810](#). In a letter to the President of the Council dated 2 July, the representative of the Russian Federation transmitted a letter dated 28 June from the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, by which the latter informed Council members that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bisera Turković, did not have the authorization to address the Council at its meeting scheduled for 29 June 2021 ([S/2021/624](#), annex II).

<sup>109</sup> See, for example, [S/2021/301](#), [S/2021/619](#), [S/2021/631](#) and [S/2021/1079](#).

## V. Presidency

### Note

Section V covers the practice of the Council concerning the monthly rotation of the presidency, the role of the President and the temporary cession of the chair by the President during the consideration of a particular question with which the Member State he or she represents is directly connected, in relation to rules 18 to 20 of the provisional rules of procedure.

#### Rule 18

*The presidency of the Security Council shall be held in turn by the members of the Security Council in the English alphabetical order of their names. Each President shall hold office for one calendar month.*

#### Rule 19

*The President shall preside over the meetings of the Security Council and, under the authority of the Security Council, shall represent it in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.*

#### Rule 20

*Whenever the President of the Security Council deems that for the proper fulfilment of the responsibilities of the presidency he should not preside over the Council during the consideration of a particular question with which the member he represents is directly connected, he shall indicate his decision to the Council. The presidential chair shall then devolve, for the purpose of the consideration of that question, on the representative of the member next in English alphabetical order, it being understood that the provisions of this rule shall apply to the representatives on the Security Council called upon successively to preside. This rule shall not affect the representative capacity of the President as stated in rule 19, or his duties under rule 7.*

This section comprises two subsections, namely: A. The role of the President of the Security Council (rules 18 and 19); and B. Discussions concerning the presidency of the Security Council. In 2021, there were no instances of the application of rule 20.

### A. Role of the President of the Security Council (rules 18 and 19)

During the period under review, in accordance with rule 18 of the provisional rules of procedure, the presidency of the Council was held in turn for one calendar month by the members of the Council in English alphabetical order. In addition to continuing to preside over meetings of the Council, informal consultations of the whole and informal interactive dialogues, the President of the Council also presided over videoconferences held in lieu of in-person meetings. In accordance with rule 18 and the note by the President dated 30 August 2017,<sup>114</sup> the President continued to perform several other functions under the authority of the Council, including: (a) briefing non-members of the Council and the media on the monthly programme of work at the beginning of the month and holding “wrap-up” sessions with non-Council members and briefings with the media at the end of the presidency; (b) representing the Council and delivering statements on its behalf, including the presentation of the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly;<sup>115</sup> (c) holding monthly meetings with the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly; and (d) delivering statements or elements to the press following informal consultations of the whole or closed videoconferences or whenever Council members reached an agreement on a text.<sup>116</sup>

In 2021, the Council issued two notes by the President addressing the role of the presidency in the implementation of the working methods. In a note by the President issued on 21 July,<sup>117</sup> Council members were encouraged to implement all provisions contained

<sup>114</sup> [S/2017/507](#).

<sup>115</sup> At a meeting held on 27 May (see [S/PV.8781](#)), the Council issued a note by the President (see [S/2021/500](#)), in which it indicated that it had adopted its report to the General Assembly covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020 ([A/75/2](#)). The report was introduced to the Assembly at the 78th plenary meeting of its seventy-fifth session, on 11 June 2021, by the President of the Council for the month of June (Estonia). See also part IV, sect. I.F.

<sup>116</sup> Not all statements to the press are issued as a result of informal consultations or closed videoconferences. Council presidencies referred to the practice of delivering statements and elements to the press in their respective monthly assessments (see, for example, [S/2021/683](#), [S/2021/938](#), [S/2021/1014](#), [S/2021/1032](#), [S/2021/1060](#), [S/2021/1084](#), [S/2022/174](#), [S/2022/614](#), [S/2022/707](#) and [S/2022/946](#)).

<sup>117</sup> [S/2021/647](#).

in the note by the President of the Council dated 30 August 2017 and the eight notes adopted in December 2019<sup>118</sup> on the working methods of the Council and, to that end, recognized the important role played by the President in facilitating and securing their implementation. Council members also recognized that the practice of circulating written monthly commitments at the beginning of the presidency could be useful to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the Council and invited each presidency to consider preparing and broadly distributing written monthly commitments at its discretion.<sup>119</sup> In another note by the President issued on the same day,<sup>120</sup> Council members recognized, without prejudice to the role of the experts, that those who coordinated the monthly activities of the respective missions on the Council were critical to securing the implementation of the note by the President dated 30 August 2017 and all notes adopted subsequently.

All presidencies during the period under review held wrap-up sessions, by videoconference from January to April and in person from May to December 2021. In accordance with the note by the President dated 27 December 2019,<sup>121</sup> some of the wrap-up sessions held in 2021 used the “Toledo-style” format, whereby members of the Council presented the activity of the Council for the month jointly and in an interactive manner.<sup>122</sup> Council members also continued to submit, in their national capacities, monthly assessments providing an overview of the work of the Council during their presidencies.<sup>123</sup>

In 2021, Council presidencies continued the practice of circulating among Council members, at the beginning of the month, written monthly commitments providing a list of priorities and measures to ensure and enhance transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in the work of the Council. Some of the priorities and measures set out in the 11 monthly working methods commitments circulated in 2021 included encouraging

briefers and speakers to limit the duration of their statements, promoting interactive discussions in informal consultations, encouraging outcome-oriented discussions, including through elements delivered to the press after consultations, and engaging and consulting with Member States concerned by the issues before the Council. In September 2021, the delegations of Ireland, Kenya and Mexico circulated a statement of shared commitments, as a “Security Council Presidency Trio for Women, Peace and Security”, to make the women and peace and security agenda a top priority during their respective presidencies in September, October and November 2021. To that end, the three presidencies committed themselves to, among other measures, striving to achieve gender parity among briefers to the Council, requesting the inclusion of gender analysis in briefings, ensuring strong representation of women civil society briefers in Council meetings, heightening the visibility of Council discussions by holding women and peace and security press stakeouts, ensuring that Council products integrated strong language on women and peace and security and reflecting highlights and recommendations on women and peace and security during the monthly wrap-up meetings with the wider membership. The commitments of the “Trio” were subsequently built upon with new joint commitments on the women and peace and security agenda submitted by the Niger, which held the presidency of the Council in December 2021, together with Norway, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Albania and Brazil, which were to hold the presidencies for the months of January, March, April, June and July 2022, respectively.

Following the procedure envisaged in the note by the President dated 30 August 2017,<sup>124</sup> the introduction to the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly for 2020 was prepared under the coordination of the Niger, which had held the presidency of the Council for the month of September 2020, given that Germany, which had held the presidency of the Council in July 2020, left the Council at the end of 2020, and the responsibility then devolved on the Council member next in English alphabetical order not leaving the Council that year.<sup>125</sup>

In 2021, Council presidencies continued to take the initiative of bringing to the attention of the Council emerging and evolving issues related to international peace and security by organizing meetings or open videoconferences under thematic items, sometimes adding new sub-items or proposing new topics. In most

<sup>118</sup> S/2017/507, S/2019/990, S/2019/991, S/2019/992, S/2019/993, S/2019/994, S/2019/995, S/2019/996 and S/2019/997.

<sup>119</sup> See S/2021/647.

<sup>120</sup> S/2021/646.

<sup>121</sup> S/2019/994.

<sup>122</sup> See, for example, the letter dated 26 July on the monthly assessment of the presidency of China for the month of May, which contains a reference to the wrap-up session held in person (S/2021/683).

<sup>123</sup> As at the time of writing, 10 of the 12 monthly presidencies had submitted monthly assessments for 2021: S/2021/683, S/2021/938, S/2021/1014, S/2021/1032, S/2021/1060, S/2021/1084, S/2022/174, S/2022/614, S/2022/707 and S/2022/946.

<sup>124</sup> S/2017/507, annex, para. 127.

<sup>125</sup> For more information, see part IV, sect. I.F. See also S/PV.8781.

cases, Council presidencies transmitted concept notes in their national capacities to guide the discussion.<sup>126</sup> In a letter dated 2 June, the representatives of Estonia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines jointly transmitted a concept note for the annual open debate on the Council's working methods,<sup>127</sup> held on 16 June during the presidency of Estonia, under the item entitled "Implementation of the Note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)".<sup>128</sup> Furthermore, in a letter dated 4 June, the representative of China transmitted a summary of the Arria-formula meeting held during its presidency, on 17 May, on the impact of emerging technologies on international peace and security.<sup>129</sup>

During the period under review, the role of the presidency was referred to in one communication to the Council. In a letter to the President of the Council dated 8 February,<sup>130</sup> the representatives of New Zealand and Switzerland, on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, provided Council members with recommendations on how to improve upon the adaptations made to the Council's working

methods during the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, among other measures, the Group invited the Council to agree to elements to be delivered to the press after every virtual meeting to enhance the transparency of its deliberations; to continue the practice of organizing, under the leadership of the presidency, virtual information and interaction sessions with Member States on the Council's programme of work (briefing on the programme of work) and on the Council's activities during the month (wrap-up session); and to display on the Council's website a President's addendum to the programme of work, containing the meetings of the subsidiary bodies and any informal Council meetings not included in the programme of work. Beyond the working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Council presidencies were also encouraged to institutionalize the practice of issuing a letter on the working methods for the month, including commitments that they would pursue to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, inclusivity and transparency of the Council's work.

## B. Discussions concerning the presidency of the Security Council

In 2021, aspects of the presidency of the Council were discussed during Council meetings and open videoconferences. At an open videoconference held on 19 April in connection with the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security", the President of Kenya, highlighting the need to recognize and support regional peacekeeping organs, affirmed that the Council and, in particular, the presidencies and penholders should undertake more comprehensive consultations and build on regional efforts.<sup>131</sup> He added that regional and subregional organizations had a greater stake in conflicts and provided proximity and insights critical in conflict resolution.

At an open videoconference held on 16 May in connection with the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question", the observer for the League of Arab States commended the efforts made by China during its presidency that month to ensure that the Council played its intended role of maintaining international peace and security in the Middle East in the wake of the situation in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.<sup>132</sup>

<sup>126</sup> See, for example, the concept note on the sub-item "Preserving humanitarian space" (S/2021/618, annex), circulated by the representative of France prior to a meeting of the Council held on 16 July (see S/PV.8822); the concept note on the sub-item "Protecting the protectors: technology and peacekeeping" (S/2021/681, annex), circulated by the representative of India prior to a meeting of the Council held on 18 August (see S/PV.8838); and the concept note on the sub-item "The impact of the diversion and trafficking of arms on peace and security" (S/2021/892, annex), circulated by the representative of Ireland prior to a meeting held on 22 November (see S/PV.8909 and S/PV.8909 (Resumption 1)). See also, for example, the concept note on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: climate and security" (S/2021/155, annex), circulated by the representative of the United Kingdom prior to the videoconference held on 23 February 2021 (see S/2021/198); the concept note on the theme "Mine action and sustaining peace – stronger partnerships for better delivery" (S/2021/284, annex), circulated by the representative of Viet Nam prior to the videoconference held on 8 April (see S/2021/346); and the concept note on the theme "Peace and Security in Africa: addressing root causes of conflict while promoting post-pandemic recovery in Africa" (S/2021/420, annex), circulated by the representative of China prior to the videoconference held on 19 May (see S/2021/490).

<sup>127</sup> S/2021/527, annex.

<sup>128</sup> See S/PV.8798 and S/2021/572. An analytical summary of the debate was circulated after the meeting by the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (S/2021/860).

<sup>129</sup> S/2021/531, annex.

<sup>130</sup> S/2021/121.

<sup>131</sup> See S/2021/394.

<sup>132</sup> See S/2021/480.



At a meeting held on 21 October under the item entitled “Women and peace and security”, the Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora of Ireland said that, given the agreement among Ireland, Kenya and Mexico to form a “trio” of presidencies for women and peace and security, he was especially pleased to be giving expression to their shared commitment to advancing that agenda.<sup>133</sup> The Minister also recalled that Ireland had placed women civil society briefers at the heart of its presidency in September 2021, as well as the risks faced by civil society briefers who spoke to the Council. The representative of Estonia welcomed the women and peace and security “trio” presidency and its aim to set the topic at the very centre of each discussion of the Council, including through country briefings dedicated to women and peace and security, through heightened visibility and through the systematic integration of language on women and peace and security in Council decisions.

At a meeting held on 13 December under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, the representative of the Russian Federation questioned why a draft resolution on climate and security was being put to a vote, noting that there was no consensus on the draft and that the President of the Council had received a number of letters from members and non-members of the Council in that regard.<sup>134</sup> He called on the President of the Council not to sow discord within the Council on such an important subject and said that it was the responsibility of the presidency to push towards effective Council decisions. The draft resolution,<sup>135</sup> which had been submitted by 113 Member States, was subsequently not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council.<sup>136</sup>

The role of the presidency of the Council was also referred to in greater detail during the annual open debate on the working methods of the Council, held on 16 June under the item the item entitled “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)” (see case 4).

#### Case 4

##### Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)

At a meeting held on 16 June, at the joint initiative of Estonia, which held the presidency of the

Security Council for the month, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Permanent Representative of which chaired the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions,<sup>137</sup> the Council convened an open debate on its working methods under the item entitled “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)” and focused on the theme “Agility and innovation: lessons for the future from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”.<sup>138</sup>

In her briefing, the Chair of the Working Group noted that, beginning with the presidency of China in March 2020, through a series of letters built upon by successive presidencies, the Council had adapted its working methods to the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to maintain its effective functioning.<sup>139</sup> The Council continued to convene uninterruptedly, both in person and by videoconference, to negotiate and adopt resolutions and to maintain engagement with other United Nations organs and the wider United Nations membership, particularly through monthly briefings on the programme of work and wrap-up sessions. Affirming that the Informal Working Group remained a critical framework for assessing and improving the Council’s working methods, the Chair highlighted that, under the standing agenda item of the Working Group, “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council dated 30 August 2017 (S/2017/507): reflections from past presidencies and proposals for future action”, Council presidencies had been given the opportunity to reflect on the working methods during their respective months and assess some of the best practices, challenges and areas for further improvement. In her statement, the co-author of the fourth edition of *The Procedure of the UN Security Council*, Loraine Sievers, highlighted the critical role of the President of the Council during the pandemic and noted that the role could continue to be strengthened, not only individually, but in cooperation with other presidencies.

Members and non-members of the Council also reflected on the role of the presidency of the Council in the implementation of the Council’s working methods and in ensuring transparency vis-à-vis the wider membership, namely through the holding of wrap-up sessions and in the annual report to the General Assembly. For example, the representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the elected members of the Council, said that the monthly presidency had a

<sup>133</sup> See S/PV.8886.

<sup>134</sup> See S/PV.8926.

<sup>135</sup> S/2021/990.

<sup>136</sup> For more information on the discussion, see part I, sect. 34.

<sup>137</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 2 June 2021 (S/2021/527).

<sup>138</sup> See S/PV.8798 and S/2021/572.

<sup>139</sup> See S/PV.8798.

particular role to play in contributing to the promotion of the transparency of the Council's work through engagement with the wider membership, the media, civil society and other stakeholders, which included giving briefings on the programme of work, conducting wrap-up sessions and producing monthly assessments. His delegation welcomed the growing practice of presidencies making and publicizing monthly commitments on the implementation of the note by the President dated 30 August 2017 and the eight notes on working methods issued in 2019 and emphasized the key role of presidencies in creating and testing new practices. The representative of China called for stronger coordination between incoming and outgoing presidencies to maintain coherence and consistency in working priorities. He also highlighted that, during its presidency in May 2021, China had consulted extensively and had listened to the comments and suggestions of concerned countries and regional organizations on hotspot issues. China had also communicated and coordinated with the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as with the Secretary-General, with good results. The representative of France recalled that his delegation had established common working methods with the presidencies of Council members from the European Union, namely Estonia and Ireland.

In a written statement, the representative of Austria commended the voluntary commitment made by the presidencies of Estonia, France and Ireland to best practices concerning working methods and expressed gratitude to Council members for organizing monthly briefings on the programme of work and wrap-up sessions as widely established monthly practices.<sup>140</sup> He added that there was, nonetheless, room for improvement to render those meetings more efficient and substantial. According to the delegation of Malta, the fact that efforts had been made to ensure that the presentation of priorities at the beginning of each presidency and the wrap-up sessions at the end had continued virtually and had been very well attended during the pandemic showed that they were appreciated and were of added value to the wider membership. Similarly, the representative of Singapore stated that the monthly letters from the President of the Council on the working methods during the COVID-19 pandemic showed that the Council had been transparent in explaining its modified practices and was taking its working methods seriously. He also commended the Council for regularizing the introductory and wrap-up sessions of each presidency and for formalizing them in the monthly programme of

work. On behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, the representative of New Zealand encouraged Council Presidents to include, in the interests of transparency and visibility, all informal meetings on the monthly programme of work and to continue efforts to make the programmes as user-friendly as possible for the wider membership. The representative also encouraged the President to conduct regular engagement with other heads of principal United Nations organs. The delegation of Cyprus proposed that an informal channel be established between directly affected Member States and the Council, perhaps through its President, as a means of enhancing their access to the Council.

More specifically on wrap-up sessions, the delegation of Switzerland, on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, highlighted the favourable trend of addressing issues related to working methods during opening and wrap-up sessions, including with the direct participation of the Chair of the Informal Working Group, and called on the Council to keep that positive momentum and focus on the constant improvement of working methods as it moved back to the Security Council Chamber. The Group also called on the Council to continue the positive momentum towards the continued institutionalization of wrap-up sessions and to work towards the improvement of that well-established format with regard to the interactivity and substance of discussions, as well as to draw from the proposals contained in the Group's non-paper dated 14 June 2011 on wrap-up sessions. The representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, encouraged Council members to be as candid and interactive as possible in the start-of-presidency briefings and end-of-presidency wrap-up sessions. Council members were also encouraged to consider other ways to keep the wider membership updated throughout the month on the Council's work and outcome documents under consideration. The delegation of Ukraine underscored the need to find ways to seek the input of Member States on issues upon which they would like Council members to reflect during such wrap-up sessions.

Recognizing the progress made by the Council in the elaboration and subsequent submission to the General Assembly of the report on its work for 2020, the delegation of El Salvador called for the continued timely publication of the assessments on the activities of each of the monthly presidencies, with an analysis of situations, including threats that could pose a risk to international peace and security. The delegation of Ukraine encouraged the timely issuance of monthly

<sup>140</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

assessments, as they constituted a valuable source for preparing annual reports. The representative of Argentina encouraged presidencies to complete their

monthly assessments on time and to give them the serious consideration they deserved.

## VI. Secretariat

### Note

Section VI covers the practice of the Council concerning the functions and powers of the Secretary-General in connection with meetings of the Council, in relation to rules 21 to 26 of its provisional rules of procedure.<sup>141</sup>

#### Rule 21

*The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Security Council. The Secretary-General may authorize a deputy to act in his place at meetings of the Security Council.*

#### Rule 22

*The Secretary-General, or his deputy acting on his behalf, may make either oral or written statements to the Security Council concerning any question under consideration by it.*

#### Rule 23

*The Secretary-General may be appointed by the Security Council, in accordance with rule 28, as rapporteur for a specified question.*

#### Rule 24

*The Secretary-General shall provide the staff required by the Security Council. This staff shall form a part of the Secretariat.*

#### Rule 25

*The Secretary-General shall give to representatives on the Security Council notice of meetings of the Security Council and of its commissions and committees.*

#### Rule 26

*The Secretary-General shall be responsible for the preparation of documents required by the Security Council and shall, except in urgent circumstances, distribute them at least forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered.*

<sup>141</sup> For specific instances in which the Secretary-General was requested or authorized by the Council to carry out other functions in accordance with Article 98, see part VI.

During the period under review and in accordance with previous practice, the Secretary-General and senior officials of the Secretariat continued to attend Council meetings and provide oral briefings and written reports to the Council, as requested. The Council continued to request briefings by senior officials from the Secretariat.

In 2021, the Secretariat maintained a key role in supporting the implementation of the working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the holding of videoconferences, carrying out the written voting procedure and, as from 25 May 2021, the resumption of in-person meetings in accordance with the necessary health and safety guidelines.<sup>142</sup>

The various functions of the Secretariat were addressed in several meetings and open videoconferences, in communications to the Council and in a note by the President regarding its working methods.

For an open videoconference held on 6 January in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” and focused on the challenges of maintaining peace and security in fragile contexts,<sup>143</sup> the representative of Belgium expressed support for the Council to regularly receive ad hoc briefings by the Secretariat outlining the risks for triggering or exacerbating root causes of fragility, conflict or humanitarian crises in certain countries or regions, while taking into account elements of conflict sensitivity.

For an open videoconference held on 11 March in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” and focused on conflict and food security,<sup>144</sup> the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community, stated that, in order to eradicate food insecurity, the underlying causes of conflict must be addressed. She called on the Council to reinforce early warning systems established under its resolution 2417 (2018), by which the Council was to be briefed about the risk of conflict-induced famine and

<sup>142</sup> For more information on the working methods of the Council developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see sect. I above.

<sup>143</sup> See [S/2021/24](#).

<sup>144</sup> See [S/2021/250](#).



widespread food insecurity in armed conflict contexts, and to take the appropriate action to ensure peace and food security, as well as physical security. To that end, she urged the Secretariat and all Member States to closely monitor such situations and report those matters to the Council without delay.

At a meeting of the Council held on 16 June under the item entitled “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/507](#))”,<sup>145</sup> the representative of China expressed support for the idea of facilitating newly elected Council members in performing their duties and, with the support of the Secretariat, strengthening capacity-building, including by helping elected members familiarize themselves in advance with the work of the Council and its subsidiary organs.<sup>146</sup> The delegation of Guatemala stressed that holding consultations between the Council, the Secretariat and the countries that contributed troops and police forces, as indicated in section VIII of the note by the President of the Security Council dated 30 August 2017,<sup>147</sup> was paramount for the implementation of the mandates decided by the Council.<sup>148</sup> The representative of Kuwait, highlighting the importance of striking a balance between transparency and efficiency, proposed that the Secretariat, penholder or President could advise on the desirability of holding meetings on the basis of mandated reporting cycles and decide whether to hold a Council meeting that particular month. The delegation of Latvia suggested that both the Council and the Secretariat should share their responsibility in order to improve and implement procedures in order to ensure business continuity in the Council during unexpected crises. Commending the regular discussions of the Council under the leadership of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Permanent Representative of which chaired the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, towards improving the working methods of the Council, the representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, encouraged continued discussions with the Secretariat, in order to draw lessons from the Council’s experience during the pandemic, look at improving the current circumstances and put in place adequate contingency planning for similar future challenges.

At a meeting held on 16 November under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” and the sub-item entitled “Peace and security

through preventive diplomacy: a common objective to all the principal organs of the United Nations”,<sup>149</sup> the representative of Norway said that, in order to facilitate early responses, the Council’s situational awareness needed to be improved. In that connection, there was a key role for the Secretariat and the United Nations system briefers to use their interactions with the Council to bring emerging issues to its attention and sound the alarm.

At a meeting held on 9 December under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” and the sub-item entitled “Security in the context of terrorism and climate change”,<sup>150</sup> the representative of the United States said that only the Council could ensure that the security impacts of climate change were integrated into the critical work of conflict prevention and mitigation, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, disaster reduction and humanitarian response. She further affirmed that it was the responsibility of the Council to ensure that it, and through it the Secretariat, had the tools and data necessary to confront one of the century’s greatest and fastest-growing threats to peace and security.

At a meeting held on 14 December under the item entitled “Non-proliferation”,<sup>151</sup> the representative of the Russian Federation expressed serious concern about the illegitimate practice of the Secretariat to conduct “so-called investigations” within the framework of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), recalling that its mandate in that area was of a purely administrative and technical character, as enshrined in the note by the President of the Security Council dated 16 January 2016.<sup>152</sup> He noted that the entity established to facilitate resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) was not a sanctions committee and had no right to collect or analyse information, nor any authority to send requests to Member States for information.<sup>153</sup> The representative of the United States expressed support for the Secretariat’s continued reporting on the implementation of the measures set out in resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and encouraged it to continue to investigate incidents for possible violations of the resolution.

In the note by the President issued on 12 July,<sup>154</sup> Council members amended paragraph 142 of the note by the President dated 30 August 2017<sup>155</sup> and invited the Secretariat to continue to take appropriate measures

<sup>145</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#) and [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>146</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>147</sup> [S/2017/507](#).

<sup>148</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>149</sup> See [S/PV.8906](#).

<sup>150</sup> See [S/PV.8923](#).

<sup>151</sup> See [S/PV.8930](#).

<sup>152</sup> [S/2016/44](#).

<sup>153</sup> See [S/PV.8930](#).

<sup>154</sup> [S/2021/645](#).

<sup>155</sup> [S/2017/507](#).

to familiarize all members with the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, including by providing briefing materials and holding seminars before newly elected members of the Council began to attend Council meetings and, to the extent feasible, by keeping a register of available training opportunities that were being offered.

Lastly, in a letter to the President of the Council dated 8 February,<sup>156</sup> the representatives of New

<sup>156</sup> S/2021/121.

Zealand and Switzerland, on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, and in connection with the working methods of the Council developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, invited the Council to explore ways to enable video and/or direct participation by non-Council members in virtual open debates and expressed trust that the Secretariat would provide the necessary technological support to enable that to take place.

## VII. Conduct of business

### Note

Section VII covers the practice of the Council concerning the conduct of business at its meetings, in relation to rules 27, 29, 30 and 33 of its provisional rules of procedure.

#### Rule 27

*The President shall call upon representatives in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.*

#### Rule 29

*The President may accord precedence to any rapporteur appointed by the Security Council.*

*The Chairman of a commission or committee, or the rapporteur appointed by the commission or committee to present its report, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the report.*

#### Rule 30

*If a representative raises a point of order, the President shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the President shall submit his ruling to the Security Council for immediate decision and it shall stand unless overruled.*

#### Rule 33

*The following motions shall have precedence in the order named over all principal motions and draft resolutions relative to the subject before the meeting:*

1. *To suspend the meeting;*
2. *To adjourn the meeting;*
3. *To adjourn the meeting to a certain day or hour;*

4. *To refer any matter to a committee, to the Secretary-General or to a rapporteur;*

5. *To postpone discussion of the question to a certain day or indefinitely; or*

6. *To introduce an amendment.*

*Any motion for the suspension or for the simple adjournment of the meeting shall be decided without debate.*

In 2021, no explicit reference was made to rules 27, 29 and 30 in the meetings of the Council. In accordance with the letters from the President of the Council dated 2 April and 7 May 2020, Council members continued to conduct videoconferences “in the spirit of the Council’s provisional rules of procedure”, including those under chapter VI, entitled “Conduct of business”.<sup>157</sup>

During the period under review, the President of the Council continued, on a regular basis, to request speakers to limit their statements in Council meetings to four or five minutes in accordance with the note by the President dated 30 August 2017.<sup>158</sup> For example, at a meeting held on 9 November, before giving the floor to non-Council members, the President reminded all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes and noted that the red light on the collar of the microphone would begin to flash after the time had elapsed.<sup>159</sup> Following previous practice, during the period under review, joint statements were delivered by

<sup>157</sup> See S/2020/273 and S/2020/372.

<sup>158</sup> S/2017/507, annex, para. 22. See, for example, S/PV.8886, S/PV.8886 (Resumption 1), S/PV.8900, S/PV.8900 (Resumption 1), S/PV.8906, S/PV.8906 (Resumption 1), S/PV.8909, S/PV.8909 (Resumption 1), S/PV.8923 and S/PV.8923 (Resumption 1).

<sup>159</sup> See S/PV.8900.

Council members<sup>160</sup> and by non-Council members invited to participate in Council meetings and videoconferences.<sup>161</sup> Moreover, briefers were also

often encouraged to be succinct and to limit their remarks to five to seven minutes.<sup>162</sup>

According to the note by the President dated 30 August 2017, as general practices, the speaking order for meetings of the Council is established by a draw, while the President of the Council delivers his or her national statement last of all Council members.<sup>163</sup> However, in certain cases, the speaking order is established by the use of a sign-up sheet, and the President of the Council may make his or her national statement before the other members take the floor.<sup>164</sup> Also in certain cases, the President of the Council may adjust the list of speakers and inscribe first the delegation or delegations responsible for the drafting process, in order to allow them to make an introductory or explanatory presentation.<sup>165</sup> When an unscheduled or emergency meeting is convened, the President may adjust the list of speakers so that the delegation that requested the meeting can speak before other Council members in order to present the rationale for convening the meeting.<sup>166</sup> The President may also

<sup>160</sup> In 2021, in a number of instances, the representatives of Kenya, the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia delivered joint statements on behalf of the three African members of the Council together with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (referred to as “A3+1”) (see, for example, [S/PV.8779](#) and [S/PV.8787](#)). In several instances, Council members also delivered joint statements as co-penholders on a particular issue (see, for example, [S/2021/315](#), [S/2021/418](#), [S/2021/506](#), [S/PV.8803](#), [S/PV.8841](#) and [S/PV.8861](#)). At a meeting held on 16 June under the item entitled “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/507](#))”, the representative of Kenya delivered a statement on behalf of the 10 elected members of the Council (see [S/PV.8798](#)).

<sup>161</sup> For example, at a meeting held on 21 October under the item entitled “Women and peace and security”, the representative of Canada spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, the representative of Australia spoke on behalf of the group of countries referred to as the “MIKTA Group” (Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia) and the representative of Sweden spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries (see [S/PV.8886](#) and [S/PV.8886 \(Resumption 1\)](#)); at a meeting held on 16 November under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, the representative of Finland delivered a joint statement on behalf of the Nordic countries, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations and the representative of Azerbaijan delivered a statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see [S/PV.8906](#) and [S/PV.8906 \(Resumption 1\)](#)); and at a meeting held on 9 December under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, the representative of Germany spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security and the representative of Sweden spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries (see [S/PV.8923 \(Resumption 1\)](#)). Non-Council members also submitted joint statements in connection with open videoconferences. For example, in connection with an open videoconference on the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question” held on 22 April, the delegation of Azerbaijan submitted a statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (see [S/2021/404](#)); in connection with an open videoconference on the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa” held on 19 May, the delegation of Canada submitted a statement also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand and the delegation Denmark submitted a statement on behalf of the Nordic countries (see [S/2021/490](#)); in connection with an open videoconference on the item entitled “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” held on 25 May, the delegation of Spain submitted a statement also on behalf of Egypt, Japan, New Zealand and Uruguay, its co-penholders on resolution [2286 \(2016\)](#), and the delegation of Switzerland submitted a statement on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (see [S/2021/505](#)).

<sup>162</sup> See, for example, [S/PV.8874](#).

<sup>163</sup> [S/2017/507](#), paras. 24 and 25.

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.* For example, at a meeting, held on 16 November under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, the representative of Mexico (President of the Council) took the floor to deliver his national statement after the briefings by the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice, but before the other members of the Council spoke (see [S/PV.8906](#)); and at a meeting held on 23 November under the item entitled “The situation in Libya”, the representative of Mexico (President of the Council) took the floor to deliver his national statement after the briefing by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, but before the other members of the Council spoke (see [S/PV.8911](#)).

<sup>165</sup> [S/2017/507](#), annex, para. 26. For example, at a meeting held on 9 July under the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”, the representative of the United States, as a co-penholder for resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#), which was adopted at the meeting, took the floor first after the vote to provide introductory remarks (see [S/PV.8817](#)); and at a meeting, held on 3 November under the item entitled “The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, the representative of France, as penholder for resolution [2604 \(2021\)](#), which was adopted at the meeting, took the floor first after the vote to provide explanatory remarks (see [S/PV.8896](#)).

<sup>166</sup> [S/2017/507](#), annex, para. 26. For example, at a meeting held on 6 October under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”, the representative of Ireland, having requested a Council meeting to discuss the expulsion of the United Nations leadership from Ethiopia, delivered a statement after the Secretary-General, but before the other members of the Council (see [S/PV.8875](#)).

inscribe first the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Council when they present their work, as was the case on several occasions during the period under review.<sup>167</sup> In the letters from the President dated 2 April and 7 May 2020, it was established that, following general practice, the order of speakers of Council members in videoconferences during the COVID-19 pandemic would continue to be established by a draw.<sup>168</sup>

Following established practice, the list of speakers was adjusted according to protocol when high-level officials were representing Council members at a meeting.<sup>169</sup> In 2021, consistent with past practice under these items and in line with the note by the President dated 30 August 2017, non-members of the Council having a direct interest in the matter under consideration spoke before Council members did in meetings and videoconferences held in connection with the items entitled “The situation in Afghanistan”, “Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)” and “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian

question”.<sup>170</sup> In May 2021, during the presidency of China, non-members of the Council with a direct interest in the matter also spoke ahead of Council members in meetings and videoconferences held in connection with the items entitled “The situation in Iraq”, “The situation in the Middle East”, “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”, “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”, “The situation in Somalia” and “The situation in Libya”.<sup>171</sup> During the high-level open videoconference held on 28 October in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”, the President of Ghana, in his capacity as Chair of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States, spoke before Council members did.<sup>172</sup>

In addition to using videoconferences in lieu of in-person Council meetings, the Council continued to use videoconferencing technology to facilitate participation at its in-person meetings, a practice that had become common in recent years.<sup>173</sup> In 2021, Council members heard briefings by speakers participating by videoconference in 68 out of 164 meetings (41.5 per cent).

In 2021, at an open videoconference held on 23 February in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” and focused on climate and security, Sir David Attenborough provided a pre-recorded video before the videoconference was called to order.<sup>174</sup> At an open videoconference held on 8 April in connection with the same item and focused on mine action and sustaining peace, the United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards also addressed Council members through a pre-recorded briefing before the videoconference was called to order.<sup>175</sup>

<sup>167</sup> S/2017/507, annex, para. 27. For example, at a meeting held on 6 December under the item entitled “The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo”, the representative of the Niger (President of the Council) spoke before the other members of the Council did, to give a briefing in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see S/PV.8918).

<sup>168</sup> See S/2020/273 and S/2020/372.

<sup>169</sup> S/2017/507, annex, paras. 29–30. For example, at a meeting held on 19 August under the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”, the Minister for External Affairs of India (President of the Council) took the floor after the briefings but before the other Council members spoke (see S/PV.8839); at a meeting held on 23 September under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, the Taoiseach of Ireland (President of the Council) took the floor after the briefings but before the other Council members spoke (see S/PV.8864); and at a meeting held on 20 October under the item entitled “The situation in the Great Lakes region”, the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya (President of the Council) took the floor after the briefings but before the other Council members spoke (see S/PV.8884). For more information on high-level meetings, see sect. II.B above.

<sup>170</sup> S/2017/507, annex, para. 33. See, for example, S/2021/291, S/2021/370, S/2021/480, S/PV.8782, S/2021/601, S/PV.8834 and S/PV.8880.

<sup>171</sup> See S/2021/474, S/2021/465, S/2021/480, S/2021/495, S/2021/498, S/PV.8779, S/2021/506 and S/PV.8782.

<sup>172</sup> See S/2021/941.

<sup>173</sup> S/2017/507, annex, para. 60.

<sup>174</sup> See S/2021/198. See also S/2021/1060.

<sup>175</sup> See S/2021/346.



## VIII. Participation

### Note

Section VIII covers the practice of the Council concerning the extension of invitations to non-members of the Council to participate in meetings of the Council. Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter of the United Nations and rules 37 and 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council describe circumstances in which invitations can be extended to non-members of the Council to participate, without a vote, when the Council so decides.

#### Article 31

*Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council may participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that Member are specially affected.*

#### Article 32

*Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council or any state which is not a Member of the United Nations, if it is a party to a dispute under consideration by the Security Council, shall be invited to participate, without vote, in the discussion relating to the dispute. The Security Council shall lay down such conditions as it deems just for the participation of a state which is not a Member of the United Nations.*

#### Rule 37

*Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council may be invited, as the result of a decision of the Security Council, to participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council when the Security Council considers that the interests of that Member are specially affected, or when a Member brings a matter to the attention of the Security Council in accordance with Article 35 (1) of the Charter.*

#### Rule 39

*The Security Council may invite members of the Secretariat or other persons, whom it considers competent for the purpose, to supply it with information or to give other assistance in examining matters within its competence.*

During the period under review, the Council continued to invite non-members of the Council to

participate in its meetings. As explained in section I above, however, the participation of non-Council members was heavily restricted because of the technical limitations related to open videoconferences and the health and safety guidelines implemented for the holding of in-person meetings. This notwithstanding, invitations were extended by the President of the Council at the beginning of or during Council meetings, either under the “relevant provisions” of the Charter without an explicit reference to a specific Article or rule of the provisional rules of procedure, or under rule 37 or rule 39. Specifically, Member States continued to be invited under rule 37, while representatives of the Secretariat, other United Nations organs, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, regional and other intergovernmental organizations or other invitees, including representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society, were invited under rule 39. While Member States requested invitations in letters addressed to the President of the Council, in most cases, these were not circulated as documents of the Council. In accordance with the working methods of the Council developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, non-members of the Council continued to participate in videoconferences of the Council, “within the principles of rules 37 and 39”, if there were no objections from Council members.<sup>176</sup>

During the period under review, in accordance with the notes by the President dated 30 August 2017 and 27 December 2019,<sup>177</sup> the Council invited newly elected members to observe all meetings of the Council and informal consultations of the whole, including consultations on Council outcome documents from 1 October 2021, for the three months immediately preceding their term of membership. This included open and closed videoconferences.

The present section is divided into four subsections, namely: A. Invitations extended under rule 37; B. Invitations extended under rule 39; C. Invitations not expressly extended under rule 37 or rule 39; and D. Discussions relating to participation.

### A. Invitations extended under rule 37

In accordance with the relevant Articles of the Charter and the provisional rules of procedure, all

<sup>176</sup> See [S/2020/273](#). For more information on the working methods of the Council developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see sect. I.C above.

<sup>177</sup> [S/2017/507](#), annex, paras. 140–141, and [S/2019/993](#).

States, whether Members of the United Nations or not, can be invited to participate in Council meetings when: (a) the interests of a Member State are “specially affected” (Article 31 of the Charter and rule 37); (b) a Member State or a non-Member State is a party to a dispute under consideration by the Council (Article 32 of the Charter); and (c) a Member State of the United Nations brings a matter to the attention of the Council in accordance with Article 35 (1) of the Charter (rule 37).<sup>178</sup> In accordance with the procedures and working methods of the Council developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, non-members of the Council continued to participate in videoconferences of the Council, “within the principles of rules 37 and 39”, if there were no objections from Council members.<sup>179</sup>

Starting in September 2021, with the gradual improvement of the situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City, restrictions on the in-person participation of non-Council members in Council meetings began to ease. In letters dated 3 September, 10 November and 7 December from the President of the Council,<sup>180</sup> Council members agreed that Member States that were not members of the Council and that had been invited to participate in public meetings of the Council under rules 37 or 39 of the provisional rules of procedure, or had been invited by the President as agreed by the Council prior to the meeting, would be allowed in the Security Council Chamber. In addition, non-Council members would continue to be able to participate in open debates through the submission of written statements.

<sup>178</sup> For more details on the referral of a dispute or situation to the Council by States, see sect. I.A above and part VI, sect. I.A.

<sup>179</sup> See [S/2020/253](#), [S/2020/273](#) and [S/2020/372](#). In 2021, non-members of the Council delivered statements during videoconferences of the Council at the Head of State or Government or ministerial level. For example, at an open videoconference held on 23 February in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” and focused on climate and security, Council members invited the President of Malawi, the Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Corporate Governance of Antigua and Barbuda and the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany within the principle of rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure (see [S/2021/198](#)); and at an open videoconference held on 16 May in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”, the Council invited the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria within the principle of rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure (see [S/2021/480](#)).

<sup>180</sup> [S/2021/776](#), [S/2021/939](#) and [S/2021/1013](#).

Accordingly, at a meeting convened on 9 September, five Member States were invited to participate in a debate held under the item entitled “The situation in Afghanistan” under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, the largest number of invitees since the resumption of meetings in person on 25 May 2021.<sup>181</sup> At a meeting held on 21 October under the item entitled “Women and peace and security”, the Council held the first open debate since 12 February 2020 with the participation in person of non-Council members under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.<sup>182</sup> While 35 non-Council members participated in the open debate in the Council Chamber, another 23 non-Council members submitted written statements, and one Council member submitted a statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women in Afghanistan.<sup>183</sup>

In several instances, representatives of non-Council members participated in Council videoconferences in their capacity as representatives of regional and subregional organizations. During a high-level open videoconference held on 9 August in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” and focused on maritime security, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo participated under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, on behalf of his President, Chair of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.<sup>184</sup> At private meetings held on 17 August and 8 November under the item entitled “The situation in Myanmar”, the Second Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam participated under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure in his capacity as Special Envoy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Chair on Myanmar.<sup>185</sup> During a high-level open videoconference held on 28 October in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”, the President of Ghana participated under rule 37 of the provisional rules of

<sup>181</sup> See [S/PV.8853](#).

<sup>182</sup> See [S/PV.8886](#), [S/PV.8886 \(Resumption 1\)](#) and [S/2021/886](#). The last open debate with the in-person participation of non-Council members invited under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure was at the 8723rd meeting of the Council, held on 12 February 2020 (see [S/PV.8723](#)). The last debate with the in-person participation of non-Council members invited under rule 37 was at the 8743rd meeting of the Council, held on 11 March 2020 (see [S/PV.8743](#)).

<sup>183</sup> See [S/2021/886](#).

<sup>184</sup> See [S/2021/722](#).

<sup>185</sup> See [S/PV.8835](#) and [S/PV.8898](#).

procedure in his capacity as Chair of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States.<sup>186</sup> In 2021, several non-Council members, invited in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, participated in meetings by videoconference.<sup>187</sup>

Despite the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on the participation of non-Council members, in 2021, there were no changes to the procedure for extending invitations to Member States to participate in the meetings of the Council. There were also no instances wherein an invitation extended to a Member State to participate in a Council meeting was put to a vote. This notwithstanding, in 2021, Member States, including Council members, submitted various communications raising issues of concern regarding invitations pursuant to rule 37.

In a letter dated 8 July, the representative of the Dominican Republic expressed disagreement with the decision of the Council to hold its 8815th meeting, convened under the item entitled “The question concerning Haiti”, in a private format and stated that the Council should have invited the Dominican Republic to participate as the country that would be most affected if the crisis following the assassination of the President of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse, spilled over its border.<sup>188</sup> The representative enclosed the position of the Dominican Republic on the situation in Haiti as an annex to the letter. Similarly, in a letter dated 12 July, writing in his capacity as Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis referred to an earlier letter, dated 7 July, in which he had requested to attend and speak at the same private meeting on Haiti.<sup>189</sup> In that regard, he expressed disappointment with the decision of the presidency of the Council to exclude CARICOM from the meeting. He noted that rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure permitted the

participation of Member States whose interests were specifically affected. He recalled that CARICOM was seized of the recent developments in Haiti and highlighted its willingness to play a lead role in facilitating a process of national dialogue and negotiation in that country. The representative also enclosed the written statement that he would have delivered at the meeting as an annex to the letter.

In a letter dated 6 August, the representative of Pakistan expressed regret that the immediate neighbours of Afghanistan had not been given an opportunity to participate in the 8831st meeting of the Council on the situation in that country, held on that day.<sup>190</sup> The representative noted that Pakistan had a vital stake in peace and stability in Afghanistan and had been actively engaged in facilitating the peace process in that country. He transmitted a document containing the views of Pakistan on the situation in Afghanistan as an annex to the letter. Similarly, in a letter dated 15 August, the same representative expressed his delegation’s desire to participate in, under rule 37, and deliver a statement at the meeting of the Council on Afghanistan scheduled for 16 August.<sup>191</sup>

In a letter to the President of the Council dated 14 October 2021, the representatives of New Zealand and Switzerland, writing on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, noted the urgency of restoring direct in-person participation by non-Council members in open debates of the Council.<sup>192</sup> The representatives noted that open debates were intended to promote interaction between the Council and the wider membership and to inform the Council’s deliberations. According to the Group, written contributions, which had been developed as a temporary mitigating measure against the backdrop of exceptional and unprecedented circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, could not substitute for that interaction.

## B. Invitations extended under rule 39

In accordance with rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure, members of the Secretariat or other persons may be invited to supply the Council with information or give other assistance in examining matters within its competence.

Following previous practice, an invitation under rule 39 was extended to a representative of a Member State, on an exceptional basis, only if his or her

<sup>186</sup> See [S/2021/941](#).

<sup>187</sup> For example, at a meeting held on 8 June under the item entitled “International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals”, the President of Serbia participated by videoconference (see [S/PV.8790](#)); at a meeting held on 12 October under the item entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace”, the President of Rwanda participated by videoconference (see [S/PV.8877](#)); at a meeting held on 18 October under the item entitled “The situation in the Central African Republic”, the President of the Central African Republic participated by videoconference (see [S/PV.8882](#)); and at the meeting held on 8 November under the item entitled “The situation in Myanmar”, the Second Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam participated by videoconference (see [S/PV.8898](#)).

<sup>188</sup> See [S/2021/637](#). See also [S/PV.8815](#).

<sup>189</sup> See [S/2021/660](#).

<sup>190</sup> See [S/2021/715](#). See also [S/PV.8831](#).

<sup>191</sup> See [S/2021/729](#). See also [S/PV.8834](#).

<sup>192</sup> See [S/2021/879](#).



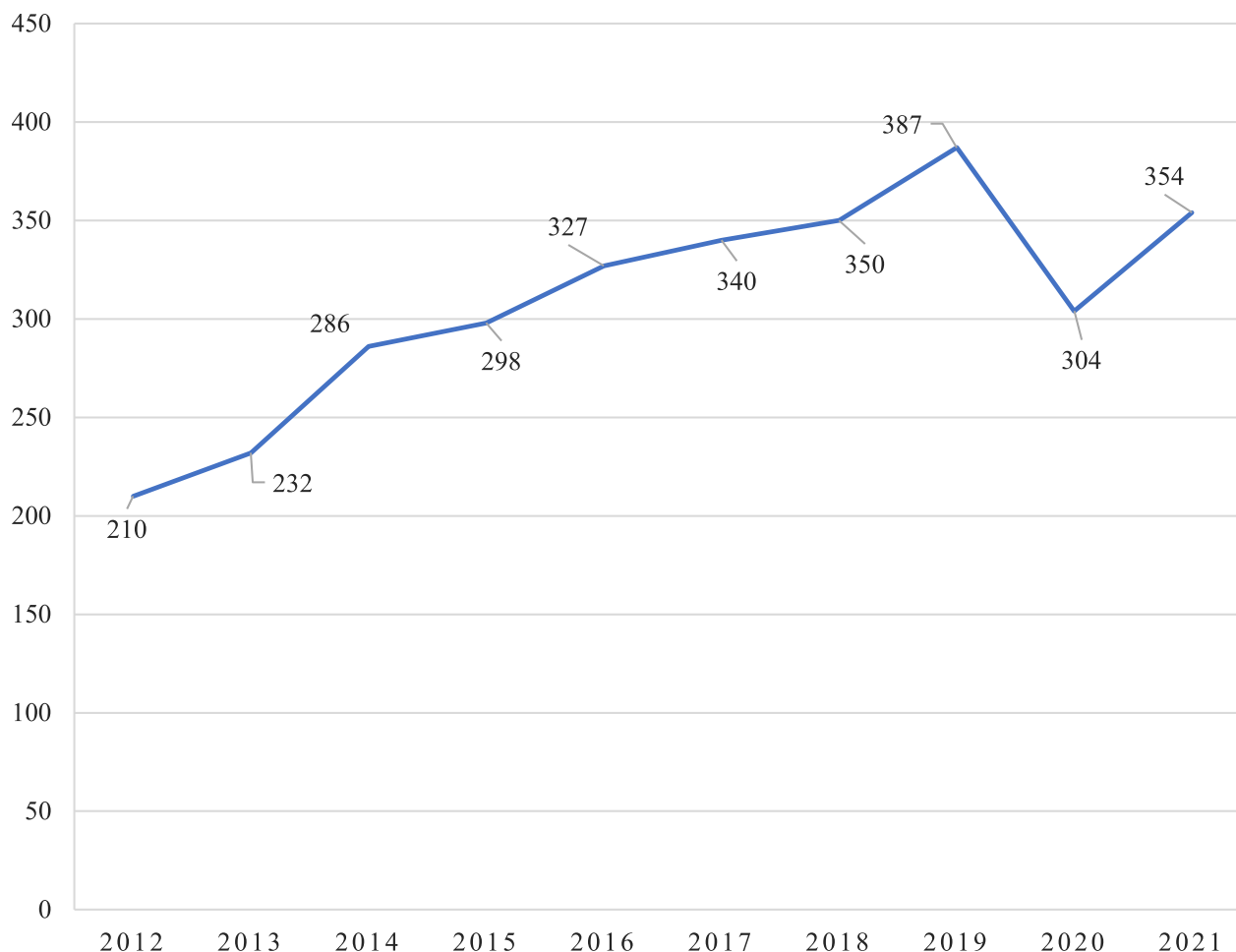
participation was in a role other than that of a representative of a State, for example, as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.<sup>193</sup>

<sup>193</sup> For example, at open videoconferences held on 12 April and 18 May in connection with the items entitled “The situation in the Great Lakes region” (see [S/2021/351](#)) and

In 2021, a total of 354 invitations were extended under rule 39, as compared with 304 in 2020 and 387 in 2019 (see figure V).

“Peace and security in Africa” (see [S/2021/484](#)), respectively, the representative of Egypt briefed Council members in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Figure V  
Invitations under rule 39, 2012–2021

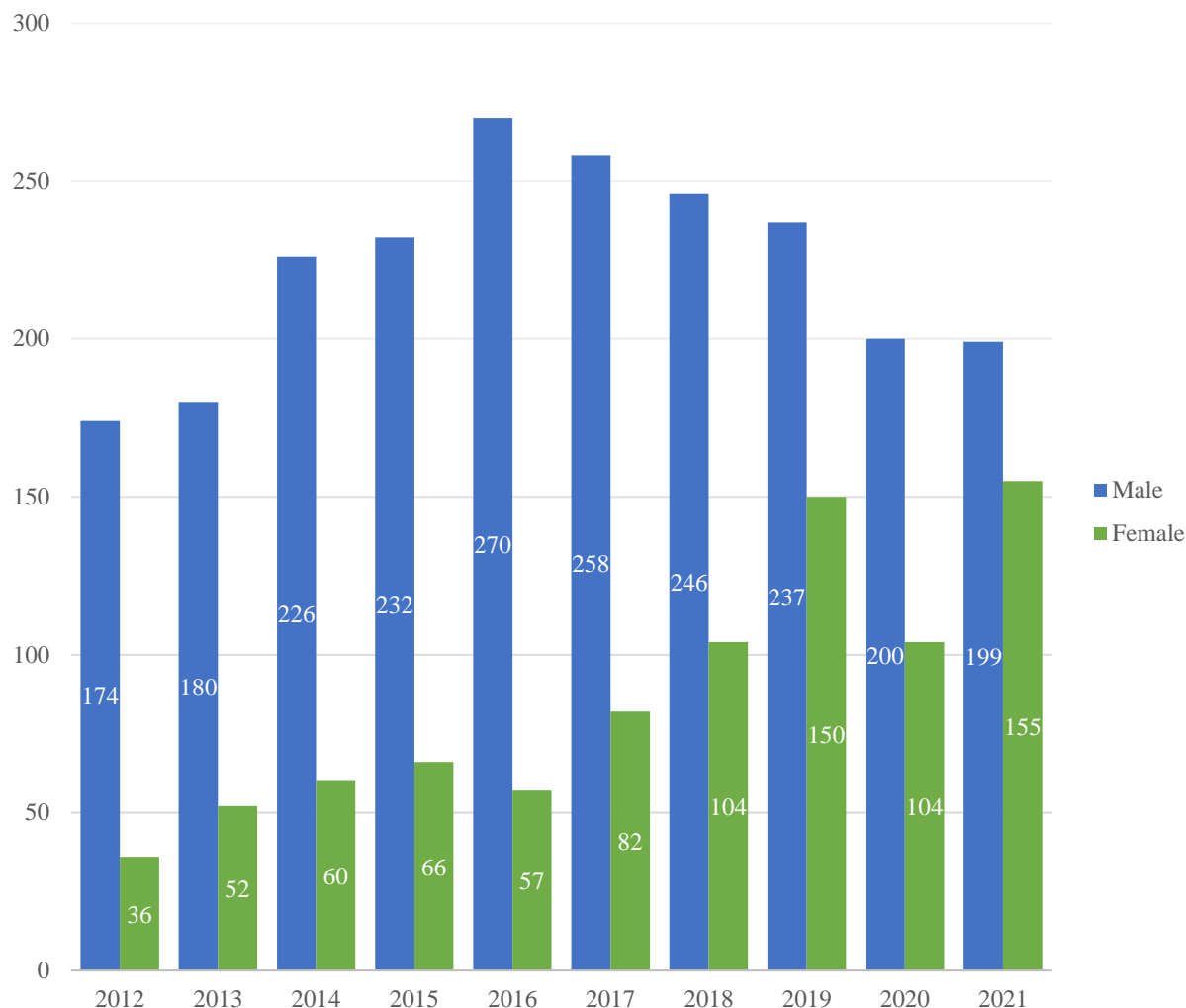


Of the 354 invitations under rule 39, 207 were extended in Council meetings, 142 in open videoconferences and 5 in closed videoconferences. Of the total number of invitees under rule 39, 199 were men and 155 were women. As shown in figure VI, in recent years, both the total number and the percentage of female speakers invited to Council meetings under rule 39 had increased, with the latter being 43.8 per cent in 2021, compared with 34.2 per cent in 2020.

Moreover, in 2021, as part of their monthly commitments on working methods, several Council presidencies placed specific emphasis on ensuring the participation of women briefers in Council meetings and videoconferences.<sup>194</sup>

<sup>194</sup> For more information on Council presidencies, see sect. V above.

Figure VI  
Invitees under rule 39, 2012–2021

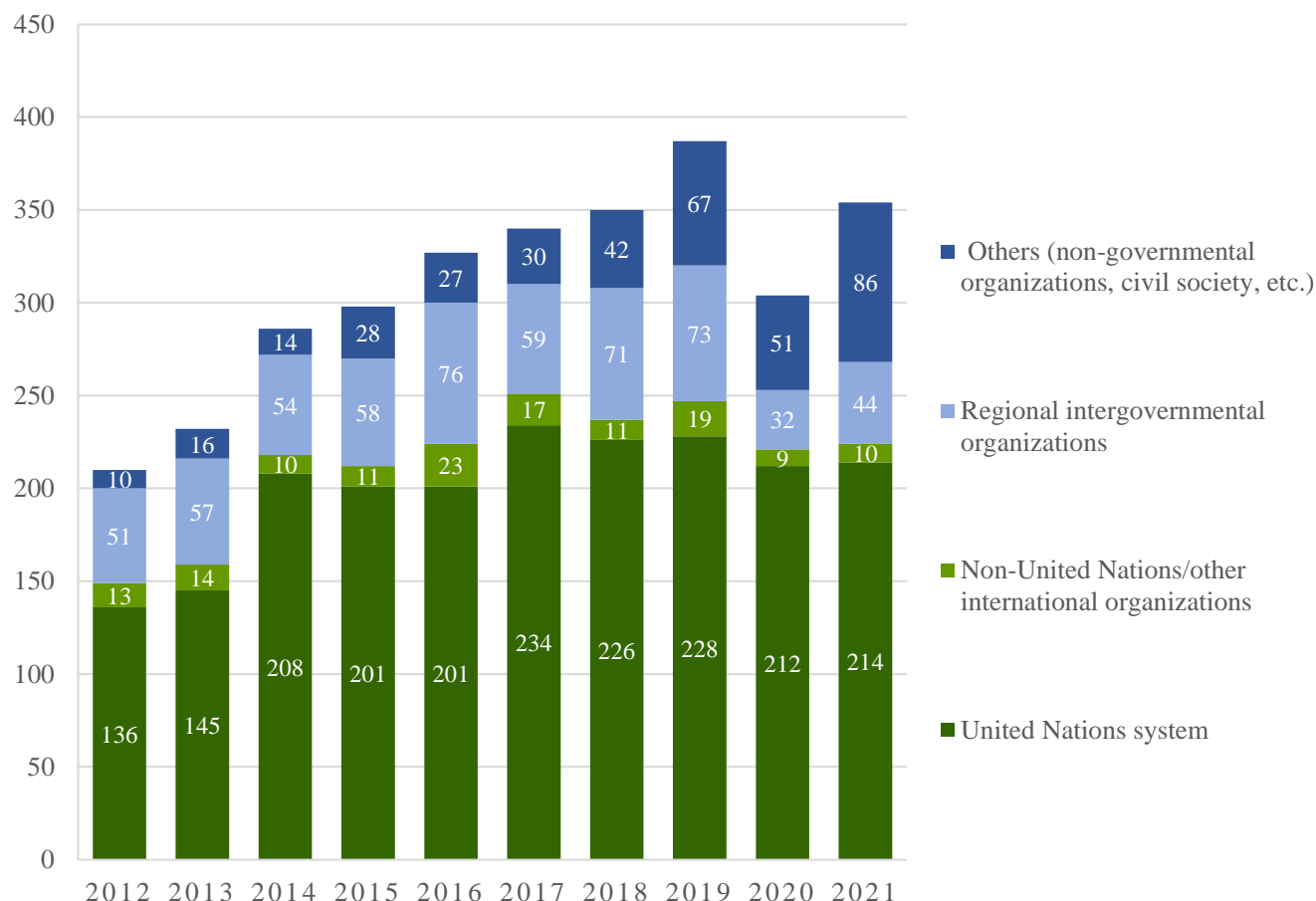


For the purposes of this part of the *Repertoire*, invitations extended under rule 39 are classified according to four main categories, namely:<sup>195</sup> (a) officials of the United Nations system; (b) invitees from international organizations other than the United Nations; (c) officials representing regional intergovernmental organizations; and (d) representatives of other entities such as non-governmental organizations and civil society. As shown in figure VII, during the period under review invitations under rule 39 were most often extended to officials of the United Nations system and representatives of non-governmental organizations and

civil society. The number of civil society representatives increased from 51 in 2020 to 86 in 2021 and was the highest number of invitees under this category since 2009. In terms of sex-disaggregated data for each category, of the 214 invitations to United Nations officials, 143 (67 per cent) had been extended to men and 71 (33 per cent) to women. Of the 44 invitations to officials representing regional intergovernmental organizations, 34 (77 per cent) had been extended to men and 10 (23 per cent) to women. Of the 10 invitations to representatives of international organizations other than the United Nations, 7 had been extended to men and 3 to women. Lastly, of the 86 representatives of other entities such as non-governmental organizations and civil society, 15 (17 per cent) had been extended to men and 71 (or 83 per cent) to women, representing an increase of 26 per cent in the participation of women under this category as compared with 2020.

<sup>195</sup> In earlier supplements, separate categories had been used for invitees of the Secretariat and Council subsidiary bodies and those representing other United Nations organs, subsidiary bodies or agencies. Since the twentieth supplement, these two categories have been subsumed under the category “United Nations system”.

Figure VII  
Breakdown of invitations under rule 39, by category, 2012–2021



In 2021, there were no changes to the procedure for extending invitations under rule 39 to participate in meetings of the Council. There were also no instances wherein an invitation extended to participate in a Council meeting was put to a vote. This notwithstanding, in 2021, one Council member submitted a communication in which issues of concern were raised regarding invitations (or the lack thereof) pursuant to rule 39.

In a letter to the President of the Council dated 22 February, the representative of the Russian Federation noted that the representatives of certain areas of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions, unlike their Ukrainian counterparts at the negotiations of the Minsk Trilateral Contact Group, had not had an opportunity to present their views at the open videoconference held on 11 February 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>196</sup> He enclosed their statements as an annex to the letter.

### C. Invitations not expressly extended under rule 37 or rule 39

During the period under review, the Council extended several invitations not expressly under rule 37 or rule 39 (see table 11).

Invitations to representatives of the Holy See and the State of Palestine to participate in meetings of the Council were routinely extended “in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure and the previous practice in this regard”, without specification of any rules.

<sup>196</sup> S/2021/168. See also S/2021/159.

Table 11  
Invitations not expressly extended under rule 37 or rule 39

| <i>Invitee</i>     | <i>Meeting or videoconference record and date</i> | <i>Item</i>                                                          |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Holy See           | <a href="#">S/2021/346</a> , 8 April 2021         | Maintenance of international peace and security                      |
|                    | <a href="#">S/2021/490</a> , 19 May 2021          | Peace and security in Africa                                         |
| State of Palestine | <a href="#">S/2021/404</a> , 22 April 2021        | The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question |
|                    | <a href="#">S/2021/480</a> , 16 May 2021          |                                                                      |
|                    | <a href="#">S/PV.8782</a> , 27 May 2021           |                                                                      |
|                    | <a href="#">S/PV.8826</a> , 28 July 2021          |                                                                      |
|                    | <a href="#">S/PV.8883</a> , 19 October 2021       |                                                                      |

#### D. Discussions relating to participation

During the period under review, when non-members of the Council were invited to participate in a meeting or videoconference, Council members generally spoke before Member States invited under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure and before those not expressly invited under any rule, except on some occasions when parties directly involved in the matter under consideration took the floor before Council members.<sup>197</sup> The practice of the Council with regard to invitees under rule 39 was less consistent, and the order of speakers depended on whether or not they were participating to provide a briefing to the Council.

In 2021, matters concerning participation in Council meetings and videoconferences were raised on several occasions during meetings and videoconferences.

At an open videoconference held on 25 February in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East” on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the representative of the United States expressed regret that the delegation of the Russian Federation had silenced and blocked the appearance of Su’ad Jarbawi, a civil society leader from the International Rescue Committee, who had been invited to participate in the videoconference.<sup>198</sup> Responding to the assertion made by the United States, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that his delegation had nothing against the briefer in question and simply considered it would be enough to have just one civil society representative.

During an open videoconference held on 13 April in connection with the item entitled “Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)”, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia stated that he had no choice but to lodge a protest against the abuse of the videoconference format on the part of the representatives of Pristina in order to promote the symbols of the so-called statehood of Kosovo.<sup>199</sup> The Minister added that they had been warned on several occasions, including by the President of the Council at a previous meeting, that such abuses of Council meetings were unacceptable and constituted a violation of the Council’s rules on the participation of representatives of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Pristina under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure. The representative of the Russian Federation drew attention to the disrespect for the Council and its decisions shown by the Kosovo Albanian representatives, who had been invited to join the meeting in their private capacity. Noting that the Council had had to postpone the open videoconference to discuss the situation because, among other reasons, the Russian Federation and the majority of the other Council members did not recognize Kosovo as an independent State, he stated that displaying the flag of the “non-recognized entity” was unacceptable. He added that the meeting had been resumed on the sole understanding that the videoconference was taking place in an informal and provisional format that was not fully covered by the Council’s rules of procedure. The representative of China said that his delegation respected the decision taken by the Council that the meeting be carried out in an informal way and added that the backdrop of the relevant party did not have any

<sup>197</sup> For more information on the order of speaking see sect. VII above.

<sup>198</sup> See [S/2021/206](#).

<sup>199</sup> See [S/2021/370](#).

special meaning. He reiterated that the goal of the discussions of the Council on the Kosovo issue was to increase mutual trust between the two sides and promote a solution within the framework of resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#) as soon as possible. In that connection, creating confrontation and problems ran contrary to the intention of the Council's discussion on the issue and was not helping its resolution. He expressed the hope that no similar incidents would be seen in the future.

During an open videoconference held on 6 May in connection with the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", noting the inability of the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to participate in the discussion that day, the representative of the Russian Federation requested the upcoming presidency to send the Director General an invitation to the next meeting on the matter, in June 2021, well in advance and to find a date that would fit into his schedule.<sup>200</sup> At the meeting held on 3 June under the same item, the representative of the Russian Federation noted that that was the first time since October 2020 that the Council was meeting in person in order to discuss resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) and welcomed the Director General of OPCW to the meeting.<sup>201</sup> He posited that such a format of interaction should become a regular one.

At a meeting held on 28 July under the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question", the representative of Israel commented that, while the participation of Ir Amim, an Israeli non-governmental organization, in the meeting reflected his country's vibrant democracy and its commitment to freedom of expression, bringing a political non-governmental organization to brief the Council on Jerusalem was absurd in terms of objectivity.<sup>202</sup> At a meeting held on 16 August under the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan", the representative of China noted that several Council members had said in their statements that they would like to see neighbours of Afghanistan and countries of the region play a greater role and expressed regret that their requests to participate in the meeting had not been granted.<sup>203</sup>

At a meeting held on 21 October in connection with the item entitled "Women and peace and security", the Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora of Ireland said that it was critical that the Council listen to a diversity of

perspectives from women leaders and human rights defenders, underlining that Ireland had placed women civil society briefers at the heart of its Council presidency.<sup>204</sup> In that connection, he acknowledged the risks faced by civil society briefers and noted that Council members should ensure both the safe participation by women peacebuilders at the grass-roots level and their physical participation in the Chamber, despite the virtual working methods that had facilitated their participation in the Council. The representative of Estonia echoed the importance for the Council to hear from women activists and civil society representatives, underscoring that threats and attacks against them could not lead to their exclusion or self-censorship. The representative of Canada, speaking on behalf of the Friends of Women, Peace and Security, an informal network of 65 Member States, called upon the Council to systematically include women in all of its discussions and to fully integrate women and peace and security commitments into all of its work and outcomes, including on country-specific situations and mission mandates. Several Council members<sup>205</sup> welcomed the participation of the wider membership in person in an open debate for the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Participation in Council meetings was also discussed in further detail during the annual open debate on the working methods of the Council, held on 16 June under the item entitled "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/507](#))" (see case 5).

#### **Case 5 Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/507](#))**

At a meeting held on 16 June at the joint initiative of Estonia, which held the presidency of the Security Council for the month, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the representative of which held the Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions,<sup>206</sup> the Council convened an open debate under the item entitled "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/507](#))" and the sub-item "Working methods of the Security Council" and focused on the theme "Agility and innovation: lessons

<sup>200</sup> See [S/2021/446](#).

<sup>201</sup> See [S/PV.8785](#).

<sup>202</sup> See [S/PV.8826](#).

<sup>203</sup> See [S/PV.8834](#).

<sup>204</sup> See [S/PV.8886](#).

<sup>205</sup> Kenya, Norway, Viet Nam and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

<sup>206</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 2 June 2021 ([S/2021/527](#)).

for the future from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”.<sup>207</sup>

In their statements, Council members and other delegations discussed the impact of the working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic on the participation in Council meetings of invitees under rule 37 and 39 of the provisional rules of procedure. In that regard, the representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the elected members of the Council, said that as the Council had adjusted to the new reality of the pandemic, there had been more scrutiny on how it would continue executing its mandate, which had prompted calls for more transparency, including through the holding of more public meetings and wider representation by women, civil society and youth.<sup>208</sup> He posited that one of the greatest challenges to operational continuity was the technological capacity of the Secretariat and the political will to ensure that virtual open debates could include the participation of the wider membership. He added that written contributions by non-Council members were not an appropriate substitution for their participation in such debates. According to the representative of Liechtenstein, in its current guise, the Council risked creating a “two-tier” system for participation in open debates, which defeated the very purpose of the format.<sup>209</sup> The representative of Pakistan maintained that, by replacing the videoconference participation of non-Council members with the submission of written statements, the working methods adopted during the pandemic had undermined one of the few available channels for participation by the wider memberships on issues of international peace and security. Furthermore, the written statements were circulated as a separate compilation and not as part of the official records of the meetings. The representative of Singapore noted that, by the time the compilation of written statements was circulated, the Council would have already shifted its focus to other issues.

Multiple delegations<sup>210</sup> stressed the need to urgently facilitate the in-person participation of the wider membership in Council meetings. The representative of Liechtenstein encouraged Council members to explore safe modalities for in-person participation in open debates, such as timed arrivals of non-Council members and the use of the antechamber

to ensure an uninterrupted flow in the speakers’ list. As it could not be excluded that situations necessitating the use of virtual participation at meetings could emerge in the future, the delegation of Switzerland underscored the urgent need to find a solution to enable non-Council members to participate fully and directly in virtual open debates.

Notwithstanding the challenges, several Member States<sup>211</sup> reflected upon the benefits of the use of videoconferences in facilitating both the high-level participation of Member States and a broad range of briefers, including civil society representatives. The representative of Kenya, on behalf of the elected members of the Council, suggested that a progressive approach would be to consider holding meetings that combine in-person and virtual participation to attract a wide spectrum of briefers in certain events.<sup>212</sup> The representative of the United Kingdom, highlighting that the use of technology had allowed the Council to include more diverse voices from the field, including civil society, women peacebuilders and young people, echoed the view of the elected members that the Council should continue such practices. The representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, encouraged the Council to continue to enable briefers to address it virtually and encouraged the inclusion and meaningful participation of civil society representatives, including women, young people and persons with disabilities, as briefers.<sup>213</sup> The representative of Slovakia indicated that briefings by videoconference enabled the Council to consider a larger pool of potential briefers and was an efficient and cost-effective solution to the logistical constraints pertaining to travel to New York. The delegation of the United Arab Emirates expressed concern with the decrease in the participation of women in the Council’s work over the past year and that, going forward, the Council and Member States should ensure adequate access and space for both the formal and informal engagement of women.

More generally, beyond participation during the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of delegations<sup>214</sup> addressed the need to ensure the participation of

<sup>207</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#) and [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>208</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>209</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>210</sup> Argentina, Austria, Brazil, El Salvador, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malta, New Zealand (on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council), Pakistan and Singapore.

<sup>211</sup> Bahrain, Brazil, Colombia, Cyprus, Kuwait, Republic of Korea, Chile, El Salvador, Latvia, Liechtenstein, New Zealand (on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council), Slovakia, Switzerland (on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group) and United Arab Emirates.

<sup>212</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>213</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>214</sup> Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Cyprus, New Zealand (on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council) and Republic of Korea.

concerned Member States in Council discussions when their interests were affected. The representative of Argentina added that, as part of the transparency and inclusion that should guide the work of the Council, the participation of non-members of the Council involved in a situation that the Council was considering should, as prescribed in the Charter of the United Nations, be guaranteed. The representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, underscored that that should be done in particular when the Council was making decisions, as requested in the Charter, and, in the case of Council sanctions committees, with troop- and police-contributing countries, regional and subregional organizations and concerned countries. The delegations of Cyprus and the Republic of Korea stated that the

participation of non-members should also apply to closed consultations. The delegation of Cyprus added that all Member States hosting peacekeeping operations should have a chance to offer their perspective before the Council when it discussed mandate renewals and be included in meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries. The representative of Pakistan expressed the view that the participation of the wider membership appeared to have been progressively restricted over the years and that Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter, which contained calls for inviting non-members to participate in matters of direct importance to them, within the context of the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, should be fully implemented.

## IX. Decision-making and voting

### Note

Section IX covers the practice of the Council with regard to decision-making, including voting. Article 27 of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 40 of the provisional rules of procedure govern the voting in the Council. They provide that decisions on procedural matters require an affirmative vote of 9 of the 15 Council members, while decisions on substantive matters require an affirmative vote of 9 Council members, including all of the permanent members.

This section also covers rules 31, 32, 34 to 36 and 38 of the provisional rules of procedure, which govern the conduct of business with regard to voting on draft resolutions, amendments and substantive motions.

### Article 27

1. *Each member of the Security Council shall have one vote.*
2. *Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members.*
3. *Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members; provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.*

### Rule 31

*Proposed resolutions, amendments and substantive motions shall normally be placed before the representatives in writing.*

### Rule 32

*Principal motions and draft resolutions shall have precedence in the order of their submission.*

*Parts of a motion or of a draft resolution shall be voted on separately at the request of any representative, unless the original mover objects.*

### Rule 34

*It shall not be necessary for any motion or draft resolution proposed by a representative on the Security Council to be seconded before being put to a vote.*

### Rule 35

*A motion or draft resolution can at any time be withdrawn so long as no vote has been taken with respect to it.*

*If the motion or draft resolution has been seconded, the representative on the Security Council who has seconded it may require that it be put to the vote as his motion or draft resolution with the same right of precedence as if the original mover had not withdrawn it.*

### Rule 36

*If two or more amendments to a motion or draft resolution are proposed, the President shall rule on the*



*order in which they are to be voted upon. Ordinarily, the Security Council shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed until all amendments have been put to the vote, but when an amendment adds to or deletes from the text of a motion or draft resolution, that amendment shall be voted on first.*

*Rule 38*

*Any Member of the United Nations invited in accordance with the preceding rule, or in application of Article 32 of the Charter, to participate in the discussions of the Security Council may submit proposals and draft resolutions. These proposals and draft resolutions may be put to a vote only at the request of a representative on the Security Council.*

*Rule 40*

*Voting in the Security Council shall be in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Charter and of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.*

This section comprises five subsections, namely: A. Decisions of the Security Council; B. Penholdership and sponsorship in accordance with rule 38; C. Decision-making by voting; D. Decision-making without a vote; and E. Discussions concerning the decision-making process.

In 2021, rule 31 of the provisional rules of procedure was routinely applied in Council meetings, in particular in connection with the written voting procedure agreed upon to allow for voting due to the inability of Council members to meet in person during the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no instances of the explicit invocation of rules 32, 34 and 36.

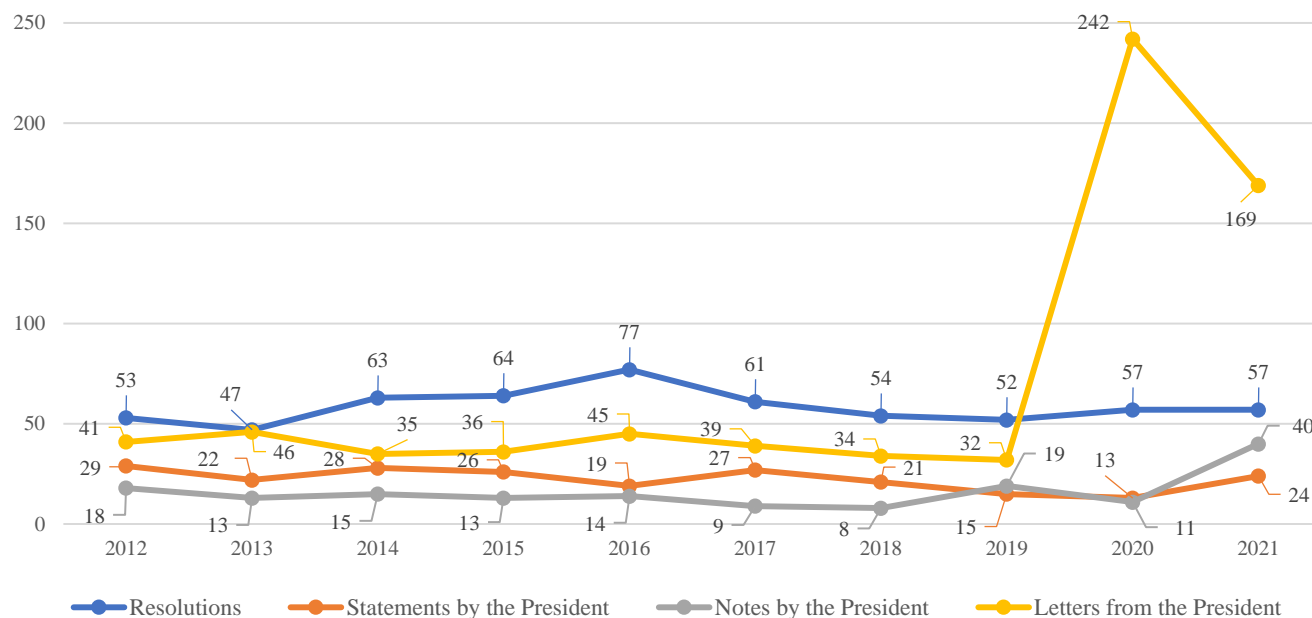
## **A. Decisions of the Security Council**

At its meetings during the period under review, the Council continued to adopt resolutions and statements by the President of the Council (also known as presidential statements), in addition to making procedural decisions. Decisions of the Council also took the form of notes by and letters from the President, which were not adopted at meetings but were issued as documents of the Council. In 2021, the Council continued to adopt resolutions and presidential statements in accordance with the written procedure established in the letters dated 27 March and 7 May 2020 from the President of the Council.<sup>215</sup>

In 2021, the Council adopted a total of 57 resolutions and 24 presidential statements. Of the 57 resolutions adopted, 40 (70.2 per cent) were adopted in a meeting of the Council and 17 (29.8 per cent) through the written voting procedure. Of the 24 presidential statements adopted, 11 (45.8 per cent) were adopted at a meeting and 13 (54.2 per cent) through the written procedure. In addition, the Council issued 39 notes by the President and 170 letters from the President. In accordance with the working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the letters from the President in 2021 included: (a) records of the specific working methods agreed upon for each month; (b) compilations of the statements and interventions made by briefers, Council members and non-members of the Council during open videoconferences; and (c) records of the written procedure for the adoption of resolutions. With the return to the adoption of resolutions at formal meetings of the Council, the number of letters from the President of the Council decreased in 2021, compared with the 242 that had been issued in 2020. Figure VIII shows the total number of resolutions and presidential statements adopted and notes and letters from the President issued during the past decade (2012–2021).

<sup>215</sup> See [S/2020/253](#) and [S/2020/372](#).

Figure VIII  
Resolutions and statements by the President adopted and notes by and letters from the President issued, 2012–2021



#### *Multiple decisions in one meeting*

In 2021, the Council continued the standard practice of adopting a single decision in a meeting, and there was no instance where more than one draft resolution was put to a vote in one meeting. Furthermore, in accordance with the written voting procedure, within 12 hours of the conclusion of the voting on a draft resolution, the President of the Council convened a videoconference to announce the outcome of the vote.<sup>216</sup> In several instances, announcements of the outcome of the vote for multiple decisions were made in a single videoconference.

### **B. Penholdership and sponsorship in accordance with rule 38**

A draft resolution may be submitted by any member of the Council. The note by the President dated 30 August 2017 provides that the members of the Council support, where appropriate, the informal arrangement whereby one or more Council members, as penholder(s), initiate and chair the informal drafting

process.<sup>217</sup> In accordance with the note, any member of the Council may be a penholder, and more than one Council member may act as co-penholders, when it is deemed to add value, taking into account, as appropriate, the expertise and/or contributions of Council members on the subject. In the note, Council members reaffirmed that all members of the Council should be allowed to participate fully in the preparation of, inter alia, resolutions, presidential statements and statements to the press and that the drafting of such documents should be carried out in an inclusive manner that would allow participation of all members of the Council. The members of the Council also encouraged the penholder or co-penholders, depending on the subject and the urgency of the situation on the ground, to provide reasonably sufficient time for consideration by all Council members when draft resolutions, presidential statements and statements to the press were placed under a silence procedure. In 2021, while the majority of decisions of the Council continued to be drafted by some permanent members, elected members served as

<sup>216</sup> Ibid. For more information on the written procedures established for the adoption of resolutions and presidential statements following the decision to suspend meetings in person in the Security Council Chamber in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, see sect. I above and *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. I.D.

<sup>217</sup> [S/2017/507](#), annex, paras. 78–82.

penholders or co-penholders in several instances.<sup>218</sup> Approximately 16 per cent of draft resolutions were drafted exclusively by one or more elected members.<sup>219</sup>

<sup>218</sup> For example, draft resolution [S/2021/388](#) submitted by Mexico in connection with the item “Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” was adopted as resolution [2572 \(2021\)](#) on 22 April; draft resolution [S/2021/402](#) submitted by Viet Nam in connection with the item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” was adopted as resolution [2573 \(2021\)](#) on 27 April; draft resolution [S/2021/523](#) submitted by Estonia and France in connection with the item “The situation in Libya” was adopted as resolution [2578 \(2021\)](#) on 3 June; draft resolution [S/2021/636](#) submitted by Ireland and Norway in connection with the item “The situation in the Middle East” was adopted as resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#) on 9 July; draft resolution [S/2021/730](#) submitted by India in connection with the item “United Nations peacekeeping operations” was adopted as resolution [2589 \(2021\)](#) on 18 August; draft resolution [S/2021/771](#) submitted by Ireland in connection with the item “United Nations peacekeeping operations” was adopted as resolution [2594 \(2021\)](#) on 9 September; draft resolution [S/2021/804](#) submitted by Estonia and Norway in connection with the item “The situation in Afghanistan” was adopted as resolution [2596 \(2021\)](#) on 17 September; draft resolution [S/2021/825](#) submitted by Estonia and France in connection with the item “Maintenance of international peace and security” was adopted as resolution [2598 \(2021\)](#) on 29 September; draft resolution [S/2021/877](#) submitted by Mexico and the United States in connection with the item “The question concerning Haiti” was adopted as resolution [2600 \(2021\)](#) on 15 October; draft resolution [S/2021/893](#) submitted by Norway and the Niger in connection with the item “Children and armed conflict” was adopted as resolution [2601 \(2021\)](#) on 29 October; draft resolution [S/2021/902](#) submitted by Mexico and the United Kingdom in connection with the item “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](#))” was

Pursuant to rule 38 of the provisional rules of procedure, any Member of the United Nations invited in accordance with rule 37 or in application of Article 32 of the Charter to participate in the discussions of the Council may also submit proposals and draft resolutions, but proposals and draft resolutions may be put to a vote only at the request of a Council member. The Member States that submit a draft resolution become sponsors of the draft resolution. A draft resolution is described as a presidential text if all the Council members agree to be co-sponsors. In 2021, six presidential texts were submitted,<sup>220</sup> compared with one in 2020 and none in 2019.<sup>221</sup>

During the period under review, the Council considered a total of 59 draft resolutions, 7 of which were co-sponsored by non-members of the Council, as shown in table 12.

adopted as resolution [2603 \(2021\)](#) on 29 October; and draft resolution [S/2021/1075](#) submitted by Mexico in connection with the item “Maintenance of international peace and security” was adopted as resolution [2616 \(2021\)](#) on 22 December.

<sup>219</sup> In 2021, 59 draft resolutions were considered by the Council, 57 of which were adopted and 2 were not. Of the 59 resolutions submitted, 57 had at least one designated penholders and 2 did not, namely, draft resolution [S/2021/530](#) (adopted by acclamation as resolution [2580 \(2021\)](#) on the question of the recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations) and draft resolution [S/2021/606](#) (adopted by consensus as resolution [2583 \(2021\)](#) under the item entitled “Date of election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice”). Of the 57 resolutions with designated penholders, 9 had been drafted exclusively by one or more elected members.

<sup>220</sup> Resolutions [2565 \(2021\)](#), [2573 \(2021\)](#), [2580 \(2021\)](#), [2583 \(2021\)](#), [2589 \(2021\)](#), and [2594 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>221</sup> For more information on past practice concerning presidential texts, see *Repertoire, Supplements 2008–2009 to Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. VIII.B.

Table 12  
Draft resolutions co-sponsored by non-members of the Council

| Draft resolution           | Item                                            | Meeting or<br>videoconference record<br>and date | Resolution                  | Council member sponsors                         | Non-Council member<br>co-sponsors |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/2021/171</a> | Maintenance of international peace and security | <a href="#">S/2021/195</a><br>26 February 2021   | <a href="#">2565 (2021)</a> | All Council members                             | 100 Member States <sup>a</sup>    |
| <a href="#">S/2021/402</a> | Protection of civilians in armed conflict       | <a href="#">S/2021/407</a><br>27 April 2021      | <a href="#">2573 (2021)</a> | All Council members                             | 50 Member States <sup>b</sup>     |
| <a href="#">S/2021/523</a> | The situation in Libya                          | <a href="#">S/PV.8783</a><br>3 June 2021         | <a href="#">2578 (2021)</a> | 3 Council members<br>(Estonia, France, Ireland) | 27 Member States <sup>c</sup>     |

# Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2021

| <i>Draft resolution</i>     | <i>Item</i>                                           | <i>Meeting or<br/>videoconference record<br/>and date</i> | <i>Resolution</i>           | <i>Council member sponsors</i>                                                                                                                                          | <i>Non-Council member<br/>co-sponsors</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/2021/730</a>  | United Nations<br>peacekeeping operations             | <a href="#">S/PV.8837</a><br>18 August 2021               | <a href="#">2589 (2021)</a> | All Council members                                                                                                                                                     | 65 Member<br>States <sup>d</sup>          |
| <a href="#">S/2021/771</a>  | United Nations<br>peacekeeping operations             | <a href="#">S/PV.8852</a><br>9 September 2021             | <a href="#">2594 (2021)</a> | All Council members                                                                                                                                                     | 82 Member<br>States <sup>e</sup>          |
| <a href="#">S/2021/825</a>  | Maintenance of<br>international peace and<br>security | <a href="#">S/PV.8868</a><br>29 September 2021            | <a href="#">2598 (2021)</a> | 4 Council members<br>(Estonia, France, Ireland,<br>Norway)                                                                                                              | 30 Member<br>States <sup>f</sup>          |
| <a href="#">S/2021/1075</a> | Maintenance of<br>international peace and<br>security | <a href="#">S/PV.8942</a><br>22 December 2021             | <a href="#">2616 (2021)</a> | 11 Council members<br>(Estonia, France, Ireland,<br>Kenya, Mexico, Niger,<br>Norway, Saint Vincent and<br>the Grenadines, Tunisia,<br>United Kingdom, United<br>States) | 63 Member<br>States <sup>g</sup>          |

<sup>a</sup> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

<sup>b</sup> Angola, Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

<sup>c</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine.

<sup>d</sup> Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates.

<sup>e</sup> Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.

<sup>f</sup> Albania, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine.

<sup>g</sup> Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

### C. Decision-making by voting

According to Article 27 (2) and (3) of the Charter, decisions of the Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine Council members. On all other matters, that is, substantive or non-procedural matters, an affirmative vote of nine Council members is required, including the concurring votes of the permanent members.

The result of a vote in the Council often does not in itself indicate whether the Council considers the matter voted upon to be procedural or substantive. For example, whether a vote is procedural or not cannot be determined when a proposal is: (a) adopted by a unanimous vote; (b) adopted by an affirmative vote of all permanent members; or (c) not adopted as a result of having failed to obtain the nine affirmative votes required. When a proposal is adopted as a result of having obtained nine or more affirmative votes, with one or more permanent members casting a negative vote, that indicates that the vote is considered procedural. Conversely, if the proposal is not adopted, the matter voted upon is considered to be substantive.

On certain occasions, in its early years, the Council found it necessary to decide, by vote, the question of whether the matter under consideration was procedural within the meaning of Article 27 (2). That procedure is known as the “preliminary question”, after the language used in the San Francisco Statement on Voting Procedure. In recent years, however, including during the period under review, there have been no instances of the Council deciding to examine the preliminary question. Furthermore, procedural motions, such as the adoption of the agenda, the extension of invitations to participate in meetings and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting, have generally been decided upon by the Council without a vote. When such motions were voted upon, the vote was considered procedural. In 2021, the Council did not vote on procedural matters.

#### *Adoption of resolutions*

During the period under review, of the 57 resolutions adopted, 48 (84.2 per cent) were adopted unanimously. A total of nine resolutions were adopted without a unanimous vote (see table 13).

Table 13  
**Resolutions adopted without a unanimous vote**

| <i>Resolution</i> | <i>Item</i>                                                                | <i>Meeting or<br/>videoconference record<br/>and date</i> | <i>Votes in favour</i>                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Votes<br/>against</i> | <i>Abstentions</i>            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2564 (2021)       | The situation in the Middle East <sup>a</sup>                              | S/2021/189<br>S/2021/194<br>25 February 2021              | 14 (China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam)              | None                     | 1 (Russian Federation)        |
| 2566 (2021)       | The situation in the Central African Republic <sup>b</sup>                 | S/2021/253<br>S/2021/258<br>12 March 2021                 | 14 (China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam)              | None                     | 1 (Russian Federation)        |
| 2577 (2021)       | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan <sup>c</sup> | S/2021/515<br>S/2021/518<br>28 May 2021                   | 13 (China, Estonia, France, Ireland, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam)        | None                     | 2 (India, Kenya)              |
| 2588 (2021)       | The situation in the Central African Republic <sup>b</sup>                 | S/PV.8828<br>29 July 2021                                 | 14 (Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam) | None                     | 1 (China)                     |
| 2593 (2021)       | The situation in Afghanistan <sup>d</sup>                                  | S/PV.8848<br>30 August 2021                               | 13 (Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam)                     | None                     | 2 (China, Russian Federation) |

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| <i>Resolution</i>           | <i>Item</i>                                                  | <i>Meeting or<br/>videoconference record<br/>and date</i> | <i>Votes in favour</i>                                                                                                                                 | <i>Votes<br/>against</i> | <i>Abstentions</i>                   |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">2602 (2021)</a> | The situation concerning Western Sahara <sup>e</sup>         | <a href="#">S/PV.8890</a><br>29 October 2021              | 13 (Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam) | None                     | 2 (Russian Federation, Tunisia)      |
| <a href="#">2605 (2021)</a> | The situation in the Central African Republic <sup>b</sup>   | <a href="#">S/PV.8902</a><br>12 November 2021             | 13 (Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam) | None                     | 2 (China, Russian Federation)        |
| <a href="#">2607 (2021)</a> | The situation in Somalia <sup>f</sup>                        | <a href="#">S/PV.8905</a><br>15 November 2021             | 13 (Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam) | None                     | 2 (China, Russian Federation)        |
| <a href="#">2616 (2021)</a> | Maintenance of international peace and security <sup>g</sup> | <a href="#">S/PV.8942</a><br>22 December 2021             | 12 (Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam)        | None                     | 3 (China, India, Russian Federation) |

<sup>a</sup> For more information on the discussion, see part I, sect. 19.

<sup>b</sup> For more information on the discussion, see part I, sect. 5.

<sup>c</sup> For more information on the discussion, see part I, sect. 7.

<sup>d</sup> For more information on the discussion, see part I, sect. 14.

<sup>e</sup> For more information on the discussion, see part I, sect. 1.

<sup>f</sup> For more information on the discussion, see part I, sect. 2.

<sup>g</sup> For more information on the discussion, see part I, sect. 34.

### *Draft resolutions not adopted*

In accordance with Article 27 (3) of the Charter, a draft resolution on non-procedural matters is not adopted when it fails to obtain the nine affirmative votes required, or when a negative vote is cast by a permanent member. During the period under review,

there was one instance in which a draft resolution was not adopted because it failed to obtain the nine affirmative votes required and one instance when a draft resolution was not adopted owing to a negative vote cast by a permanent member (see table 14).

Table 14

### **Draft resolutions not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member or for lack of the requisite number of votes**

| <i>Draft resolution</i>    | <i>Item</i>                                          | <i>Meeting record and<br/>date</i>        | <i>Votes in favour</i>        | <i>Votes against</i> | <i>Abstentions</i>                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/2021/667</a> | The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina <sup>a</sup> | <a href="#">S/PV.8823</a><br>22 July 2021 | 2 (China, Russian Federation) | None                 | 13 (Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam) |



| <i>Draft resolution</i>    | <i>Item</i>                                                  | <i>Meeting record and date</i>                | <i>Votes in favour</i>                                                                                                                          | <i>Votes against</i>          | <i>Abstentions</i> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <a href="#">S/2021/990</a> | Maintenance of international peace and security <sup>b</sup> | <a href="#">S/PV.8926</a><br>13 December 2021 | 12 (Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam) | 2 (India, Russian Federation) | 1 (China)          |

<sup>a</sup> For more information on the discussion, see part I, sect. 17.A.

<sup>b</sup> For more information on the discussion, see part I, sect. 34.

## D. Decision-making without a vote

A procedural or substantive motion may be adopted in the Council without a vote or by consensus. In 2021, there were two instances of a resolution being adopted without a vote.<sup>222</sup> At a private meeting held on 8 June, the Council adopted by acclamation resolution [2580 \(2021\)](#), recommending to the General Assembly that António Guterres be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations for a second term of office from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2026.<sup>223</sup> At a meeting held on 29 June under the agenda item entitled “Date of election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice”,<sup>224</sup> the Council adopted, without a vote and by consensus, resolution [2583 \(2021\)](#), by which it was decided that the election to fill the vacancy would take place on 5 November 2021, at a meeting of the Council and at a meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

In 2021, a total of 38 resolutions were adopted by a show of hands, and 17 were adopted in accordance with the written procedure developed during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>225</sup>

Statements by the President (also known as presidential statements) on behalf of the Council continued to be adopted by consensus. A total of 24 presidential statements were adopted during the period under review.<sup>226</sup> In line with past practice, 11 of the presidential statements were adopted in meetings of the Council, while 13 presidential statements were adopted in accordance with the written non-objection procedure

and were subsequently read out by the President of the Council during open videoconferences.<sup>227</sup>

Following past practice, during the period under review, notes by and letters from the President were adopted by consensus and issued as documents of the Council. In 2021, the Council issued 39 notes and 170 letters from the President.<sup>228</sup> As indicated in subsection A above, the majority of letters from the President (106 out of 170, or 62.4 per cent) were used to circulate compilations of interventions in open videoconferences and information on the initiation and outcome of the written voting procedure for the adoption of resolutions.

Notes and letters from the President are rarely adopted during Council meetings. During the period under review, one note by the President, concerning the adoption of the draft annual report of the Council to the General Assembly for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020, was adopted during a meeting of the Council, in line with past practice.<sup>229</sup>

## E. Discussions concerning the decision-making process

At a meeting held on 13 December under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security” and sub-item entitled “Climate and security”,

<sup>227</sup> See [S/2020/273](#) and [S/2020/372](#).

<sup>228</sup> For the complete list of notes by the President of the Council issued in 2021, see part I, chap. 13, of the report of the Council to the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly ([A/76/2](#)) and [www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/notes-president-2021](http://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/notes-president-2021). For the complete list of letters from the President of the Council issued in 2021, see part I, chap. 3, of the same report ([A/76/2](#)) and [www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/letters-exchanged-between-secretary-general-and-president-security-council-2021](http://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/letters-exchanged-between-secretary-general-and-president-security-council-2021).

<sup>229</sup> See [S/2021/500](#), adopted at the 8781st meeting (see [S/PV.8781](#)). For more information on the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly, see part IV, sect. I.F.

<sup>222</sup> Resolutions [2580 \(2021\)](#) and [2583 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>223</sup> See [S/PV.8789](#). For further details on the procedure, see part IV, sect. I.D.

<sup>224</sup> See [S/PV.8808](#).

<sup>225</sup> See [S/2020/253](#).

<sup>226</sup> For the complete list of presidential statements adopted during the period under review, see part I, chap. 2, of the report of the Council to the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly ([A/76/2](#)).



the Council voted on a draft resolution submitted by 113 Member States.<sup>230</sup> The draft resolution received 12 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention and was not adopted, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council.<sup>231</sup> After the vote, the representative of Ireland, expressing regret about the decision of certain countries to use their right of veto to block the adoption of the groundbreaking draft resolution, said that the Council had missed the opportunity for action. She expressed her delegation's view that the veto was an anachronism and that its use was regrettable in all circumstances. The representative of Kenya, echoing the disappointment with regard to the use of the veto, said that his delegation looked forward to the Council reforms that might one day ensure that countries disproportionately affected by climate change were represented by permanent or veto-wielding members. The representative of Mexico recalled that, since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, his delegation had disagreed with the right to veto, predicting that it could lead to paralysis in the Council. The representative of the Russian Federation, on the other hand, said that despite the many criticisms of the veto in the Council, the result of the vote reflected an international community that was deeply divided on climate issues. He stated that the draft resolution had ignored the position of those 80 Member States that did not support it and that only the negative vote of his delegation had been able to stop the process, which was the best indication that the veto was a key piece of insurance for the Council's work.

Council members and the wider membership also discussed issues pertaining to decision-making by the Council at the annual open debate on the working methods of the Council, held on 16 June under the item entitled "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)" (see case 6).

### Case 6

#### Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)

On 16 June, at the joint initiative of Estonia, which held the presidency of the Security Council for the month, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Permanent Representative of which chaired the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions,<sup>232</sup> the Council convened an open debate under the item entitled "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council

(S/2017/507)" and the sub-item entitled "Working methods of the Security Council", focused on the theme "Agility and innovation: lessons for the future from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic".<sup>233</sup> In their statements, Council members and other delegations focused on the importance of transparency and inclusivity in the decision-making process of the Council, the use of the veto and the impact of the remote working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Multiple delegations stressed the importance of inclusivity and a fair distribution of responsibilities for the drafting of decisions and outcomes among members of the Council.<sup>234</sup> The representative of China said that the allocation of penholdership should be more rational and reflect shared responsibilities and collective participation.<sup>235</sup> He expressed support for multiple Council members serving as co-penholders and encouraged non-penholders to actively contribute to the drafting of documents. Noting that the question of penholdership deserved particular attention by the Council, the representative of the Russian Federation reiterated that any member of the Council may be a penholder and that more than one Council member may act as a co-penholder. He also recalled the inadmissibility of the practice of introducing artificial deadlines into the Council's work and noted that many draft resolutions were received late without justification, which did not allow for a comprehensive expert assessment, let alone meaningful consultations. The representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, urged the Council to establish the principle of a fair and equitable division of labour, including penholdership, so that the insights of all members were best leveraged.<sup>236</sup> The representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the elected members of the Council, suggested that capacity-building for incoming members to have a clearer understanding of what chairing subsidiary bodies of the Council entailed, should also help demystify penholdership arrangements and create linkages among penholders and co-penholders.<sup>237</sup> Moreover, in order to promote transparency and the fair and equitable distribution of work, including penholders agreeing to co-penholdership arrangements

<sup>230</sup> S/2021/990.

<sup>231</sup> See S/PV.8926. For more information, see part I, sect. 34.

<sup>232</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 2 June 2021 (S/2021/527).

<sup>233</sup> See S/PV.8798 and S/2021/572.

<sup>234</sup> See S/PV.8798 (China, Kenya (on behalf of the elected members of the Council) and Russian Federation); and S/2021/572 (Brazil, Italy, Kuwait, New Zealand (on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council) and Republic of Korea).

<sup>235</sup> See S/PV.8798.

<sup>236</sup> See S/2021/572.

<sup>237</sup> See S/PV.8798.

with elected members who had experience to contribute, the provisions of the note by the President dated 30 August 2017 regarding the selection of the chairs of subsidiary bodies had to be implemented.

Regarding transparency in decision-making, the representative of Japan indicated that, to strengthen the legitimacy of Council decisions, the process should be as transparent as possible, allowing it to take into account the different views from both inside and outside the Council.<sup>238</sup> The representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, argued that Council members should pursue innovative ways to engage with affected countries to ensure their participation, in particular when making decisions, as well as with troop- and police-contributing countries, regional and subregional organizations. Without proper coordination with the main stakeholders, the full and effective implementation of the Council's decisions would not be possible. The delegation of Ukraine noted that such engagement with concerned countries and the wider membership could certainly make the responsibilities envisaged by such decisions much more feasible. The representatives of the Republic of Korea and Slovakia also called for more involvement of troop- and police-contributing countries in the Council's decision-making process.

Several speakers discussed the use of the veto power in the Council's decision-making, with some delegations calling for limitations or restraints in its use, including, as some delegations asserted, in cases of mass atrocities.<sup>239</sup> The representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the elected members of the Council, noted that the Council was the only United Nations organ left behind in having a truly representative composition, with the use or threat of use of the veto continuing to prevent it from acting on vital topics.<sup>240</sup> The representative of France, sharing the desire to reform the Council and its working methods in order to strengthen its legitimacy and effectiveness, reiterated his delegation's call on all other members, in particular the permanent members, to join the French and Mexican initiative for the voluntary and collective suspension of the use of the veto in cases of mass atrocities. The representative of Cuba stated that effective procedures were required to eliminate discriminatory practices and ensure genuine

participation and democratization in the Council's work and decision-making process, including the removal of the veto power.<sup>241</sup> The delegation of El Salvador, while recognizing the progress made in the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly, encouraged the Council to include an analysis of the decision-making process within the Council, as well as elements that further clarified the motivations that led permanent members to use the veto. The representative of New Zealand, on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, observed that the casting of or threat of casting a veto had a significant negative impact or "cascade effect" on the working methods of the Council, including whereby working methods were not applied uniformly, consistently and to the exclusion of elected members. The delegation of Ukraine indicated that the use of the veto remained one of the most divisive issues and that its repeated uses had stained the Council's reputation almost to a point beyond repair. The delegation pointed to a "clear lack" of implementation of both the spirit and the letter of Article 27 (3) of the Charter of the United Nations and posited that a Council member should not resort to the veto but must abstain from voting when it was a party to a conflict under consideration by the Council.

Conversely, the representative of the Russian Federation underscored that the issue of the veto did not pertain to working methods but was rather the cornerstone of the entire architecture of the Council and key to achieving balance in its decisions and ensuring that those decisions had a good chance of being implemented as effectively as possible.<sup>242</sup> The representative of China opined that unity among the 15 members of the Council was a show of power and strength and the source of its authority. Noting the need to duly enhance communication, accommodate each other's concerns and prioritize consensus-based decision-making, he stressed the need to avoid resorting to a vote whenever a difference arose.

Noting the challenges in decision-making under the remote working methods adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple delegations underscored the urgent need to ensure that the Council was able to take decisions on both substantive and procedural matters at its meetings.<sup>243</sup> The representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the elected members of the

<sup>238</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>239</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#) (Kenya (on behalf of the elected members of the Council) and France); and [S/2021/572](#) (Colombia, El Salvador, New Zealand (on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council), Republic of Korea and Ukraine).

<sup>240</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>241</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>242</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>243</sup> See [S/2021/572](#) (Latvia, Liechtenstein, New Zealand (on behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council) and Switzerland (on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group)).

Council, stated that videoconferences should be considered formal meetings of the Council, where the provisional rules of procedure applied and allowed for, inter alia, the possibility to vote in real time on procedural and substantive matters.<sup>244</sup> The representative of the United Kingdom noted that, without the procedural mechanisms for the resolution of disagreements, the Council had, at times during the pandemic, not been able to discuss new or existing items more substantively or bring visibility and attention to issues in the open when needed. The representative of the United States stated that, because videoconferences were not actual meetings of the Council, the provisional rules of procedure did not apply and, as a result, the Council had, effectively, been unable to take any votes on procedural grounds for almost a year and a half, even when the vast majority of Council members might have supported the decision in question. The representative of Liechtenstein noted that the Council had been unable to hold procedural votes while absent from the Security Council Chamber and that, although the frequent use of the procedural vote was a signal of a dysfunctional Council, it could also be an important way to address divisions and thus ensure that the Council was fit for purpose.<sup>245</sup> The representative of New Zealand, on

behalf of 35 former elected members of the Council, recommended that the Council should return fully to the provisional rules of procedure as soon as possible, in order to allow procedural votes on the scheduling of meetings and the participation of briefers. In that connection, dialogue was encouraged among Council members with a view towards considering virtual Council meetings as formal meetings. On behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, the delegation of Switzerland noted that the Council's primary objective should be to enable all aspects of the work of the Council and its subsidiary organs to be carried out, in particular voting virtually and in real time on both substantive and procedural matters, in line with Article 27 of the Charter and the provisional rules of procedure. According to the delegation of Brazil, some delegations had better resources than others for the use of virtual platforms, which generated or worsened inequalities in relation to following or participating in negotiating processes. The current practices should not be an excuse to create an environment in which many delegations would be unable to engage in substantive discussions or a decision-making process on the basis of a silence procedure of a few days, if not hours.

<sup>244</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>245</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

## X. Languages

### Note

Section X covers rules 41 to 47 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council, which relate to the official and working languages of the Council, interpretation and the languages of meeting records and published resolutions and decisions.

#### Rule 41

*Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be both the official and the working languages of the Security Council.*

#### Rule 42

*Speeches made in any of the six languages of the Security Council shall be interpreted into the other five languages.*

#### Rule 43

*[Deleted]*

#### Rule 44

*Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the languages of the Security Council. In this case, he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of those languages. Interpretation into the other languages of the Security Council by the interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.*

#### Rule 45

*Verbatim records of meetings of the Security Council shall be drawn up in the languages of the Council.*

#### Rule 46

*All resolutions and other documents shall be published in the languages of the Security Council.*

### Rule 47

*Documents of the Security Council shall, if the Security Council so decides, be published in any language other than the languages of the Council.*

During the period under review, rules 41 to 47 were applied consistently in meetings of the Council. In accordance with the working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Council members continued to use a remote interpretation platform for open videoconferences, while closed videoconferences were generally conducted only in English. At an open videoconference held on 14 April in connection with the item entitled “Women and peace and security”, the Director of the South Sudan Women with Disabilities Network gave a briefing to Council members in sign language, with interpretation into the six languages of the Council, as provided under rule 44 of the provisional rules of procedure.<sup>246</sup>

### Decisions

In a note by the President issued on 12 July, recalling chapter VIII of the provisional rules of procedure, and in an effort to enhance effectiveness, involvement and inclusivity during the Council’s discussions and strengthen the Council’s overall functioning, Council members reaffirmed their commitment to prioritizing multilingualism at all times.<sup>247</sup>

### Communications

In the annual report of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict for 2021, transmitted in a letter dated 14 December from the Chair of the Working Group to the President of the Council, it was indicated that the lack of interpretation continued to be an issue within the Working Group, as it undermined multilingualism as a core value of the Organization.<sup>248</sup> Despite efforts made by the Chair, Working Group members expressed regret that the issue was further accentuated in the virtual format and that no remote interpretation platform had been used.

<sup>246</sup> See [S/2021/375](#). See also [S/2021/1084](#).

<sup>247</sup> See [S/2021/648](#).

<sup>248</sup> See [S/2021/1039](#), annex.

### Meetings

At the meeting held on 16 June under the item entitled “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/507](#))”,<sup>249</sup> the representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the elected members of the Council, encouraged Council members to agree that videoconferences were considered formal meetings of the Council, where the same provisional rules of procedure applied, including providing fully for multilingualism.<sup>250</sup> He also urged that efforts be invested to ensure that interpretation was provided, including at closed meetings, for effective participation and in line with the promotion of multilingualism. The representative of France opined that multilingualism, as a fundamental value of the organization, had been undermined as the Council had adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic and had departed from its rules of procedure. He welcomed the fact that, with the return to the Security Council Chamber, the Council had resumed holding its public meetings and consultations in all the official languages. In a written statement submitted in connection with the meeting, the delegation of El Salvador requested that the reports of the Secretary-General to the Council be issued in the six official languages, so that there was sufficient time to consult them before the debates and meetings.<sup>251</sup>

At a meeting held on 8 December under the item entitled “The situation in Mali”, the representative of Mexico, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#) concerning Mali, said that, on 5 May, the Committee had met in a virtual format with the representatives of Mali, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal for the purpose of discussing the implementation of the sanctions regime.<sup>252</sup> Despite the extraordinary circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, that had been the first virtual meeting of a subsidiary body of the Council that had been able to count on simultaneous interpretation and a double identity check, in accordance with the principle of multilingualism and respect for safety standards. He highlighted it as an estimable advance in terms of provisional working methods in the context of the pandemic.

<sup>249</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#) and [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>250</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>251</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>252</sup> See [S/PV.8922](#).



## XI. Status of the provisional rules of procedure

### Note

Section XI covers the deliberations of the Council concerning its provisional rules of procedure. Article 30 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that the Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Since their adoption by the Council at its first meeting, held on 17 January 1946, the provisional rules of procedure have been amended 11 times, with the last amendment being adopted in 1982.<sup>253</sup> On 27 December 2019, the Council issued a note by the President providing that, in line with the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States to promote the advancement of women and greater gender inclusivity and equality in their policies and practices, the members of the Council confirmed that, as a matter of existing practice, any reference to a male person in the Council's provisional rules of procedure was deemed not to be limited to male persons and also constituted a reference to a female person, unless the context clearly indicated otherwise.<sup>254</sup>

### Article 30

*The Security Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its President.*

During the period under review, the question of the status of the provisional rules of procedure, including in connection with Article 30 of the Charter, was raised at the meeting held on 16 June under the item entitled "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)".<sup>255</sup> In her briefing to the Council, the co-author of the fourth edition of *The Procedure of the UN Security Council*, Loraine Sievers, noted that, in recent years, the rules

had been under the shadow of a misunderstanding because their title still retained the word "provisional", with the assumption that that meant "draft" and that the rules had therefore never been adopted, but rather existed as loose guidelines that could be set aside by Council members.<sup>256</sup> Ms. Sievers recalled that the provisional rules of procedure had in fact been adopted at the Council's first meeting, and the retention of the word "provisional" in the title reflected the intention by Council members to revisit the outstanding issue of the extent to which the rules should spell out the voting arrangements set out in Article 27 of the Charter. Although the misunderstanding about the legal status of the rules could be set to rest if the Council were to agree to remove the word "provisional" from the title, attending to the issue of some rules that, over the years, had become outdated would require a thorough and potentially divisive review. It was therefore important to confirm that the rules that governed the conduct of official meetings were valid and could be applied and relied upon as currently written.

In a written statement submitted in connection with the same meeting, the representative of Cuba emphasized the need for the Council to adopt a definitive text to regulate its work and put an end to the "provisional" status that its rules of procedure had enjoyed for more than 70 years, as that was essential for transparency and the necessary accountability.<sup>257</sup> The representative of the Republic of Korea echoed the need to formally adopt the current provisional rules of procedure.

As described in more detail in section I above, in accordance with the letters from the President of the Council dated 2 April and 7 May 2020,<sup>258</sup> it was agreed that the presidencies would work "in the spirit" of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to ensure that Council members participating in a virtual Council discussion were represented by appropriately credentialed delegates, pursuant to rule 13 of the provisional rules of procedure; that the agenda was adopted at the outset of each videoconference, pursuant to rule 9; and that any other relevant rules were observed as a matter of practice, under Chapter VI of the provisional rules of procedure.

<sup>253</sup> The provisional rules of procedure of the Council were amended five times during the Council's first year, at its 31st, 41st, 42nd, 44th and 48th meetings, held on 9 April, 16 and 17 May and 6 and 24 June 1946; twice in its second year, at its 138th and 222nd meetings, held on 4 June and 9 December 1947; and subsequently at its 468th meeting, on 28 February 1950; 1463rd meeting, on 24 January 1969; 1761st meeting, on 17 January 1974; and 2410th meeting, on 21 December 1982. The provisional rules were issued under the symbols [S/96](#) and [S/96/Add.1](#), with subsequent versions being issued as revisions, the latest of which was issued under the symbol [S/96/Rev.7](#).

<sup>254</sup> See [S/2019/996](#).

<sup>255</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#) and [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>256</sup> See [S/PV.8798](#).

<sup>257</sup> See [S/2021/572](#).

<sup>258</sup> See [S/2020/273](#) and [S/2020/372](#).

## Annex

### A. Videoconferences held by the members of the Council

| <i>Date</i>     | <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Videoconference<br/>format and record</i> | <i>Outcome</i>                                   | <i>Other<br/>documents</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 January 2021  | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                       | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/22</a>     |                                                  |                            |
| 6 January 2021  | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                                                                                                        | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/24</a>            |                                                  |                            |
| 11 January 2021 | Peace consolidation in West Africa                                                                                                                                                                                     | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/43</a>            |                                                  |                            |
| 12 January 2021 | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts                                                                                                                                                   | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/48</a>            | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/1</a>                    |                            |
| 13 January 2021 | The situation in Mali                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/47</a>     |                                                  |                            |
| 14 January 2021 | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                       | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/56</a>     |                                                  |                            |
| 14 January 2021 | Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1353 (2001)</a> , annex II, sections A and B – United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus        | Closed                                       |                                                  |                            |
| 18 January 2021 | Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security                                                                                      | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/66</a>            |                                                  |                            |
| 20 January 2021 | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                       | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/75</a>            |                                                  |                            |
| 21 January 2021 | The situation in the Central African Republic                                                                                                                                                                          | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/76</a>     |                                                  |                            |
| 21 January 2021 | 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 ( <a href="#">S/2016/53</a> ) | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/77</a>     |                                                  |                            |
| 25 January 2021 | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                                                                                                        | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/90</a>            |                                                  |                            |
| 26 January 2021 | The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question                                                                                                                                                   | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/91</a>            |                                                  |                            |
| 28 January 2021 | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/97</a>     |                                                  |                            |
| 29 January 2021 | The situation in Cyprus                                                                                                                                                                                                | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/99</a>   | Resolution <a href="#">2561 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/96</a>  |
| 29 January 2021 | Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security                                                                                      | Open/adoption                                | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/2</a>                    |                            |



# Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2021

| <i>Date</i>      | <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                                                                                    | <i>Videoconference<br/>format and record</i> | <i>Outcome</i>                                   | <i>Other<br/>documents</i> |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 February 2021  | The situation in Myanmar                                                                                                                                                                       | Closed                                       |                                                  |                            |
| 3 February 2021  | Peace and consolidation in West Africa                                                                                                                                                         | Open/adoption                                | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/3</a>                    |                            |
| 3 February 2021  | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                               | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/109</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 9 February 2021  | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                         | Open/adoption                                | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/4</a>                    |                            |
| 10 February 2021 | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts                                                                                                                           | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/140</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 11 February 2021 | 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 ( <a href="#">S/2014/264</a> ) | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/159</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 11 February 2021 | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                                                                                                                  | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/136</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2562 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/131</a> |
| 16 February 2021 | The situation concerning Iraq                                                                                                                                                                  | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/152</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 17 February 2021 | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                                                                                | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/157</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 18 February 2021 | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                               | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/167</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 22 February 2021 | The situation in Somalia                                                                                                                                                                       | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/173</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 22 February 2021 | The question concerning Haiti                                                                                                                                                                  | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/174</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 23 February 2021 | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                                                                                | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/198</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 24 February 2021 | The situation in the Central African Republic                                                                                                                                                  | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/187</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 25 February 2021 | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                               | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/206</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 25 February 2021 | The situation in Somalia                                                                                                                                                                       | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/207</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 25 February 2021 | The situation in Somalia                                                                                                                                                                       | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/193</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2563 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/188</a> |
| 25 February 2021 | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                               | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/194</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2564 (2021)</a><br>14-0-1 | <a href="#">S/2021/189</a> |
| 26 February 2021 | The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question                                                                                                                           | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/218</a>    |                                                  |                            |

| <i>Date</i>      | <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                                                                                               | <i>Videoconference<br/>format and record</i> | <i>Outcome</i>                                   | <i>Other<br/>documents</i> |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 26 February 2021 | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                                                                                           | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/204</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2565 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/195</a> |
| 2 March 2021     | Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1353 (2001)</a> , annex II, sections A and B – United Nations Mission in South Sudan | Closed                                       |                                                  |                            |
| 3 March 2021     | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                                                                                                                             | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/219</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 4 March 2021     | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                          | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/226</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 5 March 2021     | The situation in Myanmar                                                                                                                                                                                  | Closed                                       |                                                  |                            |
| 9 March 2021     | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                                                                                                                             | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/246</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 10 March 2021    | Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe                                                                                                          | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/256</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 10 March 2021    | The situation in Myanmar                                                                                                                                                                                  | Open/adoption                                | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/5</a>                    |                            |
| 11 March 2021    | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                                                                                           | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/250</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 12 March 2021    | The situation in the Central African Republic                                                                                                                                                             | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/258</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2566 (2021)</a><br>14-0-1 | <a href="#">S/2021/253</a> |
| 12 March 2021    | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                                                                                                                             | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/259</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2567 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/254</a> |
| 12 March 2021    | The situation in Somalia                                                                                                                                                                                  | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/260</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2568 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/255</a> |
| 12 March 2021    | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                    | Open/adoption                                | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/6</a>                    |                            |
| 15 March 2021    | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                          | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/265</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 16 March 2021    | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                          | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/266</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 23 March 2021    | The situation in Afghanistan                                                                                                                                                                              | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/291</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 24 March 2021    | The question concerning Haiti                                                                                                                                                                             | Open/adoption                                | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/7</a>                    |                            |
| 24 March 2021    | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                    | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/292</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 25 March 2021    | The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question                                                                                                                                      | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/302</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 25 March 2021    | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                                                                                                                             | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/308</a>           |                                                  |                            |

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| <i>Date</i>   | <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Videoconference<br/>format and record</i> | <i>Outcome</i>                                   | <i>Other<br/>documents</i> |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 26 March 2021 | Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea                                                                                                                                                                | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/303</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2569 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/296</a> |
| 29 March 2021 | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                       | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/315</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 30 March 2021 | The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo                                                                                                                                                          | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/316</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 30 March 2021 | Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction                                                                                                                                                                       | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/325</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 31 March 2021 | The situation in Myanmar                                                                                                                                                                                               | Closed                                       |                                                  |                            |
| 6 April 2021  | The situation in Mali                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/336</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 6 April 2021  | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                       | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/337</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 8 April 2021  | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                                                                                                        | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/346</a>           | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/8</a>                    |                            |
| 12 April 2021 | The situation in the Great Lakes region                                                                                                                                                                                | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/351</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 13 April 2021 | Security Council resolutions <a href="#">1160 (1998)</a> , <a href="#">1199 (1998)</a> , <a href="#">1203 (1998)</a> , <a href="#">1239 (1999)</a> and <a href="#">1244 (1999)</a>                                     | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/370</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 14 April 2021 | Women and peace and security                                                                                                                                                                                           | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/375</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 15 April 2021 | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                       | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/372</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 16 April 2021 | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/381</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2570 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/373</a> |
| 16 April 2021 | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/382</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2571 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/374</a> |
| 19 April 2021 | Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security                                                                                      | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/394</a>           | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/9</a>                    |                            |
| 21 April 2021 | 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 ( <a href="#">S/2016/53</a> ) | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/401</a>    |                                                  |                            |
| 22 April 2021 | The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question                                                                                                                                                   | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/404</a>           |                                                  |                            |
| 22 April 2021 | Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction                                                                                                                                                                       | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/400</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2572 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/393</a> |

| <i>Date</i>   | <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Videoconference<br/>format and record</i>                              | <i>Outcome</i>                                   | <i>Other<br/>documents</i> |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 26 April 2021 | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                                                                                                                                          | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/408</a>                                 |                                                  |                            |
| 27 April 2021 | Protection of civilians in armed conflict                                                                                                                                                                              | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/410</a><br><a href="#">S/2021/415</a> | Resolution <a href="#">2573 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/407</a> |
| 28 April 2021 | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                       | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/418</a>                                 |                                                  |                            |
| 30 April 2021 | The situation in Myanmar                                                                                                                                                                                               | Closed                                                                    |                                                  |                            |
| 4 May 2021    | The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina                                                                                                                                                                                | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/436</a>                                        |                                                  |                            |
| 6 May 2021    | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                       | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/446</a>                                        |                                                  |                            |
| 7 May 2021    | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                                                                                                        | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/456</a>                                        |                                                  |                            |
| 10 May 2021   | Threats to international peace and security                                                                                                                                                                            | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/460</a>                                 |                                                  |                            |
| 11 May 2021   | The situation in Iraq                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/474</a>                                        |                                                  |                            |
| 11 May 2021   | 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 ( <a href="#">S/2016/53</a> ) | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/457</a>                               | Resolution <a href="#">2574 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/449</a> |
| 11 May 2021   | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                                                                                                                                          | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/458</a>                               | Resolution <a href="#">2575 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/450</a> |
| 12 May 2021   | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                       | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/465</a>                                 |                                                  |                            |
| 16 May 2021   | The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question                                                                                                                                                   | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/480</a>                                        |                                                  |                            |
| 17 May 2021   | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/483</a>                                        |                                                  |                            |
| 18 May 2021   | Peace and security in Africa                                                                                                                                                                                           | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/484</a>                                 |                                                  |                            |
| 19 May 2021   | Peace and security in Africa                                                                                                                                                                                           | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/490</a>                                        | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/10</a>                   |                            |
| 20 May 2021   | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                                                                                                                                          | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/495</a>                                 |                                                  |                            |
| 21 May 2021   | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/498</a>                                        |                                                  |                            |
| 24 May 2021   | United Nations peacekeeping operations                                                                                                                                                                                 | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/501</a>                                        | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/11</a>                   |                            |

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| <i>Date</i>      | <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                       | <i>Videoconference<br/>format and record</i> | <i>Outcome</i>                                   | <i>Other<br/>documents</i>  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 25 May 2021      | Protection of civilians in armed conflict                                                                                         | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/505</a>           |                                                  |                             |
| 26 May 2021      | The situation in the Middle East                                                                                                  | Open/closed<br><a href="#">S/2021/506</a>    |                                                  |                             |
| 28 May 2021      | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                                                     | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/518</a>  | Resolution <a href="#">2577 (2021)</a><br>13-0-2 | <a href="#">S/2021/515</a>  |
| 22 June 2021     | The situation in Afghanistan                                                                                                      | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/601</a>           |                                                  |                             |
| 28 June 2021     | Children and armed conflict                                                                                                       | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/617</a>           |                                                  |                             |
| 29 June 2021     | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                   | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/621</a>           |                                                  |                             |
| 9 August 2021    | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                   | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/722</a>           | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/15</a>                   |                             |
| 28 October 2021  | Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security | Open<br><a href="#">S/2021/941</a>           | <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/21</a>                   |                             |
| 30 December 2021 | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist attacks                                                           | Open/adoption<br><a href="#">S/2021/1116</a> | Resolution <a href="#">2617 (2021)</a><br>15-0-0 | <a href="#">S/2021/1107</a> |

## B. Resolutions adopted by the Council through the written voting procedure

| <i>Resolution and date</i>                      | <i>Item</i>                                                   | <i>Written record of<br/>voting procedure</i> | <i>Written record of<br/>voting outcome</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">2561 (2021)</a><br>29 January 2021  | The situation in Cyprus                                       | <a href="#">S/2021/99</a>                     | <a href="#">S/2021/96</a>                   |
| <a href="#">2562 (2021)</a><br>11 February 2021 | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan | <a href="#">S/2021/136</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/131</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2563 (2021)</a><br>25 February 2021 | The situation in Somalia                                      | <a href="#">S/2021/193</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/188</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2564 (2021)</a><br>25 February 2021 | The situation in the Middle East                              | <a href="#">S/2021/194</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/189</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2565 (2021)</a><br>26 February 2021 | Maintenance of international peace and security               | <a href="#">S/2021/204</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/195</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2566 (2021)</a><br>12 March 2021    | The situation in the Central African Republic                 | <a href="#">S/2021/258</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/253</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2567 (2021)</a><br>12 March 2021    | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan | <a href="#">S/2021/259</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/254</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2568 (2021)</a><br>12 March 2021    | The situation in Somalia                                      | <a href="#">S/2021/260</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/255</a>                  |

| <i>Resolution and date</i>                      | <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Written record of<br/>voting procedure</i> | <i>Written record of<br/>voting outcome</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">2569 (2021)</a><br>26 March 2021    | Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea                                                                                                                                                                | <a href="#">S/2021/303</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/296</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2570 (2021)</a><br>16 April 2021    | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <a href="#">S/2021/381</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/373</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2571 (2021)</a><br>16 April 2021    | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <a href="#">S/2021/382</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/374</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2572 (2021)</a><br>22 April 2021    | Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction                                                                                                                                                                       | <a href="#">S/2021/400</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/393</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2573 (2021)</a><br>27 April 2021    | Protection of civilians in armed conflict                                                                                                                                                                              | <a href="#">S/2021/410</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/407</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2574 (2021)</a><br>11 May 2021      | 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 ( <a href="#">S/2016/53</a> ) | <a href="#">S/2021/457</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/449</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2575 (2021)</a><br>11 May 2021      | Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan                                                                                                                                                          | <a href="#">S/2021/458</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/450</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2577 (2021)</a><br>28 May 2021      | The situation in Libya                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <a href="#">S/2021/518</a>                    | <a href="#">S/2021/515</a>                  |
| <a href="#">2617 (2021)</a><br>30 December 2021 | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist attacks                                                                                                                                                | <a href="#">S/2021/1116</a>                   | <a href="#">S/2021/1107</a>                 |

### **C. Statements by the President adopted through the written procedure**

| <i>Presidential statement<br/>and date</i>       | <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                       | <i>Videoconference<br/>record</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/1</a><br>12 January 2021 | Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts                                                              | <a href="#">S/2021/48</a>         |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/2</a><br>29 January 2021 | Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security | <a href="#">S/2021/66</a>         |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/3</a><br>3 February 2021 | Peace consolidation in West Africa                                                                                                |                                   |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/4</a><br>9 February 2021 | The situation in Libya                                                                                                            |                                   |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/5</a><br>10 March 2021   | The situation in Myanmar                                                                                                          |                                   |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/6</a><br>12 March 2021   | The situation in Libya                                                                                                            |                                   |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/7</a><br>24 March 2021   | The question concerning Haiti                                                                                                     |                                   |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/8</a><br>8 April 2021    | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                   | <a href="#">S/2021/346</a>        |



**Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2021**

| <i>Presidential statement<br/>and date</i>        | <i>Item</i>                                                                                                                       | <i>Videoconference<br/>record</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/9</a><br>19 April 2021    | Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security | <a href="#">S/2021/394</a>        |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/10</a><br>19 May 2021     | Peace and security in Africa                                                                                                      | <a href="#">S/2021/490</a>        |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/11</a><br>24 May 2021     | United Nations peacekeeping operations                                                                                            | <a href="#">S/2021/501</a>        |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/15</a><br>9 August 2021   | Maintenance of international peace and security                                                                                   | <a href="#">S/2021/722</a>        |
| <a href="#">S/PRST/2021/21</a><br>28 October 2021 | Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security | <a href="#">S/2021/941</a>        |