UN Security Council in Review

December 2023

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December 2023 at a Glance



DECEMBER 2022 - DECEMBER 2023



Under the **Presidency of Ecuador**, the Security Council held **two signature events:**

• A high-level open debate on **Threats** to international peace and security (7 December), focusing on transnational organized crime (S/2023/933). The President of Ecuador presided over the meeting and the Secretary-General briefed.

• A high-level open debate on **Small arms** (15 December), focusing on addressing the threat posed by diversion, illicit trafficking and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition to peace and security (S/2023/954). The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador presided over the meeting.

Key Topics

The Middle East, including the Palestinian Question (4, 8, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 29 Dec) was the most frequently considered country- or region-specific item in open and closed discussions. The Middle East (6, 12, 13, 21 and 22 Dec), Sudan and South Sudan (1, 12, 14 and 21 Dec), Ukraine (6, 11, 29 and 30 Dec), the **Democratic Republic of the** Congo (6, 11 and 19 Dec) and Afghanistan (20 and 29 Dec) were also considered more than once. Other issues considered included: Central African region, a letter from the Permanent Representative of Guyana (S/2023/961), Haiti, Libya, Non-Proliferation/DPRK, Peace and security in Africa and Somalia.

In addition to the signature events, the Council held thematic meetings on **Threats to international peace and security** (4 Dec), **International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals** (12 Dec), **Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts** (14 Dec), **Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security** Council (14 Dec), Non-proliferation (18 Dec) and Cooperation with regional and subregional organizations (21 Dec). Under other matters (AOB), Council members also discussed Houthi threats to security at sea, the protection of UN personnel and premises in conflict areas and a prospective Council mission to Colombia.

Procedural notes

On **1 December**, the Council issued a note by the President (S/2023/945) on penholdership.

On 8 December, the Council convened a meeting on **"The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question"** further to a letter dated 6 December from the Secretary-General (S/2023/962) submitted in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter (see S/PV.9498).

Also in relation to **"The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question"**, respectively on **8 and 22 December**, the Council failed to adopt a **draft resolution** (S/2023/970) and an **oral amendment** to a draft resolution, owing to vetoes cast by the United States (see S/PV.9499 and S/PV.9520). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/262, on 11 and 26 December, the Council submitted special reports on the use of the veto in those two instances (see A/78/667 and A/78/691). On 21 December, the Council non-unanimously **adopted an amendment** to a draft resolution regarding the financing of African Union-led peace support operations (see S/2023/1023).

On 22 December, the Presidency (Ecuador) held a **wrap-up session** with the participation of the outgoing Council members (Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates).

Decisions and press statements

In December, the Council adopted **nine resolutions** and **one presidential statement** and issued **five press statements**. **Five** of the nine resolutions were adopted **unanimously**: resolution 2714 (2023), lifting the **arms embargo on the Federal Government of Somalia**; resolution 2716 (2023), deciding that the **Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team** would continue to support the 1988 Committee for an additional year; resolution 2717 (2023), renewing the mandate of **MONUSCO** until 20 December 2024; resolution 2718 (2023), renewing the mandate of **UNDOF** until 30 June 2024; and resolution 2719 (2023) on the **financing of African Union-led peace support operations**.

The **four** resolutions adopted **non-unanimously** included: resolution 2713 (2023), adopted with the abstention of France (see S/PV.9490), renewing the **sanctions measures against Al-Shabaab** and extending the mandate of the **Panel of Experts** until 15 January 2025; resolution 2715 (2023), with the abstention of the Russian Federation (see S/PV.9492), terminating the mandate of **UNITAMS**; resolution 2720 (2023), adopted with abstentions by the Russian Federation and the United States (see S/PV.9520), requesting the **appointment of a Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for the Gaza Strip**; and resolution 2721 (2023), adopted with abstentions by China and the Russian Federation (see S/PV.9521), requesting the **appointment of a Special Envoy for Afghanistan**.

The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2023/6) on transnational organized crime. The Council also issued five press statements on: Houthi threats to security at sea (SC/15513), violence in South Sudan and Abyei (S/15523), a terrorist attack in Pakistan (SC/15529), a terrorist attack in Iran (SC/15534) and the humanitarian situation in Sudan (SC/15547).

Other activities

In December, Council members convened four Arria-formula meetings: "Women's perspectives on Afghanistan" (11 December), organized by Switzerland, Japan and the United Arab Emirates; "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on hate speech, disinformation and misinformation" (19 December), organized by the United Arab Emirates and Albania; "Mind the gap: enhancing the dialogue and cooperation between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission" (20 December), organized by Brazil; and "10 years of Euromaidan in Ukraine: A step into abyss" (27 December), organized by the Russian Federation.

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