

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
10 February 2021	S/2021/140	Letter dated 12 February 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
30 December 2021	S/2021/1116	Letter dated 31 December 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution 2617 (2021) 15-0-0 S/2021/1107

29. Briefings

As with previous supplements, briefings by various speakers not explicitly connected to a specific item on the agenda of the Council are featured in the present section. In 2021, the Council held four such meetings. More information on the meetings, including on the participants and speakers, is provided in tables 1, 2 and 3 below. In addition, Council members held one open videoconference to hear a briefing that was not explicitly connected to a specific item on the agenda of the Council. More information on the videoconference is provided in table 4 below.

In 2021, Council members held one videoconference in connection with the item “Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe”.¹⁰¹⁴ On 10 March, the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden provided a briefing to Council members outlining her priorities. She explained that her first priority was to focus on the basic commitments and principles on which OSCE was founded, notably the sanctity of sovereignty, territorial integrity, freedom from the threat or use of force and the right of all States to choose their own security policy path. She further noted that the Swedish chairpersonship would seek to strengthen the OSCE comprehensive concept of security, which made a clear link between security and the respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, adding that the women and peace and security agenda was a guiding theme for the chairpersonship. She also noted that one of her main priorities as Chairperson-in-Office would be to seek continued engagement at the highest levels towards sustainable solutions to crises and conflicts in the region, in line with international law and with full respect for the OSCE principles and commitments. In

that regard, she reported on her engagement in the conflicts in Georgia and Ukraine, the Transnistrian settlement process in the Republic of Moldova and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.¹⁰¹⁵ In relation to the developments in Belarus, she stated that the offer that she and the previous Chairperson-in-Office had extended in 2020 to facilitate a genuine dialogue between the Government and the opposition still stood.¹⁰¹⁶ Turning to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chairperson-in-Office noted that the Secretary-General’s call for a global ceasefire during the pandemic was much needed, adding that the adoption of resolutions [2532 \(2020\)](#) and [2565 \(2021\)](#) showed the importance that the Council attached to combating the pandemic and resolving conflicts. Having observed a backsliding of democracy and respect for human rights in the OSCE region during the previous year, she further announced that the Swedish chairpersonship would emphasize the right to freedom of expression and the freedom of the media, as well as other democratic rights, and would also draw on the expertise of civil society to ensure that their contributions informed all aspects of security.

During the discussion, Council members¹⁰¹⁷ pointed to the role of regional and subregional organizations and their cooperation with the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. Several Council members¹⁰¹⁸ expressed

¹⁰¹⁴ See [S/2021/256](#).

¹⁰¹⁵ For more information about the discussions relating to Ukraine, see sect. 18 above.

¹⁰¹⁶ See [S/2021/256](#).

¹⁰¹⁷ Estonia, France, India, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

¹⁰¹⁸ Estonia, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United States and Viet Nam.

support for the focus of the Chairperson-in-Office on the women and peace and security agenda. In that regard, the representative of the Russian Federation noted that his delegation supported the plans of the Chairperson-in-Office to promote the participation of women in economic activity, however, without a linkage to resolution 1325 (2000), which addressed women's involvement in peace processes.

In accordance with previously established practice, the Council heard one briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice at a private (closed) meeting held on 2 November.¹⁰¹⁹

In addition, on 7 December, the Council heard the annual briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.¹⁰²⁰ During his briefing, the High Commissioner made reference to the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons in connection with many of the conflicts on the Council's agenda.¹⁰²¹ Citing the example of the Sahel, he noted a direct correlation between the climate emergency, conflict over scarce resources and forced displacement. He added that forced displacement continued to be subjected to political manipulation and, in that context, referred to the crisis on the border between Belarus and some European Union countries. The High Commissioner told the Council that humanitarian workers often faced situations that had been made more complicated by political difficulties, the existence of sanctions and other restrictions to the necessary dialogue and engagement, leaving them to work alone amid an increasing set of expectations. In that regard, he cited the examples of Myanmar, Yemen and, to a certain extent, the Sudan and Afghanistan. With regard to Afghanistan, the High Commissioner also appealed to the Council to ensure the widest scope for humanitarian exception for the sanctions regime to enable humanitarian agencies to function properly. He also warned Council members that humanitarian agencies could not replicate the role of States and that they were not a replacement for real engagement and political solutions. Referring to the politicization of humanitarian work, he noted that the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic was worsening as a result of conflict, a lack of resources, the effects of sanctions and the political and economic crisis in Lebanon. Regarding Ethiopia, the High Commissioner stressed the need to impress upon the parties that they needed to respect the neutrality of United Nations

humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations working in the humanitarian field and ensure their safety. Finally, and directly related to the Council's core work, he pointed out that the growing inability of the international community to make and build peace obliged humanitarian and refugee organizations to work more frequently in situations of active conflict and rampant crisis, with rising expectations on what they could deliver, but in circumstances that, in reality, offered decreasing possibilities to actually deliver.

Following the briefing, Council members affirmed that the work on preventing and addressing root causes of conflict, as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes, was important in tackling the issue of forced migration and displacement. Several speakers¹⁰²² raised climate change as a factor affecting displacement. Most Council members¹⁰²³ also noted how the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated the challenges faced by refugees and internally displaced persons. During the discussion, several Council members¹⁰²⁴ pointed to the need to respect the principle of sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs when addressing the issues of displacement and refugees. In response to some of the questions raised by Council members, the High Commissioner took the floor a second time.¹⁰²⁵

In 2021, Council members held two meetings under the item entitled "Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council".¹⁰²⁶ On 2 December, Council members heard a joint briefing by the Chairs of the three committees related to counter-terrorism and non-proliferation, namely, the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).¹⁰²⁷ At the meeting, the Chairs provided an overview of the work of the three committees, noting that the three subsidiary bodies continued to attach great importance to the coordination and cooperation

¹⁰¹⁹ See S/PV.8894. For more information on relations with the International Court of Justice, see part IV, sect. III.

¹⁰²⁰ See S/PV.8919. The previous briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Council was given on 18 June 2020 (see S/2020/560). See also *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part I, sect. 30.

¹⁰²¹ See S/PV.8919.

¹⁰²² Norway, Estonia, United Kingdom, Mexico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Kenya, Ireland, Tunisia and Niger.

¹⁰²³ Norway, India, Estonia, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, Mexico, China, United States, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Niger.

¹⁰²⁴ India, Viet Nam, China, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Russian Federation and Tunisia.

¹⁰²⁵ For more information about invitees under rule 39 and their interventions, see part II, sect. VIII.B.

¹⁰²⁶ See also A/76/2, part II, chap. 22.

¹⁰²⁷ See S/PV.8915.

among them and to raise awareness of Member States' obligations to effectively implement relevant Council resolutions. During the discussion, several Council members¹⁰²⁸ noted the rise of terrorism in Africa. Council members also emphasized the importance of implementing sanctions measures in the fight against terrorism,¹⁰²⁹ and conducting the comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), the initial timeline of which had been delayed because of the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰³⁰

Following the established practice, on 13 December, the Council heard the end-of-year briefing by the outgoing Chairs of the various subsidiary bodies who were concluding their terms in December 2021.¹⁰³¹ At the meeting, the Chairs presented the key activities undertaken during their tenure. The Chairs informed the Council about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the functioning of their respective committees and working groups, mostly in relation to their working methods and conduct of field visits. In that regard, the representative of the Niger, as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Committee

established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic, noted that visits were essential, as they allowed the committees to obtain first-hand information on the implementation of sanctions measures and to interact in person with a wide range of stakeholders. The representative of Tunisia, as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) concerning Guinea-Bissau, addressed the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the austerity measures implemented by the United Nations. In that context, the Chair noted that, while the good stewardship of United Nations resources must be a priority, it could not come at the expense of the efficient and meaningful work of the Council. Furthermore, several Chairs discussed the role of sanctions more broadly, with some¹⁰³² underscoring the importance of raising awareness about the objectives of the United Nations sanctions and addressing any misconceptions or misunderstandings in that regard. Other topics addressed during the briefing included the transparency of the work of the committees and the role of the panels and groups of experts.

¹⁰²⁸ Viet Nam, Ireland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom, India and Niger.

¹⁰²⁹ United States, Kenya, China, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Norway, France, Estonia and India.

¹⁰³⁰ Viet Nam, China, Tunisia, Russian Federation, Norway, Mexico, France, Estonia, United Kingdom and India.

¹⁰³¹ See [S/PV.8928](#). For more information on the subsidiary organs, see part IX.

¹⁰³² Estonia (as Chair the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan) and Niger (as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013)).

Table 1
Meeting: briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8894 2 November 2021 (closed)				President of the International Court of Justice	Council members, invitee	

Table 2
Meetings: briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8915 2 December 2021					Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015)	

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<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
					concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), ^a all other Council members	
S/PV.8928 13 December 2021					Chairs of eight Committees and two Working Groups ^b	

^a Before his briefing, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) delivered a joint statement on behalf of that Committee, the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), on the continuing cooperation among the three Committees and their respective expert bodies.

^b The Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) concerning Guinea-Bissau and the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations; the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan; the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic; the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) and the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions; and the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan.

Table 3

Meeting: briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8919 7 December 2021			United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	All Council members, ^a invitee ^b		

^a Norway was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^b The High Commissioner participated in the meeting by videoconference.

Table 4

Videoconference: briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
10 March 2021	S/2021/256	Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

30. Security Council mission

During the period under review, the Council dispatched one mission to the field to Mali and the Niger. The mission was comprised of representatives of all members of the Council. Following the mission, the Council held a meeting under the item entitled “Security Council mission”, at which it heard briefings by the representatives of the Council co-leading the mission. More information on the meeting, including on the participants and speakers, is given in the table below.¹⁰³³

As reported during the briefing, Council members held meetings in Mali with the transitional Government, including the transitional President, the Prime Minister, the signatory armed groups of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, representatives of civil society, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the United Nations country team and other individuals engaged in the international mediation. During their visit to the Niger, Council members met with the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Niger, as well as the Force Commander of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel and representatives of the United Nations country team.

¹⁰³³ For more information on the composition and report of the mission and on discussions relating to virtual missions given the extraordinary circumstances, see part VI, sect. II.A.

Meeting: Security Council mission

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>
S/PV.8892 29 October 2021	Briefing by the Security Council mission to Mali and the Niger (22 to 26 October 2021)	Letter dated 22 October 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2021/917) Report of the Security Council mission to Mali and the Niger, 23–25 October 2021 (S/2021/1106)			Three Council members (France, Kenya, Niger)

31. Items relating to non-proliferation

A. Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

During the period under review, the Council held one high-level meeting in connection with the item entitled “Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction”, which took the form of a briefing.¹⁰³⁴ More information on the meeting, including on the participants and speakers, is given in table 1 below. Council members also held two open videoconferences in connection with the item.¹⁰³⁵ One of the videoconferences was devoted to the announcement

of the adoption of a resolution. More information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below.¹⁰³⁶ In 2021, the Council also unanimously adopted resolution [2572 \(2021\)](#) under Chapter VII of the Charter.

On 30 March, Council members held an open videoconference in connection with the item, focused on the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).¹⁰³⁷ At the videoconference, Council members heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) on its activities during the year 2020. In his briefing, the Chair underscored that resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) remained a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture aimed at preventing non-State actors from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. He highlighted that, to date, 184 Member States had submitted

¹⁰³⁴ For more information on the format of meetings, including high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II, sect. II.

¹⁰³⁵ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II, sect. I, and *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. I.

¹⁰³⁶ See also [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 25.

¹⁰³⁷ See [S/2021/325](#).