

Europe

16. The situation in Cyprus

In 2021, the Council held two meetings and adopted two resolutions and one presidential statement concerning the situation in Cyprus.⁵⁹³ More information on the meetings and outcomes is given in table 1 below. In addition, Council members held one open videoconference in connection with the item.⁵⁹⁴ More information on the videoconference is given in table 2 below. The Council also held a private meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).⁵⁹⁵ Council members also held a closed videoconference to discuss the situation in Cyprus.⁵⁹⁶

On 29 January, Council members held an open videoconference⁵⁹⁷ in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General,⁵⁹⁸ at which the President of the Council announced the unanimous adoption of resolution [2561 \(2021\)](#), by which the Council extended the mandate of UNFICYP for a period of six months, until 31 July 2021.⁵⁹⁹ Recalling its resolution [2537 \(2020\)](#), the Council called upon the two leaders to consider the advice of the good offices mission of the Secretary-General regarding further ways to empower the technical committees and improve their performance, and to engage them more actively to ensure effective coordination and cooperation on health matters, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases.⁶⁰⁰ Regretting the lack of progress on an effective

mechanism for direct military contacts between the sides and the relevant involved parties, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on the reasons behind the lack of progress and urged full engagement with the proposal to establish such a mechanism presented by UNFICYP and its timely implementation.⁶⁰¹ To that end, the Council called on the Secretary-General to report on any actions that impeded the ability of UNFICYP to fulfil its mandate and urged both sides to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security of UNFICYP personnel.⁶⁰²

On 23 July, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it reaffirmed the status of Varosha as set out in previous resolutions and reiterated that any attempt to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants was inadmissible and that no actions should be carried out in relation to Varosha that were not in accordance with its resolutions.⁶⁰³ Expressing its deep regret regarding unilateral actions that ran contrary to its previous resolutions and statements, the Council condemned the announcement in Cyprus by Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders on 20 July 2021 on the further reopening of a part of the fenced-off area of Varosha.⁶⁰⁴ In that regard, the Council called for the immediate reversal of that course of action, including all steps taken regarding Varosha since October 2020, while underscoring the need to avoid any further unilateral actions that were not in accordance with its resolutions and that could raise tensions on the island and harm prospects for a settlement.⁶⁰⁵ Stressing the importance of the full respect and implementation of its resolutions, including on the transfer of Varosha to United Nations administration, and of respect for the freedom of movement of UNFICYP, the Council further reaffirmed its commitment to an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement, as set out in relevant Council resolutions, and its support for the Secretary-General's efforts.⁶⁰⁶

On 29 July, at a meeting⁶⁰⁷ held in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General,⁶⁰⁸ the

⁵⁹³ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁵⁹⁴ 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.

⁵⁹⁵ The private meeting was held on 15 July in connection with 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"; see [S/PV.8821](#) and [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 20.

⁵⁹⁶ See [S/2021/938](#) and [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 1. The closed videoconference was held on 19 January. In 2021, some informal consultations of the Council were held in the form of closed videoconferences.

⁵⁹⁷ See [S/2021/99](#).

⁵⁹⁸ [S/2021/4](#) and [S/2021/5](#).

⁵⁹⁹ Resolution [2561 \(2021\)](#), para. 9. For more information on the mandate of UNFICYP, see part X, sect. I. The resolution was adopted in accordance with the procedures developed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶⁰⁰ Resolution [2561 \(2021\)](#), para. 4.

⁶⁰¹ *Ibid.*, para. 5.

⁶⁰² *Ibid.*, para. 10.

⁶⁰³ [S/PRST/2021/13](#), second paragraph.

⁶⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, third paragraph.

⁶⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, fourth paragraph.

⁶⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, fifth and sixth paragraphs.

⁶⁰⁷ See [S/PV.8827](#).

⁶⁰⁸ [S/2021/634](#) and [S/2021/635](#).

Council unanimously adopted resolution [2587 \(2021\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, until 31 January 2022.⁶⁰⁹ In the resolution, the Council welcomed the work of the Secretary-General and that of his team in convening the informal five-plus-United Nations meeting between the leaders of the two Cypriot communities and the guarantor Powers held in Geneva from 27 to 29 April 2021, while noting with regret that sufficient common ground could not be found at the meeting to allow for the resumption of formal negotiations.⁶¹⁰ The Council also regretted the impact that the largely uncoordinated responses to the COVID-19 pandemic had had on bicomunal engagement.⁶¹¹ Recalling the importance of achieving an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant Council resolutions, the Council expressed its full support for the Secretary-General's ongoing engagement and the agreement by the parties to convene a further round of informal talks, and reiterated the importance of the sides and all involved participants to show the necessary political will and commitment to freely negotiate a mutually acceptable settlement under the auspices of the United Nations.⁶¹²

Expressing regret for the ongoing lack of meaningful participation of women's organizations and youth in the settlement process, the Council called on the leaders of both sides to submit to the Secretary-General by 15 December 2021 an action plan, in coordination with the Technical Committee on Gender

Equality, to increase women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace talks, and to provide direct support and encouragement to civil society organizations aimed at enhancing intercommunal contact and trust-building. In that regard, the Council requested the Secretary-General to include that action plan in his next report on the good offices mission in Cyprus, while noting his call to ensure the inclusion of at least 30 per cent women in future delegations.⁶¹³

Welcoming the establishment of a dialogue between the sides and the United Nations resulting in the reopening of the crossing points on 4 June, the Council called on the leaders to continue cooperation and to return the crossing points to the operating status that existed prior to 29 February 2020.⁶¹⁴ The Council requested the Secretary-General to submit by 3 January 2022 a report on his good offices and encouraged the leaders of the two communities to provide written updates to the good offices mission of the Secretary-General on the actions they had taken in support of the relevant parts of the resolution, with a view to reaching a sustainable and comprehensive settlement. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit by 3 January 2022 a report on the implementation of the resolution, drawing on an analysis produced through the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System covering all components of the mission.⁶¹⁵

⁶⁰⁹ Resolution [2587 \(2021\)](#), para. 10.

⁶¹⁰ *Ibid.*, third preambular paragraph.

⁶¹¹ *Ibid.*, tenth preambular paragraph.

⁶¹² *Ibid.*, paras. 1 and 2.

⁶¹³ *Ibid.*, para. 5. For more information on the decisions of the Council containing measures in connection with the women and peace and security agenda, see sect. 27 below.

⁶¹⁴ Resolution [2587 \(2021\)](#), para. 8.

⁶¹⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 19. For more information on the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System for other missions, see part X, sect. I.

Table 1
Meetings: the situation in Cyprus

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8824 23 July 2021						S/PRST/2021/13
S/PV.8827 29 July 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2021/634) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2021/635)	Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom (S/2021/687)				Resolution 2587 (2021) 15-0-0

Table 2
Videoconference: the situation in Cyprus

Videoconference date	Videoconference record	Title	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
29 January 2021	S/2021/99	Letter dated 29 January 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 2561 (2021) 15-0-0 S/2021/96

17. Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia

A. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2021, the Council held three meetings, adopted one resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter and failed to adopt a draft resolution in connection with the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Except for the meeting convened to adopt the resolution, which took the form of a debate, all other meetings took the form of a briefing.⁶¹⁶ More information on the meetings, including on the participants and speakers, is provided in table 1 below. The members of the Council also held one videoconference in connection with the item.⁶¹⁷ More information about the videoconference is provided in table 2 below. In addition, Council members held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the item.⁶¹⁸

In 2021, Council members heard briefings from the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina and by the Officer-in-Charge of the Europe and Central Asia Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. In addition to Council members, the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the videoconference and the meeting at which briefings were heard.

On 4 May, during his briefing at the open videoconference,⁶¹⁹ the High Representative provided updates on developments in connection with his most recent report.⁶²⁰ At the outset, the High Representative recalled the commemoration of the twenty-fifth

anniversary in 2020 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Peace Agreement) as a moment of hope and reflection for the country.⁶²¹ In that context, he referred to a set of concrete conclusions that had been adopted by the authorities of the Republika Srpska in March 2021 as part of a long-standing policy of challenging the fundamentals of the Agreement, leaving open the option for the so-called “peaceful dissolution” of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In that connection, he stressed that the Agreement did not give the right to entities to secede and expressed regret about the political atmosphere and the lack of progress on reforms. The High Representative stated that, during his mandate since 2009, there had been a shift from rhetoric to action challenging the State competencies, institutions and decisions, as well as the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State. The High Representative welcomed the movement around the electoral reform process but expressed regret that there was mistrust and fear among citizens and civil society of a further ethnicization of the electoral system, which would conflict not only with the implementation of the *Sejdić and Finci* group of cases, but also with the specific goals of the Agreement. In that connection, the High Representative reiterated that further ethnic or territorial divisions must not be allowed. He also expressed his disappointment that a few efforts to criminalize the glorification of war criminals and the denial of genocide before the parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina had failed.

The High Representative referred to some areas in which he remained hopeful, namely the city of Mostar, Sarajevo City and Banja Luka, where new mayors of diverse backgrounds, gender, ethnicity and age had been elected. With regard to the implementation of the third national action plan for resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), the High Representative reported that there had been some steps forward, such

⁶¹⁶ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁶¹⁷ 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.

⁶¹⁸ See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 6.A. See also [S/2021/1032](#).

⁶¹⁹ See [S/2021/436](#).

⁶²⁰ [S/2021/409](#), annex.

⁶²¹ See [S/2021/436](#).