

Table 2
Videoconferences: the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
26 January 2021	S/2021/91	Letter dated 28 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	
26 February 2021	S/2021/218	Letter dated 2 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	
25 March 2021	S/2021/302	Letter dated 29 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	
22 April 2021	S/2021/404	Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
16 May 2021	S/2021/480	Letter dated 18 May 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

21. The situation concerning Iraq

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings in relation to the item entitled “The situation concerning Iraq”. On 27 May, through the unanimous adoption of resolution [2576 \(2021\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) until 27 May 2022.⁷⁸² All other meetings held under the item during the period under review took the form of a briefing.⁷⁸³ More information on the meetings, including on the participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below. Council members also held a total of two open videoconferences in connection with the item.⁷⁸⁴ More information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below. In addition to the meetings and open videoconferences, Council members held closed videoconferences and informal consultations of the whole to discuss the item.⁷⁸⁵

In 2021, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI on the situation concerning Iraq. In her briefings in connection with the quarterly reports of the Secretary-General,⁷⁸⁶ she provided updates to Council members on the preparation for parliamentary elections scheduled for 10 October 2021, including on the increased electoral support provided by UNAMI, pursuant to resolution [2576 \(2021\)](#). The Special Representative also continued to inform the Council regarding the relations between Baghdad and Erbil and the status of negotiations between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the federal Government. The Special Representative also reported to Council members on the status of the implementation of economic reforms by the federal Government and on the continued threat of terrorism posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da’esh). Regarding the situation of human rights, she spoke about the persecution of protesters, the need for accountability and justice and the closure of camps for internally displaced Iraqis. The Special Representative also provided progress reports regarding the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-

⁷⁸² For more information on the mandate of UNAMI, see part X, sect. II.

⁷⁸³ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁷⁸⁴ 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.

⁷⁸⁵ See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 28. See also [S/2021/1060](#) and [S/2021/683](#).

⁷⁸⁶ [S/2021/120](#), [S/2021/426](#), [S/2021/700](#) and [S/2021/946](#). See also [S/2021/93](#), [S/2021/395](#), [S/2021/689](#), [S/2021/930](#) and [S/2021/932](#).

country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

At a videoconference held on 16 February,⁷⁸⁷ the Special Representative reported on the financial and economic difficulties facing Iraq and on the status of the Iraqi parliamentary elections, which were to be held on 10 October 2021, four months later than originally planned. She expressed concerns over the delays in the electoral calendar and emphasized that, for credible elections to take place, it was imperative that parties, candidates and members of the media operated in a free and safe environment. The Special Representative underlined that, regardless of the response of the Council to the request from the Government of Iraq for electoral observation, the elections would be Iraqi-led and Iraqi-owned at all times. She expressed concern that transparency, justice and accountability remained largely absent throughout Iraq, including in the Kurdistan region, particularly when it came to the repression of public protests. Regarding the economic situation, while indicating that a 40 per cent increase in oil revenues since November 2020 had eased the liquidity crisis, she lamented the lack of progress in the implementation of much-needed reform measures. The Special Representative also covered other topics, including the closure of camps for internally displaced Iraqis and the issue of missing Kuwaitis and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property.

At a videoconference held on 11 May,⁷⁸⁸ the Special Representative reported on the preparations for the parliamentary elections scheduled for 10 October. While noting that all necessary laws had been adopted, she reiterated her call to all Iraqi stakeholders to uphold the integrity of the electoral process. She lamented that many members of the protest movement, of which the elections had been a central demand, continued to be persecuted with rampant impunity. Regarding the economic situation, the Special Representative noted that, after months of intense political negotiations, the Council of Representatives had approved the federal budget law for 2021. She expressed concern, however, that the budget remained heavily reliant on the oil sector and also reported that minimal progress had been made in the implementation of the white paper for economic and financial reform. Turning to the relations between Baghdad and Erbil, she indicated that, while the parties continued to express their willingness to come to the table, sustainable progress would remain elusive in the absence of institutionalized, regular and structured

dialogue. The Special Representative also expressed concern that, in the context of the upcoming elections, disagreements between the two capitals could easily be exploited to amplify divisions. She also noted that developments in the Kurdistan region over the past year had given rise to concern about the active curtailment of free expression. She made reference to the progress made on the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property and to the humanitarian situation affecting internally displaced persons. In addition, she welcomed the passing of the Yazidi Female Survivors Act, which provided for reparations to survivors and legal recognition of the atrocities against women and girls committed by ISIL/Da'esh as crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity.

On 27 May, the Council adopted resolution [2576 \(2021\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNAMI until 27 May 2022.⁷⁸⁹ In the resolution, the Council commended the efforts of the Government of Iraq to plan and execute genuinely free and fair Iraqi-led, Iraq-owned early elections.⁷⁹⁰ Taking into account the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq to the Council,⁷⁹¹ the Council decided that the Special Representative would: provide a strengthened, robust and visible United Nations team in advance of the elections in Iraq to monitor the election day and continue to assist with the election, in a manner that respected Iraqi sovereignty; engage and coordinate with and provide logistical and security support to international and regional third-party observers; and launch a United Nations strategic messaging campaign on election preparations and United Nations activities in support of the elections.⁷⁹² The Council further decided that the Special Representative and UNAMI would advise, support and assist the Government of Iraq and the Independent High Electoral Commission with efforts to plan and execute genuinely free and fair Iraqi-led, Iraq-owned elections and referendums.⁷⁹³ The Council also requested the Secretary-General to provide a detailed summary report to the Council on the country's electoral process and the assistance provided by UNAMI to that process within 30 days of the conclusion of the elections.⁷⁹⁴

At a meeting held on 25 August,⁷⁹⁵ the Special Representative provided further updates on the

⁷⁸⁷ See [S/2021/152](#).

⁷⁸⁸ See [S/2021/474](#).

⁷⁸⁹ Resolution [2576 \(2021\)](#), para. 1.

⁷⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, fourth preambular paragraph.

⁷⁹¹ [S/2021/135](#), annex.

⁷⁹² Resolution [2576 \(2021\)](#), para. 2 (a)–(c).

⁷⁹³ *Ibid.*, para. 4 (b) (i).

⁷⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 3.

⁷⁹⁵ See [S/PV.8842](#).

preparations for the parliamentary elections scheduled for 10 October. She emphasized that the Independent High Electoral Commission had reached several milestones and that UNAMI continued to provide technical assistance whenever possible. She noted that there were five times as many United Nations personnel engaged in supporting the elections as there had been during the 2018 elections. The Special Representative reported that UNAMI was stepping up its strategic communication efforts to tackle misinformation and manage public expectations, underlining that the lack of trust in the public authorities and institutions was longstanding and widespread. The Special Representative asked the authorities, civil servants, officials, political forces, parties and candidates not to let the Iraqi people down. She said that service to the citizens – whatever their background, belief, religion, opinion or conviction – should be their first priority, and emphasized that the focus must be on solutions that represented the interests of all people. The Special Representative also reported on developments regarding the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, with a total of 30 cases of missing persons having been formally closed since November 2020.

At a meeting held on 23 November,⁷⁹⁶ the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative, in which she focused on the electoral process and the post-electoral environment. She reported that the elections had been assessed as generally peaceful and well run, with significant technical and procedural improvements from previous recent elections. She noted that, while it was understandable that elections and their outcomes could provoke strong feelings, if allowed to give way to undemocratic impulses, such feelings could open the door to intolerable acts. She condemned in the strongest terms the assassination attempt on the Prime Minister on 7 November 2021 and underscored that under no circumstances must terrorism, violence or any unlawful acts be allowed to derail the democratic process. The Special Representative emphasized that any concerns of foul play should be addressed to the established legal channels and noted that so far there had been no evidence of systemic electoral fraud. While noting that the risk of continued political deadlock was real, the Special Representative stressed that Iraq desperately needed a Government that was able to swiftly and effectively tackle the long list of unfinished domestic business. In that regard, she concluded by stressing the importance of a sound and inclusive process for the formation of the Government. The Special Representative also reported on the progress achieved on the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country

nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, emphasizing the importance of efforts by the Government of Iraq to keep the momentum and locate the remaining missing persons. During the meeting, the Council also heard a briefing by the Coordinator of the Iraqi Women Network, a civil society feminist alliance. The Coordinator shared with the Council her growing concerns over the assassinations, kidnapping, assaults, threats of assassination against and defamation of feminist activists and human rights defenders during the protests in 2019 and 2020. She stressed that the elections and the negotiations to form a new Government were critical both to ensuring women's meaningful participation and to promoting democracy in Iraq. In that connection, she emphasized the critical role of, and need for, women as active participants in parliament and in negotiations to form the new Government. She also underscored the criticality of an enabling environment for women's engagement and increased participation. The Coordinator highlighted that a national mechanism to support the inclusion of women was critical to ensuring oversight of adequate resources for implementing the country's national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000). In that regard, she urged the Council to call upon the Government of Iraq to create a national council for women's empowerment and to allocate the necessary budget to implement the national action plan. She also urged the Council to call on the Government to ensure accountability for the killing of human rights defenders and civil society activists during the 2019 and 2020 protests.

During the period under review, Council members followed closely the electoral process in Iraq during videoconferences and meetings held in connection with the item. During their deliberations in the first half of the year, Council members emphasized the importance of the parliamentary elections to the political transition and discussed the request by the Government of Iraq for electoral assistance.⁷⁹⁷ In August, many Council members welcomed the deployment, pursuant to resolution 2576 (2021), of additional United Nations personnel to UNAMI to monitor and support the preparations for the elections in October.⁷⁹⁸ Several Council members welcomed the establishment of a higher committee to promote the participation of women in the elections and to prevent violence against women candidates.⁷⁹⁹ In November,⁸⁰⁰

⁷⁹⁶ See [S/PV.8910](#).

⁷⁹⁷ See [S/2021/152](#) and [S/2021/474](#).

⁷⁹⁸ See [S/PV.8842](#) (United States, Niger, Mexico, Viet Nam, France, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Kenya, United Kingdom, China, Ireland, Tunisia and India).

⁷⁹⁹ See [S/2021/474](#) (Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway and United Kingdom); and [S/PV.8842](#) (Estonia, Kenya and Ireland).

Council members welcomed the orderly and generally peaceful conduct of the parliamentary elections. Council members also recognized the electoral assistance provided by UNAMI. Many Council members⁸⁰¹ stated that they looked forward to the formation of an inclusive Government that addressed the needs and aspirations of all Iraqis. Some Council members⁸⁰² also highlighted the increased participation and representation of women in the electoral process. In connection with the post-electoral security environment, Council members strongly condemned the 7 November assassination attempt against the Prime Minister and all incidents of violence during the post-election period, such as the threats against United Nations personnel and the Independent High Electoral Commission. Several Council members⁸⁰³ further encouraged all parties to address any concerns regarding the elections through the established legal channels.

Regarding the political situation, throughout the year, several Council members welcomed recent efforts to improve the relationship between the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government,⁸⁰⁴ including the agreement on the federal budget law.⁸⁰⁵ Many Council members welcomed the adoption of the Yazidi Female Survivors Act by the Iraqi parliament.⁸⁰⁶ Several Council members also welcomed the renewed cooperation between Iraq and neighbouring countries in the region to address common issues.⁸⁰⁷ Some Council members expressed concern about the lack of accountability for violence perpetrated against protesters, activists and journalists

and called for the protection of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.⁸⁰⁸ In connection with the situation of internally displaced persons, some Council members called for the creation of conditions for safe return.⁸⁰⁹ Regarding the security situation, Council members deplored the continued activity of terrorist groups, including ISIL/Da'esh, in Iraqi territory.⁸¹⁰ Many Council members discussed the need to ensure the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq in the fight against regional and transnational threats, including terrorism.⁸¹¹ On the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, many Council members welcomed progress

⁸⁰⁰ See [S/PV.8910](#).

⁸⁰¹ United States, India, Ireland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Norway, France, Russian Federation, Estonia, United Kingdom, Kenya, Tunisia and Mexico.

⁸⁰² United States, India, Ireland, Norway, Estonia, United Kingdom, Kenya, Tunisia and Mexico.

⁸⁰³ India, Norway, Viet Nam, China, France, Niger, Estonia, United Kingdom and Kenya.

⁸⁰⁴ See [S/2021/152](#) (China, India, Mexico, Norway, Tunisia and Viet Nam); [S/PV.8842](#) (Russian Federation, France, Norway, Estonia, China, Tunisia and India); and [S/PV.8910](#) (Russian Federation, Estonia and Tunisia).

⁸⁰⁵ See [S/2021/474](#) (China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Norway, Tunisia, United States and Viet Nam).

⁸⁰⁶ See [S/2021/474](#) (Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Viet Nam); and [S/PV.8842](#) (Norway, Estonia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ireland).

⁸⁰⁷ See [S/2021/152](#) (China, India, Mexico, Niger, Russian Federation and United Kingdom); [S/2021/474](#) (Niger, Russian Federation and Viet Nam); [S/PV.8842](#) (Niger, Viet Nam, Russian Federation, France, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and India); and [S/PV.8910](#) (India, Ireland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Viet Nam, China, France, Niger, Kenya and Mexico).

⁸⁰⁸ See [S/2021/152](#) (Estonia, Ireland, Mexico, Niger and Norway); [S/2021/474](#) (Estonia, France, Ireland, Niger, Norway and United States); [S/PV.8842](#) (United States, Niger, Mexico, France, Norway, Estonia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Kenya and Ireland); and [S/PV.8910](#) (Ireland, Norway, Niger, Estonia and Mexico).

⁸⁰⁹ See [S/2021/152](#) (France, Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom and Viet Nam); [S/2021/474](#) (France, India, Norway, United Kingdom and Viet Nam); [S/PV.8842](#) (Mexico, Viet Nam, United Kingdom, Ireland and Tunisia); and [S/PV.8910](#) (Ireland, Viet Nam and Kenya).

⁸¹⁰ See [S/2021/152](#) (China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam); [S/2021/474](#) (China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Norway, Russian Federation, Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States); [S/PV.8842](#) (United States, Niger, Mexico, Russian Federation, France, Norway, Estonia, Kenya, China, Ireland, Tunisia and India); and [S/PV.8910](#) (India, Ireland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Viet Nam, China, France, Niger and Kenya).

⁸¹¹ See [S/2021/152](#) (China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Viet Nam); [S/2021/474](#) (China, Estonia, France, India, Kenya, Russian Federation, Tunisia and Viet Nam); [S/PV.8842](#) (United States, Viet Nam, Russian Federation, Norway, Estonia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Kenya, China, Ireland, Tunisia and India); and [S/PV.8910](#) (India, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Viet Nam, China, Russian Federation, Kenya, Tunisia and Mexico). For more on information on discussions relating to the prohibition of the threat or use of force, see part III, sect. II.B.

in the identification and return of the remains of missing persons.⁸¹²

During his interventions in Council meetings and videoconferences in connection with the situation in Iraq, the representative of Iraq stressed the importance of United Nations electoral observation for the success of the electoral process.⁸¹³ The representative of Iraq

emphasized that terrorism was the greatest threat against Iraqi efforts to rebuild the country, address displacement and deliver humanitarian assistance.⁸¹⁴ The representative of Iraq also condemned the use of his country's territory to settle political scores or carry out actions under the pretext of combating terrorism and called for the respect for the principles of the Charter, including State sovereignty, good-neighbourly relations and cooperation.⁸¹⁵

In addition, developments in 2021 relating to 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) were dealt with under the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security".⁸¹⁶

⁸¹² See [S/2021/152](#) (China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom and Viet Nam); [S/2021/474](#) (France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom and Viet Nam); [S/PV.8842](#) (Niger, Mexico, Viet Nam, Russian Federation, France, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Kenya, United Kingdom, China, Ireland, Tunisia and India); and [S/PV.8910](#) (India, Ireland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Viet Nam, China, France, Niger, United Kingdom, Kenya, Tunisia and Mexico).

⁸¹³ See [S/2021/152](#), [S/2021/474](#), [S/PV.8842](#) and [S/PV.8910](#).

⁸¹⁴ See [S/2021/152](#), [S/2021/474](#) and [S/PV.8842](#).

⁸¹⁵ See [S/PV.8842](#) and [S/PV.8910](#).

⁸¹⁶ For further details, see sect. 33 below and part IX, sect. III.

Table 1
Meetings: the situation concerning Iraq

<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.8780 27 May 2021	Thirtieth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2021/395) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2522 (2020) (S/2021/426)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2021/503)				Resolution 2576 (2021) 15-0-0
S/PV.8842 25 August 2021	Thirty-first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2021/689) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2576 (2021) (S/2021/700)		Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq	All Council members, all invitees	

<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.8910 23 November 2021	Thirty-second report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2021/930) Report of the Secretary-General on the electoral process in Iraq (S/2021/932) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2576 (2021) (S/2021/946)		Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Coordinator of the Iraqi Women Network	All Council members, ^a all invitees ^b	

^a India was represented by its Secretary of Consular Passports and Visas and Overseas Indian Affairs of the Ministry of External Affairs.

^b The Special Representative and the Coordinator of the Iraqi Women Network participated in the meeting by videoconference.

Table 2
Videoconferences: the situation concerning Iraq

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
16 February 2021	S/2021/152	Letter dated 18 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	
11 May 2021	S/2021/474	Letter dated 14 May 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

Thematic issues

22. United Nations peacekeeping operations

During the period under review, the Council held five meetings, including one high-level meeting, and adopted two resolutions and two presidential statements in connection with the item entitled “United Nations peacekeeping operations”. Two of the meetings took the form of an open debate, two were convened for the adoption of a decision and one took

the form of a briefing.⁸¹⁷ More information on the meetings, including on the participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in table 1 below. In 2021, Council members also held one open videoconference

⁸¹⁷ For more information on the format of meetings, including high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II, sect. II.