

Table 2
Videoconference: the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
4 May 2021	S/2021/436	Letter dated 6 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	

B. Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

In 2021, the Council held one meeting in connection with Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#), which took the form of a briefing.⁶⁴⁶ More information on the meeting, including on the participants and speakers, is given in table 1 below. The members of the Council also held one videoconference in connection with the item.⁶⁴⁷ More information on the videoconference is given in table 2 below. No decisions were adopted in connection with the item during the period under review.

In 2021, Council members heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).⁶⁴⁸ In line with established practice, statements were also delivered by the representatives of Serbia and Kosovo during the meeting and the open videoconference.

On 13 April, at the open videoconference,⁶⁴⁹ the Special Representative stated that, despite the systemic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, early legislative elections had been prepared and successfully conducted across Kosovo on 14 February 2021. The political turbulence that had prevailed in the previous year had made the results of the voting all the more significant for the population. He reported that the turnout for the legislative elections had been high

and that the winning party, Vetëvendosje, had received more than half of all the votes. An examination of the demographics of the voting had revealed a strong desire for change across Kosovo society, for a shift in government responsiveness to the real hopes and needs of its voters and for greater equality of opportunity, accountability and the rule of law. He reported that the new Prime Minister of Kosovo had provided assurances of his understanding of the strategic importance of advancing the dialogue with Belgrade and that the President of Serbia had highlighted the importance of the dialogue for peace and stability and had reiterated his hope for the dialogue to be intensified. The Special Representative also noted that a second woman had been elected to hold the position of President of Kosovo and that leadership by women had continued to grow overall as a result of that election. With regard to the aspirations of both Pristina and Belgrade for progress along the European path, he urged leaders to be mindful of the impact of their public statements, noting that gains to public trust in the process were as fragile as they were essential and that, with a new government in Pristina, it was expected that difficult subjects would be treated with seriousness and diligence. He informed the Council of the activities of UNMIK in engaging across multiple sectors and areas of work in accordance with its mandate, including programmes and projects to empower women and youth in politics and society, to promote innovation and catalyse civic activism and to expand multilingual education, as well as its work engaging regularly with Kosovo authorities and civil society organizations on the monitoring, protection and promotion of human rights. He also urged the authorities to make progress on clarifying the fate of missing persons by engaging with the Pristina-Belgrade Working Group on Missing Persons. He said that the new Government had an important opportunity to transform public narratives. He stated that voters in Kosovo had raised their voices for breaking with the past and expressed hope that the members of the Council would add their clear support for the

⁶⁴⁶ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁶⁴⁷ See [S/2021/1084](#). See also [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 6.B. 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.

⁶⁴⁸ [S/2021/332](#) and [S/2021/861](#).

⁶⁴⁹ See [S/2021/370](#).

realization of a more peaceful and prosperous future in Kosovo and the region.

In their statements, several Council members⁶⁵⁰ welcomed the February parliamentary elections and the election of the new President in Kosovo. Delegations⁶⁵¹ also welcomed the increase in the number of women participating in the elections and in the newly constituted Government, with a few members⁶⁵² reiterating the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes. Most Council members called on Belgrade and Pristina to pursue dialogue to overcome their differences so as to normalize their relations and advance stability in the region⁶⁵³ and expressed support for the facilitating role of the European Union in that regard.⁶⁵⁴

With regard to the role of UNMIK, most speakers expressed support for the work of the Mission in implementing its mandate of promoting security, stability and respect for human rights in the region, with several delegations⁶⁵⁵ commending in particular its initiatives to address the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, in assisting the vulnerable communities and in promoting the participation of women and youth in the peace process. More specifically, the representative of the Russian Federation sustained that, as UNMIK activities remained in high demand, the Mission's budgetary and staffing capacities should be kept at current levels. He added that the frequency of open Council briefings on Kosovo should be maintained as negotiated.⁶⁵⁶ The representative of the United States, by contrast, reiterated that the Mission had long since fulfilled its original purpose and called on other Council members to "sunset UNMIK" and determine a more relevant role for the United Nations in helping Kosovo to realize its full potential.⁶⁵⁷ While expressing their recognition for the work of UNMIK, the representatives of Estonia and

the United Kingdom also expressed their support for a strategic review of UNMIK.

During the videoconference, some delegations⁶⁵⁸ expressed regret regarding the incidents that had taken place prior to the meeting with regard to the backdrop displayed by the representative of Kosovo, which had caused a delay in the start of the open videoconference.

At a meeting held on 15 October,⁶⁵⁹ the Council heard the second regular briefing of the year by the Special Representative on recent developments and the most recent report of the Secretary-General.⁶⁶⁰ He focused his remarks on the events that had taken place in northern Kosovo in late September 2021, leading to an escalation of tensions in the region and along the Kosovo-Serbia border.⁶⁶¹ He reported that, through the good offices of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, supported also by United States diplomacy, an agreement had been achieved to de-escalate the situation. The agreement had provided for the withdrawal of Kosovo special police units from the north and an increased presence of the Kosovo Force to establish a safe and secure environment. He nonetheless noted that the events were of deep concern and should be a warning to all members of the Council. On the Belgrade-Pristina relations, he affirmed that dialogue could and should be the mechanism used to avoid the dangers that were less often visible but were just as real as they had been during the 20 years prior and noted that, despite differences on other matters, the representatives of the international powers represented in the Council clearly shared an understanding that there was no reasonable alternative to sustained engagement in dialogue. He added that, if the vast majority of people from the various communities, including women and youth, did not feel that they were part of, or had a stake in, the processes of political discussion and negotiation, all efforts to change relations and resolve long-term tensions were destined to remain elusive. As Kosovo approached another local election in two days' time, the focus at the central and municipal levels should be on delivering on people's high expectations for change. In that connection, he urged the authorities to focus on rebuilding the bonds of trust between all the communities in Kosovo and the political leadership. He also reported on the work of UNMIK in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and its work to promote and support trust-building among communities and the women and peace and security and the youth, peace and security agendas, adding that the Mission had helped to model the people-centred approach

⁶⁵⁰ Estonia, France, Kenya, Norway, Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States.

⁶⁵¹ Ireland, Kenya, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States.

⁶⁵² Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and United States.

⁶⁵³ China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

⁶⁵⁴ China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States.

⁶⁵⁵ Estonia, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

⁶⁵⁶ See [S/2019/120](#).

⁶⁵⁷ See [S/2021/370](#).

⁶⁵⁸ China and Russian Federation. For further details on the discussion, see part II, sect. VIII.

⁶⁵⁹ See [S/PV.8880](#).

⁶⁶⁰ [S/2021/861](#).

⁶⁶¹ See [S/PV.8880](#).

and society-level engagement articulated in the Secretary-General's reform programme and his report entitled "Our Common Agenda".⁶⁶²

Following the briefing by the Special Representative and statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and the representative of Kosovo, Council members discussed the latest developments as reported.⁶⁶³ Several delegations⁶⁶⁴ expressed concern at the escalation of violence in northern Kosovo in the previous weeks, and many⁶⁶⁵ took note of the interim agreement of 30 September to end the dispute. In that connection, most Council members⁶⁶⁶ emphasized that dialogue offered the only possibility for resolving outstanding issues and normalizing relations between Belgrade and Pristina and encouraged the parties to build on recent commitments, to advance the European Union-facilitated dialogue and implement already signed agreements. While acknowledging the meetings held in June and July 2021 between Serbia and authorities in Pristina under the auspices of the European Union, some representatives⁶⁶⁷ expressed regret that no significant progress had been made.

Most delegations reiterated their support for the work of UNMIK, expressing appreciation in particular for its humanitarian role in supporting the response of Kosovo to COVID-19, through the assistance that the

Mission provided to the most vulnerable populations. Some Council members, however, held differing views on the role of the Mission. The representative of the United States pointed out that the Mission had not played a critical role in resolving tensions in the most recent series of events between Kosovo and Serbia. He affirmed that the temporary support provided by the Kosovo Force led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization had shown that other organizations could serve that role to better effect. He reiterated that UNMIK had fulfilled its purpose and should move towards its closure, urging the Council to redirect resources to where they were needed most. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed support for a review of the role and responsibilities of UNMIK, which would help it to operate more effectively and better address contemporary challenges. The representative of Norway said that, although the Mission had adapted well in meeting new challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, her delegation would support looking at possible efficiency improvements. The representative from the Russian Federation argued, however, that the work of the Mission remained urgently needed and supported the maintenance of the agreed-upon budgetary and staffing capacity for UNMIK and the agreed frequency and format of open briefings in the Council on the issue of Kosovo. He also expressed hope that all the challenges facing the Mission would be reflected in the next report of the Secretary-General.

Following the statements by Council members, the representatives of both Serbia and Kosovo took the floor twice to make further statements.⁶⁶⁸

⁶⁶² A/75/982.

⁶⁶³ See S/PV.8880.

⁶⁶⁴ Niger, India, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Russian Federation, China, Viet Nam, Mexico and Tunisia.

⁶⁶⁵ France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Estonia, United States, Viet Nam, Mexico and Tunisia.

⁶⁶⁶ France, United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Estonia, United States, China, Viet Nam, Norway, Mexico and Kenya.

⁶⁶⁷ India, China, Viet Nam and Mexico.

⁶⁶⁸ For more information on instances of speakers taking the floor more than once, see part II, sect. VIII.

Table 1
Meeting: Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

<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.8880 15 October 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2021/861)		Serbia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of UNMIK, Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu	All Council members, all invitees ^a	

^a The Special Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference. Serbia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Table 2

Videoconference: Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
13 April 2021	S/2021/370	Letter dated 15 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	

18. 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](#))

During the period under review, Council members held one open videoconference 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](#))”.⁶⁶⁹ More information on the videoconference is provided in the table below.

At the videoconference, held on 11 February,⁶⁷⁰ Council members heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Special Representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and the Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

The Under-Secretary-General recalled the conclusions endorsed by the leaders of France, Germany, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in Paris, in which a series of steps had been outlined to stabilize the situation on the ground, including through confidence-building measures and a sustained ceasefire. She also recalled their agreement to support efforts, both under the Normandy format and by the Trilateral Contact Group, to make progress on the key security and political provisions of the Minsk agreements. In that regard, she noted that the Trilateral Contact Group had agreed to an indefinite ceasefire, which had come into force on 27 July 2020.

She indicated that, since then, the United Nations human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine had reported a significant decrease in civilian casualties from exchanges of fire, and described the release and exchange of conflict-related detainees as another encouraging development. The Under-Secretary-General stressed that, without progress on the related security and political tracks, the overall situation remained fragile. She added that the sides had made little significant progress on implementing the other agreed political and security provisions. While there was relative calm, the humanitarian situation had not improved. She also reported on how the COVID-19 pandemic had compounded the difficult socioeconomic conditions of civilians in conflict-affected areas. The Under-Secretary-General stressed that, until a sustainable political solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine was found, the risk of backsliding was real, and expressed deep concern about the increase in security incidents in several hotspots along the contact line in previous months. She recalled that, in resolution [2202 \(2015\)](#), the Council had endorsed the package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements, which, together with the Minsk Protocol and the Minsk Memorandum, remained the only agreed framework for a negotiated, peaceful settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

In her briefing, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office updated the Council on the work of the Trilateral Contact Group. In spite of the travel restrictions imposed after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, she reported that the Trilateral Contact Group had continued its efforts towards the implementation of the Minsk agreements and the tasks established under the Normandy format at the summit held in Paris on 9 December 2019. With regard to the

⁶⁶⁹ See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 39. 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.

⁶⁷⁰ See [S/2021/159](#).