

### 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.<sup>1033</sup>

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.

<sup>1033</sup> 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>
<a href="#">S/PV.8892</a> 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 ( <a href="#">S/2021/917</a> )  Report of the Security Council mission to Mali and the Niger, 23–25 October 2021 ( <a href="#">S/2021/1106</a> )			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.<sup>1034</sup> 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.<sup>1035</sup> 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.<sup>1036</sup> 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 \(2004\)](#).<sup>1037</sup> 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

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

<sup>1035</sup> 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.

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

<sup>1037</sup> See [S/2021/325](#).

initial reports to the Committee on measures that they had taken or planned to take to comply with their obligations under the resolution, while 127 Member States had informed the Committee of their national points of contact in support of the implementation of the resolution. The Chair further informed Council members that, in accordance with resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee was conducting a comprehensive review of resolution 1540 (2004) prior to the renewal of its mandate in April 2021, which had been delayed because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the successful completion of the review was the highest priority of the Committee. He said that a central theme of the comprehensive review was the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and that the Committee would also address its role in facilitating assistance matchmaking, its outreach activities and its collaboration with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and other United Nations bodies.

Following the briefing, many Council members<sup>1038</sup> acknowledged the continued threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including to terrorists and other non-State actors. Council members emphasized that resolution 1540 (2004) was a vital element of the global non-proliferation effort,<sup>1039</sup> and commended the progress made on its implementation.<sup>1040</sup> Several Council members<sup>1041</sup> also highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations in order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Regarding the comprehensive review of resolution 1540 (2004), some Council members<sup>1042</sup> noted that it was an opportunity to reflect on the mandates of the Committee and its group of experts. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed the expectation that the review would be productive and enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), as well as the work of the Committee and its group of experts, adding that the resolution remained one of the few islands of stability and non-confrontation in multilateral diplomacy.

On 27 September, the Council held a high-level meeting in connection with the item under the sub-item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”, marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Treaty for signature.<sup>1043</sup> At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and a member of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Youth Group.<sup>1044</sup> In her briefing, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs underlined that, because of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the norm against nuclear testing was one of the most hard-won gains of the post-Cold War era. She also noted that the Treaty was recognized as an essential element of nuclear disarmament and a building block for a world free of nuclear weapons, which was the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations. She noted that the Treaty had achieved near universal adherence and that the International Monitoring System, which provided round-the-clock, real-time monitoring of any explosive nuclear activities on Earth, was more than 90 per cent complete. The High Representative underscored that the cumulative result of those achievements was that no nuclear test conducted would ever evade the watchful eyes of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, which buttressed the strong global norm against nuclear testing. She cautioned that, despite those remarkable achievements, many challenges still lay ahead, such as the worrisome trend observed in recent years towards the modernization and expansion of nuclear arsenals. The High Representative said that the best way to uphold the norm against testing was to reaffirm and enhance support for the Treaty by reinforcing its existing strengths and striving to bring about its entry into force on several fronts, namely, by empowering the youth of the world, by realizing its full potential in tandem with other processes related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and by providing support to the International Monitoring System and further strengthening the technical capabilities of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to detect activities related to nuclear testing.

<sup>1038</sup> China, Estonia, France, India, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

<sup>1039</sup> China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and United Kingdom.

<sup>1040</sup> Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

<sup>1041</sup> China, France, India, Mexico, Niger, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

<sup>1042</sup> Estonia, India and Mexico. For more information on the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), see part IX, sect. I.B.2.

<sup>1043</sup> See [S/PV.8865](#). Since the inception of the item on 22 April 2004, this was the first meeting held under the sub-item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”. Previously, the Council held discussions on the Treaty under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, under the sub-item entitled “Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament”. For more information regarding previous discussions on the matter, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2008–2009*, part I, sect. 39.B, and *Supplement 2016–2017*, part I, sect. 40.

<sup>1044</sup> See [S/PV.8865](#).

In his statement, the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization stated that the significance of the Treaty, and its twenty-fifth anniversary, must be understood within the broader context of the collective goal of universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament. While there might be differing views on the best path to achieve that goal, a verifiable and enforceable ban on nuclear testing must be a core component of the legal and technical architecture of a world free of nuclear weapons. He further noted that there was near universal adherence to the Treaty's prohibition on nuclear explosions and that there had been much progress towards the universalization of the Treaty, adding that he looked forward to coordinating efforts to welcome even more States into the Treaty community.

In her remarks, the member of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Youth Group highlighted that, over the past 25 years, through the state-of-the-art International Monitoring System, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization had proved its capacity to act as a comprehensive global monitoring system, which ensured that no nuclear test explosion went unnoticed by the international community. She then offered various ways in which the Treaty could be advanced, including by promoting and encouraging the use of the data from the International Monitoring System, especially in the scientific community, by providing education to raise the necessary awareness of disarmament, by using science and diplomacy to promote the Treaty and by including the younger generation in the sphere of nuclear disarmament through dialogue, education platforms and capacity-building events.

Following the briefings, the Minister of State for European Affairs of Ireland opened the discussion by stating that the meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the Treaty over its 25 years and to renew collective efforts to pursue its entry into force and universalization. He noted that the fact that the Treaty had 185 signatories and 170 ratifying States highlighted the strong global support for the Treaty. He also endorsed the recent reiteration by the President of the United States, Joseph Biden, and the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, that nuclear war could not be won and must never be fought, which was an important recognition of the futility of nuclear weapons and the devastation that a nuclear war would bring. Following the Minister of State, most speakers underscored the importance of the Treaty as

part of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and emphasized the importance of its entry into force. While some speakers welcomed the recent ratifications by the Comoros and Cuba,<sup>1045</sup> others called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to sign and ratify the Treaty,<sup>1046</sup> and to take concrete steps towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.<sup>1047</sup>

In 2021, the Council also heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) under a separate item, entitled "Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council".<sup>1048</sup>

In 2021, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2572 \(2021\)](#) in connection with the item. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) until 28 February 2022 with the continued assistance of its group of experts, as specified in paragraph 5 of resolution [1977 \(2011\)](#).<sup>1049</sup> It further decided that the Committee, while continuing its work pursuant to its mandate, would continue to conduct and complete the comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and submit to the Council a report on the conclusion of the review.<sup>1050</sup> In its explanation of vote, the delegation of the Russian Federation expressed regret that not all the concerns that it had expressed during the work on the draft resolution had been taken into account, in particular that the Council's endorsement of the work of the Committee carried out in the context of the comprehensive review, which had been included in the preambular part of the resolution, was considered premature.<sup>1051</sup> The delegation also expressed the hope that the compromise reached would finally allow the Committee to focus on fulfilling its main task, namely, to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) within the established time frame and to develop, based on its results, a new long-term mandate for that subsidiary body of the Council.

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<sup>1045</sup> Russia Federation, United Kingdom, Italy and South Africa.

<sup>1046</sup> United Kingdom.

<sup>1047</sup> Ireland, Estonia, France, United Kingdom, Norway and Italy.

<sup>1048</sup> See [S/PV.8915](#). For more details, see sect. 29 above.

<sup>1049</sup> Resolution [2572 \(2021\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), see part IX, sect. I.B.2.

<sup>1050</sup> Resolution [2572 \(2021\)](#), para. 2.

<sup>1051</sup> See [S/2021/400](#).

Table 1  
Meeting: non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

<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>
<a href="#">S/PV.8865</a> 27 September 2021	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty		Italy, South Africa	High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, member of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Youth Group	12 Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>b</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Kenya, Niger and Tunisia), United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam. Estonia was represented by its Deputy Foreign Minister; India was represented by its Foreign Secretary; and Ireland (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister of State for European Affairs.

<sup>b</sup> The member of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Youth Group participated in the meeting by videoconference.

Table 2  
Videoconferences: non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
30 March 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/325</a>	Letter dated 1 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	
22 April 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/400</a>	Letter dated 22 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	Resolution <a href="#">2572 (2021)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) <a href="#">S/2021/393</a>

## B. Non-proliferation

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings under the item entitled “Non-proliferation”. Both meetings took the form of a briefing.<sup>1052</sup> More information on the meetings, including on the participants and speakers, is given in the table below. In addition to the meetings, Council members held informal consultations of the whole.<sup>1053</sup>

Under the item, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding

Affairs, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations and the representative of Ireland, as the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

At a meeting held on 30 June,<sup>1054</sup> the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on the eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).<sup>1055</sup> During the briefing, the Under-Secretary-General noted that the context for the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) had improved considerably since the Council

<sup>1052</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>1053</sup> See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 30. See also [S/2021/1032](#) and [S/2022/174](#).

<sup>1054</sup> See [S/PV.8811](#).

<sup>1055</sup> [S/2021/582](#).