

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
<b>Thematic</b>	Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security	<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/21</a>	twenty-fifth
	United Nations peacekeeping operations	<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/11</a>	thirteenth
<b>Participation of women in the security sector and in security sector reform</b>			
<b>Country- and region-specific</b>	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution <a href="#">2612 (2021)</a>	20
	The situation in Mali	Resolution <a href="#">2584 (2021)</a>	30 (a) (iii), 53
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution <a href="#">2591 (2021)</a>	26

## 28. Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

During the period under review, the Council held four meetings under the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”.<sup>977</sup> Three of the four meetings were convened to adopt a decision and one took the form of a briefing.<sup>978</sup> More information on the meetings, including on the participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below. Council members also held three open videoconferences in connection with the item.<sup>979</sup> More information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below. The Council adopted four resolutions, including three under Chapter VII of the Charter, and adopted one presidential statement.<sup>980</sup>

In 2021, Council members heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. In addition, Council members heard briefings by two civil society representatives, on 12 January by the Executive Director of the Neem Foundation, and on 19 August by the Director General of the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies. Briefings during the reporting period were focused on: the resurgence of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da’esh) in Iraq and the

Syrian Arab Republic and the emergence and proliferation of its affiliates and those of Al-Qaida in Africa, Asia and Europe; the countering of terrorism financing and recruitment activities; the humanitarian and security situation of thousands of individuals suspected of having links with Da’esh held in detention facilities; the increase in extreme right-wing or racially and ethnically motivated terrorism; and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on terrorism and counter-terrorism. Briefers and Council members also discussed how recent developments in Afghanistan affected counter-terrorism efforts in the region.<sup>981</sup>

On 12 January, at the initiative of Tunisia, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>982</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference to mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#).<sup>983</sup> The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia presided over the videoconference, during which Council members heard briefings by the Under-

<sup>977</sup> See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 21.

<sup>978</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, including on high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>979</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>980</sup> Resolutions [2610 \(2021\)](#), [2611 \(2021\)](#) and [2615 \(2021\)](#) (under Chapter VII); resolution [2617 \(2021\)](#); and presidential statement [S/PRST/2021/1](#).

<sup>981</sup> For more information on the situation in Afghanistan, see sect. 14 above.

<sup>982</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 30 December 2020 ([S/2020/1315](#)).

<sup>983</sup> See [S/2021/48](#). Tunisia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad; India was represented by its Minister for External Affairs; Ireland was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence; Kenya was represented by its Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Estonia was represented by its Minister of Defence; Norway was represented by its Minister of Justice and Public Security; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was represented by its Minister of State with Responsibility for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; and the United Kingdom was represented by its Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa.

Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and a civil society representative. Many other Council members were represented at the ministerial level, and forty-seven delegations and entities also submitted written statements.<sup>984</sup>

During the videoconference, the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism noted that, throughout the past two decades, the threat of terrorism had evolved and spread, with Al-Qaida having proved resilient and Da'esh able to harness social media to mobilize and recruit followers worldwide. The Under-Secretary-General further stressed that terrorists had sought to exploit disruptions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyberspace and new technologies, linkages with organized crime and regulatory, human and technical gaps in national capacities. The threat had become more difficult to prevent owing to the resurgence of low-cost, low-tech attacks against soft targets by lone wolves. He emphasized that the leadership of the Council remained critical to ensuring a united front against terrorism anchored in the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Under-Secretary-General also highlighted three fundamental points to effectively prevent and defeat terrorism: international solidarity, addressing the underlying conditions and drivers that sustained and spread terrorism and engaging more and better with youth, civil society, the private sector and the scientific community. He also noted that the United Nations system was more coherent and coordinated than ever in providing support to Member States, thanks to the reform of the counter-terrorism architecture initiated by the Secretary-General in 2017.

In her briefing during the same videoconference, the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate warned against the emergence of Da'esh affiliates, including in South Asia, South-East Asia, the Sahel, the Lake Chad basin

and Southern and Eastern Africa, and the proliferation of extreme right-wing or racially and ethnically motivated terrorism. She further emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic had further complicated the threat landscape. The Executive Director stressed that counter-terrorism policies should respect the rule of law and be human-rights-compliant and gender sensitive. The Executive Director of the Neem Foundation highlighted the need for Member States and civil society to come together in a spirit of cooperation in order to truly combat terrorism. She stated that, while the United Nations recognized the importance of partnership with civil society organizations and its impact on advancing mutual goals, that approach had not always been applied consistently by Member States. In that regard, she affirmed that the best chances of combating terrorism in the long term arose when Member States and civil society came together. She offered concrete examples of such partnerships, including the opportunity for Governments to work with civil society organizations that provided support to women and girls, who were disproportionately affected by insurgency and conflict. Following the briefings, Council members reflected on the evolution of the threat of terrorism and on counter-terrorism efforts implemented over the two decades since the adoption of resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#). Council members also presented recommendations for future action to combat the evolving threat of terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. Some Council members<sup>985</sup> further stressed that measures to counter terrorism must follow an approach based on human rights. Several Council members<sup>986</sup> also emphasized the importance of preventive action and of addressing the root causes of radicalization in efforts to counter terrorism.

On the same day, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it reaffirmed that terrorism in all forms and manifestations continued to constitute one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and expressed solidarity with countries that had suffered terrorist attacks and its support for the survivors and victims of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, committed by terrorist groups.<sup>987</sup> The Council reaffirmed that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism complied with all their obligations under international law, in particular

<sup>984</sup> Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, Georgia, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Criminal Police Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), South Africa, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates.

<sup>985</sup> Tunisia, Ireland, Estonia, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom, France, Mexico and United States.

<sup>986</sup> Tunisia, Ireland, Estonia, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, China, Mexico and Niger.

<sup>987</sup> [S/PRST/2021/1](#), second and third paragraphs.

international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, noting that failure to do so contributed to increased radicalization to violence and fostered a sense of impunity.<sup>988</sup> Furthermore, the Council expressed its concern over the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, stressing the need for Member States to act cooperatively when taking national measures to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology and communications for their acts.<sup>989</sup> The Council underscored the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, as well as cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, in particular civil society, in countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and encouraged the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and youth in that process.<sup>990</sup> The Council highlighted the need to enhance cooperation among its various relevant committees and groups of experts and the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and forums, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant statutes of the regional and subregional organizations.<sup>991</sup>

On 10 February, Council members held an open videoconference,<sup>992</sup> during which they heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism in connection with the twelfth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by Da'esh to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat.<sup>993</sup> He reported that the threat posed by Da'esh to international peace and security was on the rise again and warned that, although Da'esh had not yet developed a purposeful strategy to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic, its core in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic and its affiliates in other conflict zones had taken advantage of the disruption caused by the virus to step up operations.<sup>994</sup> The Under-Secretary-General noted that the main focus of Da'esh remained resurgence in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, where the international community continued to grapple with the legacies of the group's so-called "caliphate". He reported that, tragically, the international community had made hardly any progress in addressing the situation of the thousands of individuals, mostly women and children, suspected of having links with Da'esh and held in precarious conditions in the region. He added that the dire

humanitarian and security situation in the detention facilities and displacement camps was deteriorating even further and reiterated the Secretary-General's call upon Member States for the voluntary repatriation of adults and children stranded in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. Meanwhile, regional affiliates of Da'esh – across West Africa, Central Africa, Europe and Asia – continued to entrench themselves and gain autonomy and strength, which could provide Da'esh with new capabilities and options to conduct external operations. During his briefing, he also highlighted a few key examples of the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

In her briefing to Council members during the same videoconference, the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate provided the Council with an overview of the Directorate's activities, which included: supporting the implementation by Member States of relevant Council resolutions, including in relation to dealing with returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters formerly associated with Da'esh; helping Member States to review and update their national legislation to strengthen their ability to bring terrorists to justice while protecting and promoting international law; providing guidance on countering the financing of terrorism; and deepening engagement with the technology sector to help technology companies to identify the use of their services for terrorist purposes. She stressed that Da'esh and its affiliates remained a continuing threat, adding that extreme right-wing or racially and ethnically motivated terrorism was also an increasing cause of concern. She observed that Da'esh affiliates in Africa were of particular concern, exacerbating a worsening humanitarian situation in many regions. The Executive Director also expressed concern regarding the dire situation of individuals, mostly women and children, stranded in camps and prisons in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. She also noted that technology remained a significant force multiplier for terrorist groups, through recruitment, propaganda, communication and fundraising. Following the briefings, all Council members expressed concern about the increase in the activities of terrorist groups, including Da'esh, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and their use of the Internet and social media to incite, fundraise and recruit for terrorist activities. Some Council members<sup>995</sup> underlined that Al-Qaida and Da'esh affiliates were also gaining ground in other regions around the world, most notably

<sup>988</sup> Ibid., seventh paragraph.

<sup>989</sup> Ibid., eleventh paragraph.

<sup>990</sup> Ibid., twelfth paragraph.

<sup>991</sup> Ibid., sixteenth and penultimate paragraphs.

<sup>992</sup> See S/2021/140.

<sup>993</sup> S/2021/98.

<sup>994</sup> See S/2021/140.

<sup>995</sup> China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States.

in a number of subregions on the African continent, where they were expanding recruitment and radicalization. Council members<sup>996</sup> also expressed concern about the situation of former Da'esh associates, in particular the humanitarian situation of women and children stranded in displaced persons camps, and the repatriation of foreign fighters in detention camps. The representatives of Ireland and Mexico emphasized that the international community must do better in prosecuting crimes of sexual and gender-based violence. Several Council members<sup>997</sup> also stressed the need to incorporate a gender perspective into counter-terrorism law and ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in counter-terrorism processes.

On 19 August, the Council held a high-level meeting,<sup>998</sup> during which Council members heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism in connection with the thirteenth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by Da'esh to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat.<sup>999</sup> The Under-Secretary-General warned that the rapidly evolving situation in Afghanistan could have far-reaching implications for peace and security around the world and informed the Council that Da'esh had expanded its presence there.<sup>1000</sup> He echoed the appeal by the Secretary-General for the Council to use all the tools at its disposal to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a platform or a safe haven for terrorism.<sup>1001</sup> He reported that, globally, the threat posed by Da'esh to international peace and security had remained significant and steady over the previous six months and indicated that Da'esh had continued to exploit the disruption, grievances and development setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to regroup, recruit and intensify its activities, both online and on the ground. He noted that Da'esh had further decentralized its governance and that the additional autonomy, capacity and confidence gained by its regional affiliates could provide the group with new options, while also raising alarm about the increased threat of attacks by lone actors or small groups inspired and possibly directed remotely by Da'esh. He emphasized

that, while Da'esh remained focused on reconstituting its capabilities in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, the main determinant of the future terrorist threat landscape over the medium to long term was the lack of a comprehensive solution to the situation of thousands of individuals with alleged links to Da'esh who remained in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. In that connection, he noted that the conditions in detention facilities and displacement camps in north-eastern Syrian Arab Republic had further deteriorated and said that developments in Afghanistan could further aggravate the situation in those camps, with unpredictable consequences. He further indicated that the most alarming development over the previous six months had been the spread of Da'esh in Africa, with spillover from Mali into Burkina Faso and the Niger and incursions from Nigeria into Cameroon, Chad and the Niger and from Mozambique into the United Republic of Tanzania.

During her briefing to the Council at the same meeting, the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate elaborated on the support provided by the United Nations system to Member States in addressing the threat posed by Da'esh. She reported that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on terrorism and counter-terrorism had been mixed and explained that, while in many non-conflict zones pandemic-related restrictions had continued to help suppress terrorist activities, in conflict zones, where the impact of pandemic-related restrictions was limited, the increasing interplay among terrorism, fragility and conflict had caused the terrorist threat to grow. Da'esh and its affiliates continued to pose a significant threat in West Africa, East Africa and Central Africa and Afghanistan, while simultaneously prioritizing efforts to regroup and resurge in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Executive Director expressed concern about the situation in detention camps, in particular that of women and children with presumed links to Da'esh. On the issue of terrorism financing, she said that an analysis by the Directorate suggested that terrorists and terrorist groups, including Da'esh, were exploring alternative methods of moving funds, owing to the impact of pandemic-related measures on money-transfer networks. She stated that Da'esh and its affiliates remained a significant concern and threat to international peace and security and mentioned the recent evolution of such affiliates on the African continent. In that regard, she underscored that a comprehensive, coordinated "One United Nations" approach remained crucial to developing and implementing effective counter-terrorism measures, while also addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism.

<sup>996</sup> China, France, Mexico, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

<sup>997</sup> Estonia, Ireland, Mexico, Norway and Tunisia.

<sup>998</sup> See [S/PV.8839](#).

<sup>999</sup> [S/2021/682](#).

<sup>1000</sup> For more information on the situation in Afghanistan, see sect. 14 above.

<sup>1001</sup> See [S/PV.8839](#).



At the same meeting, the Director General of the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies provided his own reflections and analysis on what he referred to as the collective failure of the international community to deal with the threat of terrorism. He affirmed that the disconnect between United Nations analytical reports and United Nations political statements and actions showed that the United Nations had been unable to confront the State sponsorship of terrorism. Regarding the evolving situation in Afghanistan, he offered his perspective on the unfolding events in Kabul and called on the United Nations to declare the situation to be an urgent humanitarian crisis under the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter and to undertake serious and urgent deliberation with a view to declaring Kabul a safe zone protected by a United Nations peacekeeping mission. Following the briefings, all Council members renewed their concern about the continued activities of terrorist groups, including Da'esh, and the expansion of the activities of such groups to other regions and in particular to Africa. Several Council members<sup>1002</sup> stressed the importance of combating the financing of terrorist organizations. Some Council members<sup>1003</sup> expressed concern in particular about the increasing use of cryptocurrencies by Da'esh to finance terrorist activities. In connection with the evolving situation in Afghanistan, Council members<sup>1004</sup> expressed concern about the implications of the situation in Afghanistan in the fight against terrorism. Some Council members<sup>1005</sup> also underscored the need to ensure that Afghan territory did not become a safe haven for terrorists.

On 17 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2611 \(2021\)](#) under Chapter VII of the Charter, by which it decided that all States would continue to take the measures required by paragraph 1 of resolution [2255 \(2015\)](#) with respect to individuals and entities designated prior to the date of adoption of resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) as the Taliban, as well as other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan as designated by the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1988 \(2011\)](#) in the 1988 sanctions list, and

<sup>1002</sup> United States, Tunisia, Norway, China, Ireland, France, Kenya, Viet Nam and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

<sup>1003</sup> United States, Tunisia, Norway, Mexico, Ireland and France.

<sup>1004</sup> India, United States, Tunisia, Norway, Mexico, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, China, Ireland, Estonia, France, Kenya, Viet Nam and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

<sup>1005</sup> Norway, Mexico, United Kingdom, China, Viet Nam and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

extended for a period of 12 months, until December 2022, the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team in support of the Committee.<sup>1006</sup>

On 22 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2615 \(2021\)](#) under Chapter VII of the Charter, by which it decided that humanitarian assistance and other activities that supported basic human needs in Afghanistan were not a violation of paragraph 1 (a) of resolution [2255 \(2015\)](#) and that the processing and payment of funds, other financial assets or economic resources and the provision of goods and services necessary to ensure the timely delivery of such assistance or to support such activities were permitted.<sup>1007</sup> By the same resolution, the Council requested the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to brief the Council every six months on the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.<sup>1008</sup> Before the vote, as penholder of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States clarified that the humanitarian exception contained in the draft resolution was to facilitate aid to the people of Afghanistan, but that it was not a blank check for any organization to disregard its international obligations.<sup>1009</sup> After the vote, the representative of the United States indicated that the carve-out for humanitarian assistance and other activities that supported basic human needs provided by the resolution was intended to cover the activities contemplated in the United Nations Transitional Engagement Framework for Afghanistan and emphasized that the resolution included important reporting requirements for humanitarian assistance providers and for periodic updates by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to the Council. He added that such information was critical to enabling sufficient oversight to ensure that assistance was reaching the intended beneficiaries by mitigating diversion and ensuring that any future adjustments to the carve-out were based on realities on the ground. While noting that the Council had stepped up and delivered on its obligation to facilitate the humanitarian response for the people of Afghanistan, the representative of Ireland also recognized that the text could and should have been stronger in acknowledging and addressing the plight of women and girls in the country. She also said that the one-year

<sup>1006</sup> Resolution [2611 \(2021\)](#), paras. 1 and 2.

<sup>1007</sup> Resolution [2615 \(2021\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>1008</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 2.

<sup>1009</sup> See [S/PV.8941](#).

timeline for the review of the humanitarian exemption was not intended in any way as one year of license to the Taliban. The representative of China expressed his belief that any action of the Council should genuinely promote and facilitate humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and expressed satisfaction that the final text had incorporated the views of his country. He explained his country's objections to the original draft text, which he said added to the obstacles to delivering humanitarian assistance. He also expressed hope that the confusion surrounding humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and the obstacles to its continued delivery would be cleared up once and for all. The representative of China, echoed by the representative of the Russian Federation, also called for the unfreezing of the country's overseas assets. The representative of India welcomed the provision in the resolution calling for a review of the implementation of the humanitarian carve-out after one year. The representative of France said that it had been a mistake to remove the time limit for humanitarian exemptions in the text negotiated in full transparency among Council members and expressed regret that such a modification had been made without consultation and presented as a cosmetic change. He further stressed that the provision for the review of the resolution after one year was critical and clarified that the humanitarian exemption excluded development activities. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed hope that the adopted resolution would make it possible to significantly increase the volume of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. The representative of Estonia underscored that the resolution contained mechanisms to guarantee that any exemptions would not benefit those under sanctions and instead help aid to reach the Afghan people. The representative of the United Kingdom further emphasized that the Council should continue to strike a balance between enabling life-saving aid and minimizing the risk of accrual of any benefits to individuals or entities designated on the 1988 sanctions list.

The Council adopted two other resolutions in connection with the item. On 17 December, the Council adopted resolution [2610 \(2021\)](#) under Chapter VII of the Charter, by which it reaffirmed the sanctions measures imposed with respect to ISIL/Da'esh, Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and extended for 30 months the mandates of the Analytical Support and Sanctions

Monitoring Team and the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution [1904 \(2009\)](#).<sup>1010</sup>

On 30 December, the Council adopted resolution [2617 \(2021\)](#), by which it renewed the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate until 31 December 2025.<sup>1011</sup> In the explanations of vote submitted further to the adoption of the resolution,<sup>1012</sup> the delegation of Mexico expressed regret that two of the country's priorities had been sidelined: first, the inclusion of clear language safeguarding humanitarian assistance and international humanitarian law in the context of counter-terrorism operations, because practice had shown that those safeguards were an operational necessity for the humanitarian community; and second, the notion of perceptions of masculinity in the Directorate's cross-cutting gender agenda, because a truly holistic gender agenda must include perspectives on masculinities.<sup>1013</sup> The opportunity to update the text on those two important fronts had been missed. In addition, the delegation of Mexico expressed regret about the limited time that the 15 Council members had had to negotiate the draft on a matter that was reviewed only every four years. According to the delegation of Mexico, the limited negotiation period did not allow for the necessary conditions for the presentation and thorough and timely consideration of proposals. The delegation of India welcomed the adoption of the resolution and expressed its commitment to pursuing all necessary measures in collaboration with other Member States towards the goal of zero tolerance for terrorism. As the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022, the delegation of India stated that it would make determined efforts to further enhance the role of the Committee in strengthening the multilateral response in countering terrorism, and more importantly, in ensuring that the global response to the threat of terrorism remained unambiguous, undivided and effective.

<sup>1010</sup> Resolution [2610 \(2021\)](#), paras. 1, 63 and 98. For more information regarding the sanctions measures mandated by the Council pursuant to Article 41 of the Charter, see part VII, sect. III. For more information on the mandates of the Monitoring Team and the Office of the Ombudsperson, see part IX, sect. I.B.1.

<sup>1011</sup> Resolution [2617 \(2021\)](#), para. 2. For more information on the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, see part IX, sect. I.B.2.

<sup>1012</sup> The resolution was adopted in accordance with the written procedure developed during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>1013</sup> See [S/2021/1116](#).

Table 1

**Meetings: threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts**

<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.8839</a> 19 August 2021	Thirteenth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat ( <a href="#">S/2021/682</a> )			Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Director General of the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies	All Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8934</a> 17 December 2021		Draft resolution submitted by United States ( <a href="#">S/2021/1055</a> )				Resolution <a href="#">2610 (2021)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8935</a> 17 December 2021		Draft resolution submitted by United States ( <a href="#">S/2021/1049</a> )				Resolution <a href="#">2611 (2021)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8941</a> 22 December 2021		Draft resolution submitted by United States ( <a href="#">S/2021/1080</a> )			Eight Council members <sup>c</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2615 (2021)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

<sup>a</sup> India (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for External Affairs; and the United States was represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet.

<sup>b</sup> The Under-Secretary-General and the Director General of the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies participated in the meeting by videoconference.

<sup>c</sup> China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

Table 2

**Videoconferences: threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
12 January 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/48</a>	Letter dated 14 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	<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/1</a>

<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	<a href="#">S/2021/140</a>	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	<a href="#">S/2021/1116</a>	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 <a href="#">2617 (2021)</a> 15-0-0 <a href="#">S/2021/1107</a>

## 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”.<sup>1014</sup> 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.<sup>1015</sup> 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.<sup>1016</sup> 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 members<sup>1017</sup> 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 members<sup>1018</sup> expressed

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

<sup>1016</sup> See [S/2021/256](#).

<sup>1017</sup> Estonia, France, India, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

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

<sup>1014</sup> See [S/2021/256](#).