



Highlights of Security Council Practice 2013

Introduction

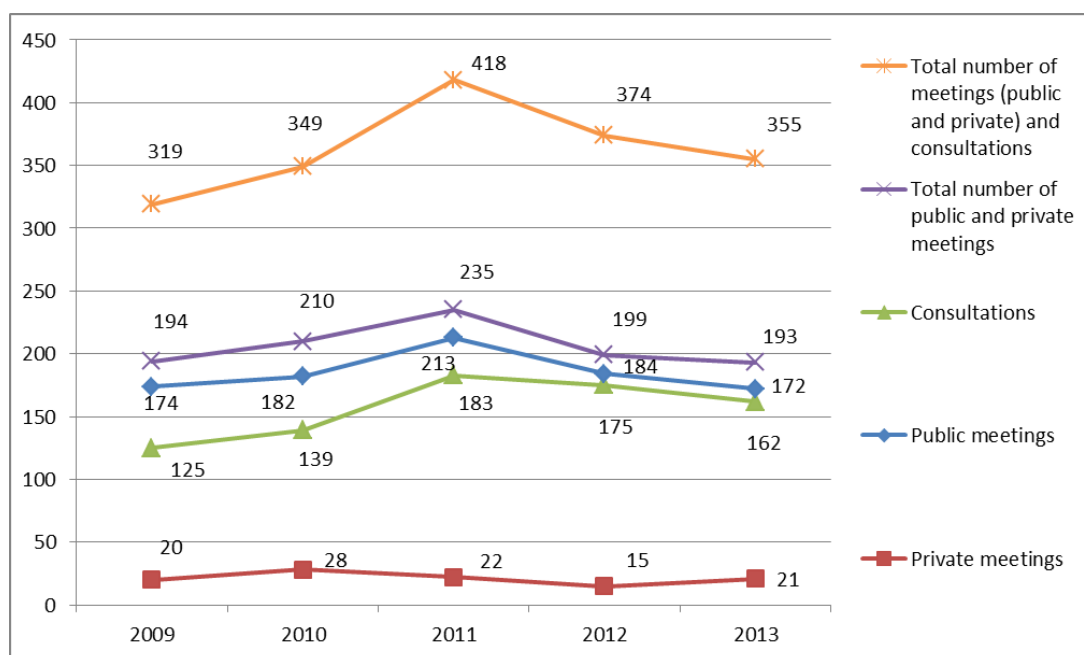
The *Highlights of Security Council Practice 2013* paper provides a brief overview of Security Council proceedings in 2013. This overview focuses on five core aspects of Council activities: meetings, missions, agenda, decisions and subsidiary bodies. The paper shows comparative data of Security Council practices over the past 5 years for its meetings and missions. With regards to agenda, it provides analysis on frequency of discussion of country-specific/regional situations and thematic and other issues. In terms of decisions, the paper covers voting and resolutions adopted under Chapter VII. Lastly, it highlights newly established subsidiary bodies and those which went through significant changes in mandate or composition.

Meetings

Meetings of the Security Council are governed by Article 28 of the United Nations Charter, and rules 1-5 and 48 of its provisional rules of procedure. Under its current practice, the Council convenes meetings, which are classified as either public or private. Council members also meet in informal consultations of the whole (consultations), and hold Arria formula meetings as well as informal interactive dialogues.

Overview

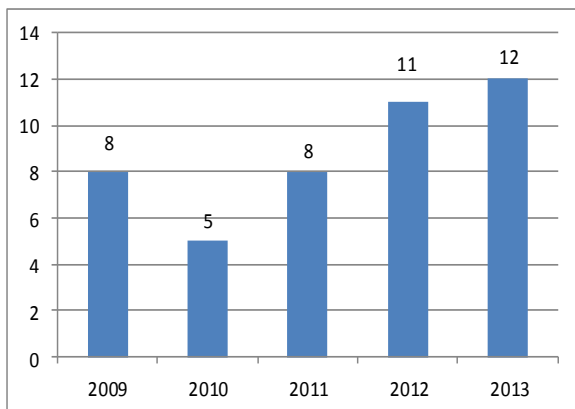
In 2013, the Security Council held 193 meetings. 172 were public meetings, and 21 were private meetings, of which 13 were meetings with police- and troop-contributing countries (P/TCCs). The Council also held 162 consultations. The total number of meetings decreased slightly from 199 in 2012 to 193 in 2013, with 12 fewer public meetings and 6 more private meetings in 2013 as compared to 2012.



[Chart 1] Number of meetings and consultations by type: 2009-2013

High-level meetings

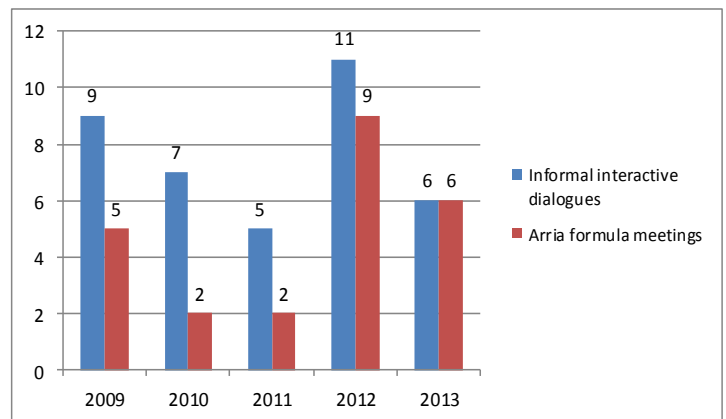
In 2013, the Council held 12 high-level meetings, in which 2 or more Council members were represented at the ministerial level or above. These meetings dealt mostly with thematic issues with the exception of 2, which were held concerning “The situation in the Middle East”. There was 1 high-level meeting on small arms, in which the first resolution was adopted since the item was introduced on the agenda of the Council [For details see Annex, Table I].



[Chart 2] Number of high-level meetings: 2009-2013

Arria formula meetings and informal interactive dialogues

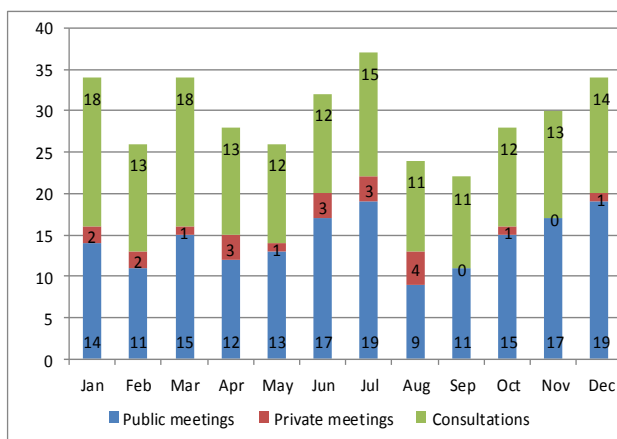
In 2013, Arria formula meetings and informal interactive dialogues (IID) continued to allow Security Council members to exchange views with civil society, concerned States and third parties on situations and issues that affect them directly. Out of the 6 Arria formula meetings, 3 were on thematic issues, and 3 were on country-specific or regional situations. Of the 6 IIDs, 1 was of thematic nature and 5 concerned country-specific or regional situations [For details see Annex, Tables II and III].



[Chart 3] Number of Arria formula meetings and informal interactive dialogues: 2009-2013

2013 meetings and consultations

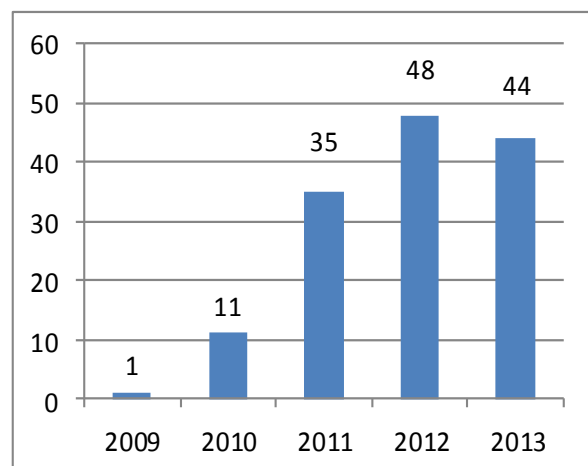
During 2013 the Council held between 11 and 22 meetings, and between 11 and 18 consultations each month. July was the busiest month, with 22 meetings (19 public and 3 private) and 15 consultations.



[Chart 4] Number of meetings and consultations by month in 2013

Video tele-conferencing

In 2013, the Council continued to utilize video tele-conferencing (VTC). VTC was used 44 times at meetings and consultations, to receive briefings by relevant briefers in field missions and senior officials on the ground.



[Chart 5] Use of video tele-conferencing: 2009-2013

Informal consultations of the whole

In 2013, the Council held 162 consultations on a variety of topics. Below is a “map” of topics discussed at least 3 times in consultations in 2013. The larger the font, the higher the frequency of consultations held on that topic.



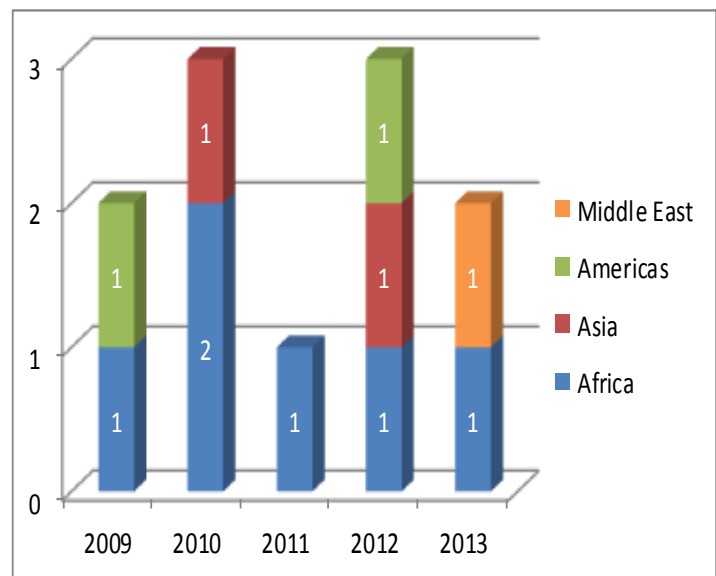
[Figure 1] Frequency of topics discussed in informal consultations of the whole in 2013

Security Council missions

Article 34 of the Charter empowers the Security Council to investigate any dispute or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute in order to determine whether the continuance of it is likely to endanger international peace and security. Security Council missions may fall under the scope of Article 34. Missions consisting of Council members visiting the field have taken place since 1964.

Missions in 2013

Two Security Council missions were dispatched in 2013, 1 to the Middle East and 1 to Africa. In January 2013, the Council went on mission to Yemen, which was the first Council visit to the Middle East since 1979, when Council members, led by Portugal, had visited Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Egypt. The 2013 mission to Yemen was co-led by Morocco and the United Kingdom. In October 2013, the Council went on mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (co-led by France and Morocco), Rwanda (led by the United States), Uganda (co-led by Togo and the United Kingdom) and Ethiopia (co-led by Azerbaijan and Rwanda).



[Chart 6] Number of Security Council missions by region: 2009-2013

Agenda

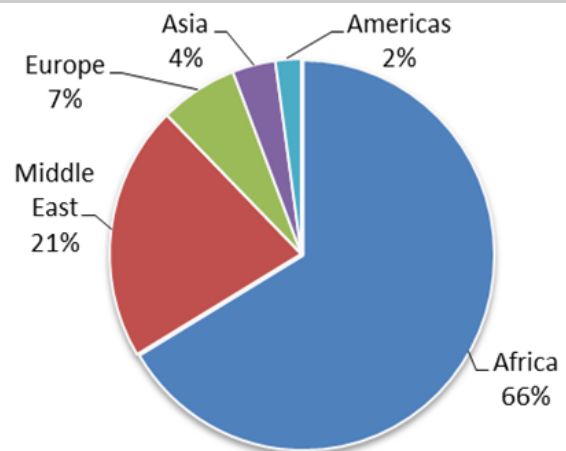
Rules 6 to 12 of the provisional rules of procedure refer to the agenda of the Security Council. In particular, rule 9 covers the adoption of the agenda. Rules 10 and 11 cover matters of which the Council is seized.

Overview

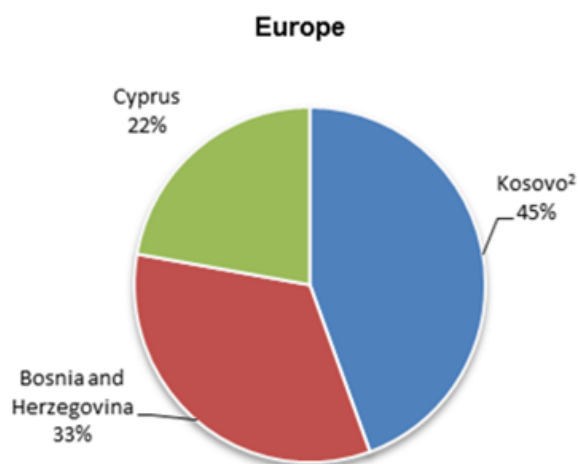
In 2013, the Security Council considered a total of 46 agenda items: 25 dealing with country-specific or regional situations¹ and 21 with thematic and other issues [For details see Annex, Table IV]. No new agenda items were introduced on the agenda of the Council in 2013. However, in September, the Council re-introduced the agenda item entitled “Small arms” which had been deleted from its list of agenda items in 2012. In addition, in 2013 there were 4 agenda items deleted from the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized (See [S/2013/10/Add.9](#)) [For details see Annex, Table V].

Country-specific and regional situations

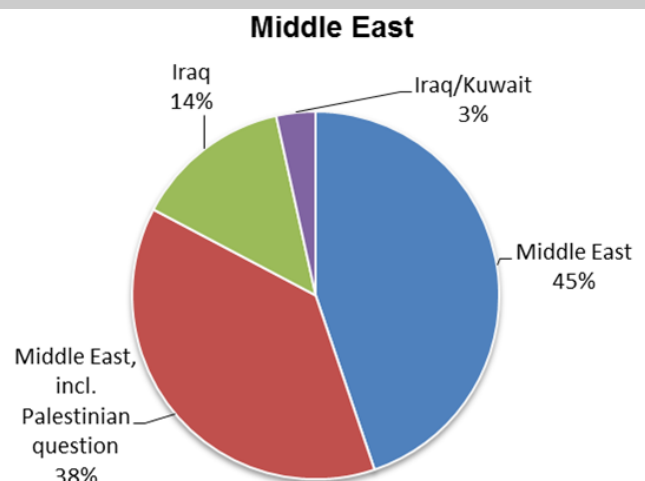
During 2013, 71% of the meetings (137) dealt with country-specific or regional situations. Among these meetings, Africa accounted for 66% (91), followed by the Middle East with 21% (29), Europe with 7% (9), Asia with 4% (5) and the Americas with 2% (3).



[Chart 7] Regional breakdown of meetings in 2013 on country-specific and regional situations



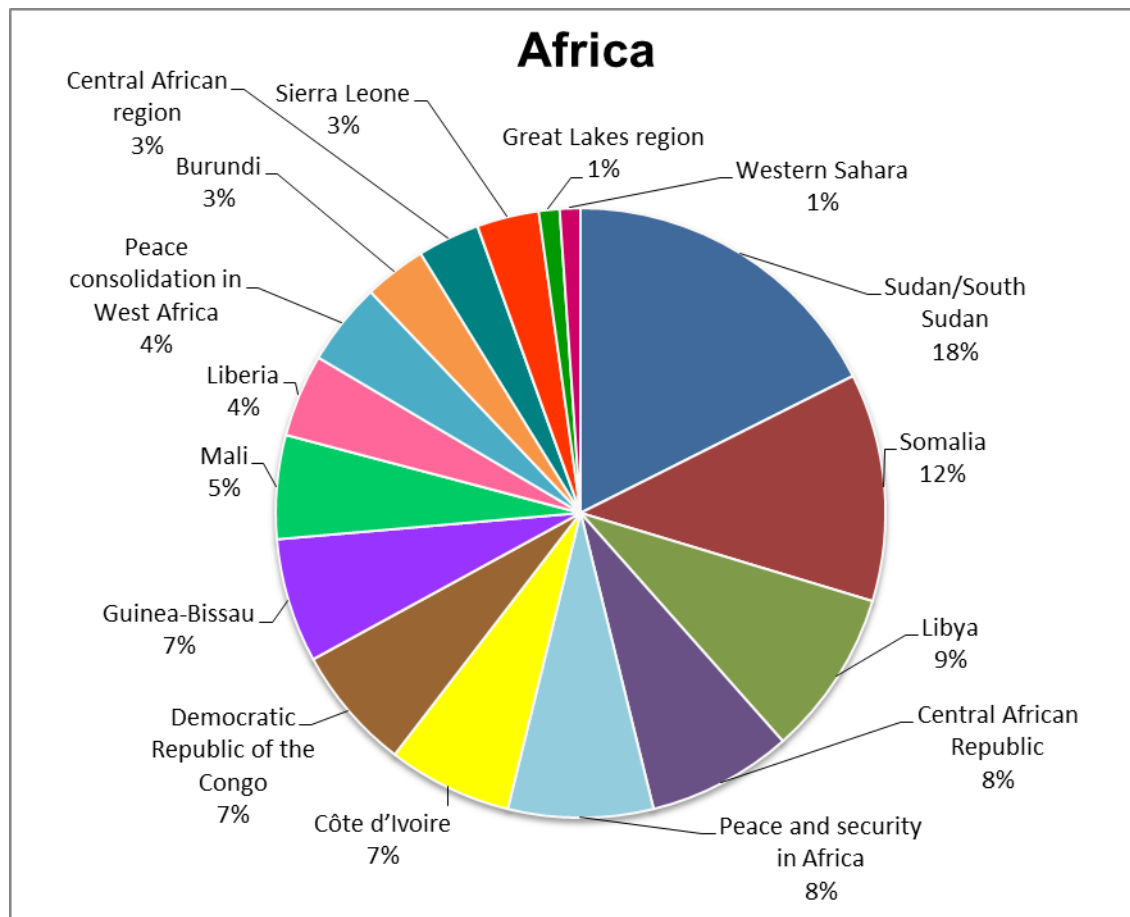
[Chart 8] Percentage of meetings per agenda item concerning Europe in 2013



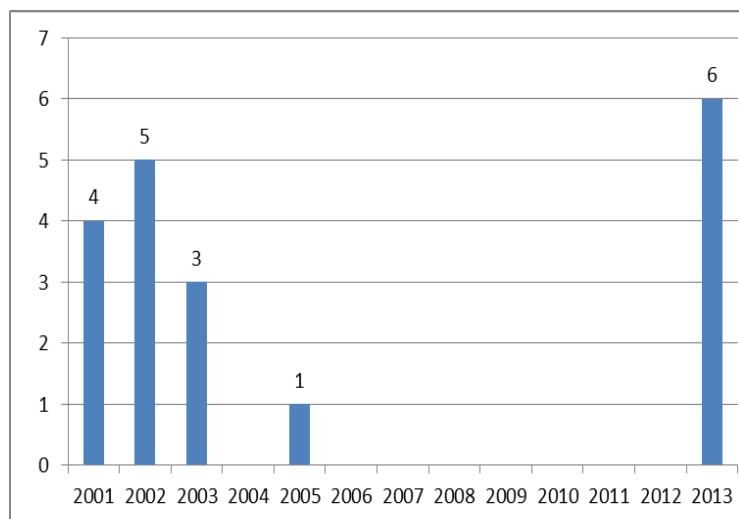
[Chart 9] Percentage of meetings per agenda item concerning the Middle East in 2013

¹ Pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council dated 11 November 2013 ([S/2013/657](#)), the Council decided to subsume issues pertaining to the Sudan and South Sudan, including the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and Council resolution [2046 \(2012\)](#) under the agenda item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan.”

² Under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).



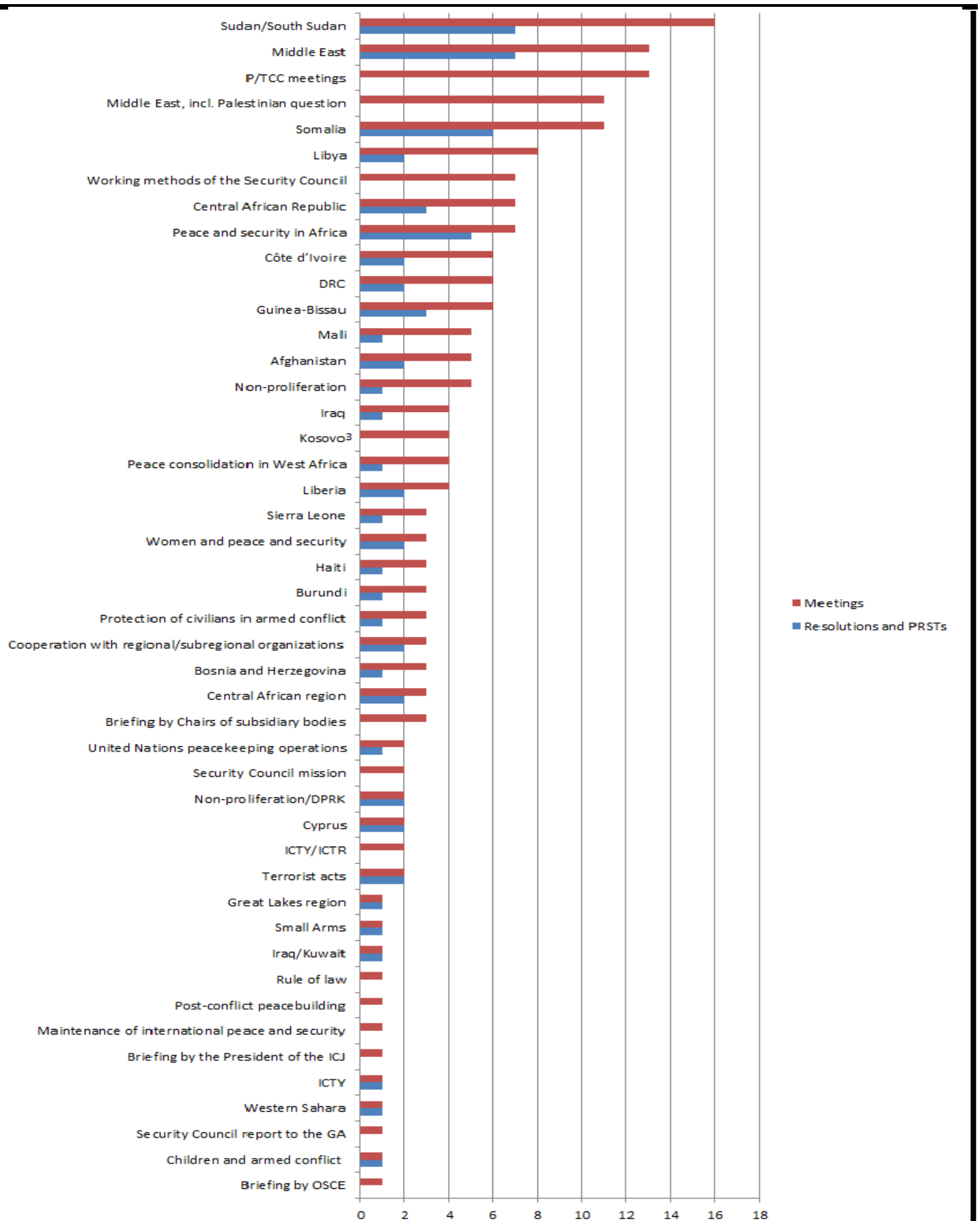
[Chart 10] Percentage of meetings per agenda item concerning Africa in 2013



[Chart 11] Number of wrap-up sessions per year: 2001-2013

Thematic and other issues

In 2013, 29% of meetings (56) were held under the agenda items of a thematic nature and other issues. The Council also revived its practice of conducting wrap-up sessions at month's end, which in previous years had been held under the agenda item entitled "Wrap-up discussion on the work of the Security Council for the current month". In 2013, the Council held 6 such sessions under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2010/507](#))". Also, under the same agenda item, on 29 October, the Council held an open debate to consider its working methods.



[Chart 12] Number of meetings and resolutions/PRSTs adopted by agenda item in 2013

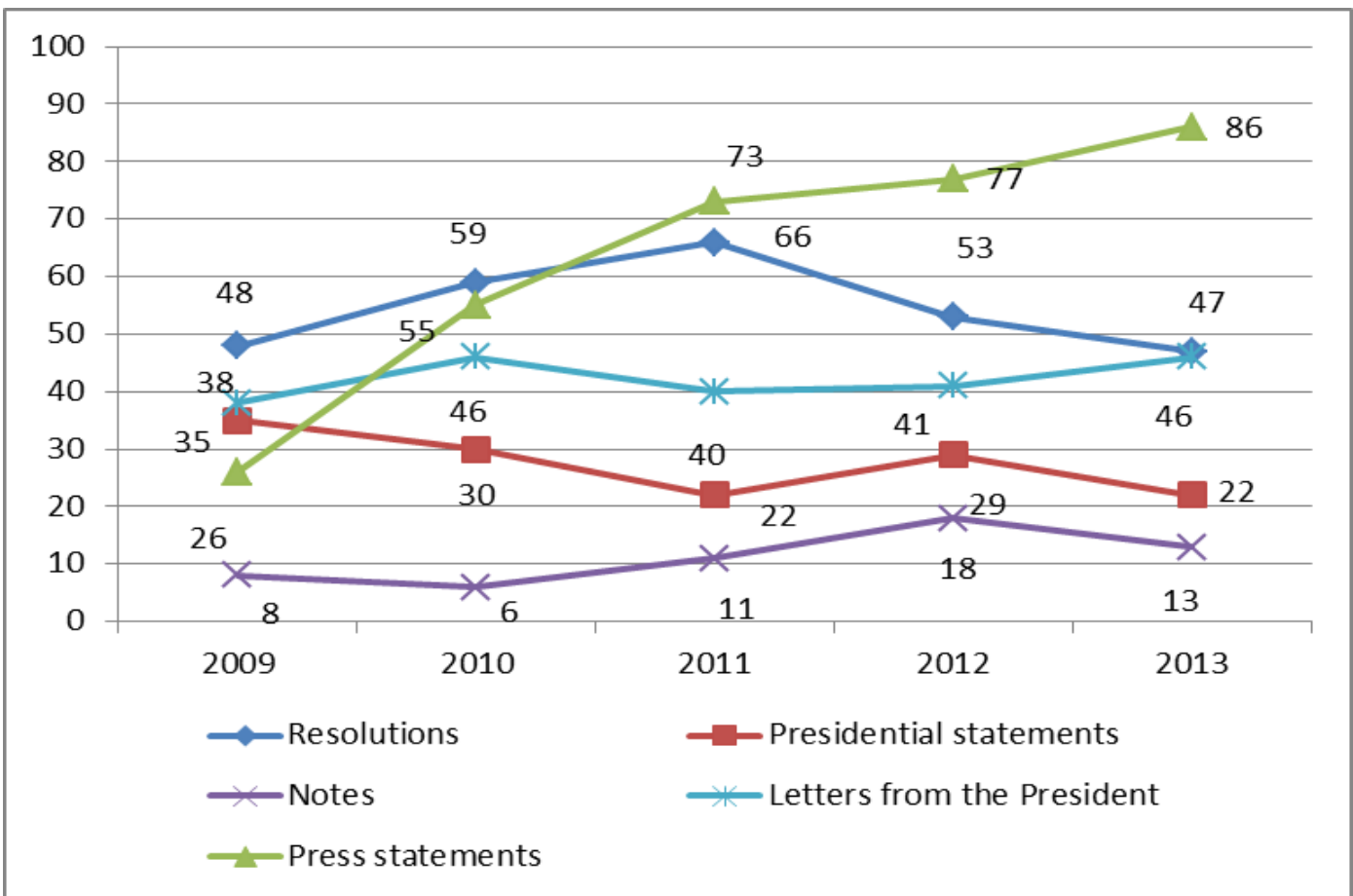
³ Ibid.

Decisions and voting

Article 27 of the Charter and rule 40 of the provisional rules of procedure govern voting in the Security Council. While neither the Charter nor the provisional rules of procedure specifically refer to decisions, these currently take the form of resolutions, presidential statements, notes and letters by the President of the Council. According to Article 27, each Council member has one vote, and an affirmative vote of 9 members is required for decisions on non-procedural matters, including the concurrent votes of the permanent members. Press statements are not decisions of the Council.

Overview

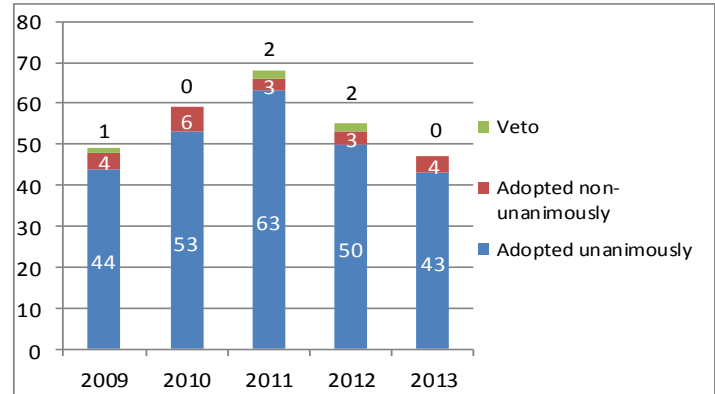
In 2013, the Security Council adopted 47 resolutions and 22 presidential statements. The Council also issued 13 notes and 46 letters by its President. Of the notes, 2 ([S/2013/630](#) and [S/2013/635](#)) were adopted on the basis of the work of the Council's Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. The Council also issued 86 press statements.



[Chart 13] Number of resolutions, presidential statements, notes, letters by the President and press statements: 2009-2013

Voting

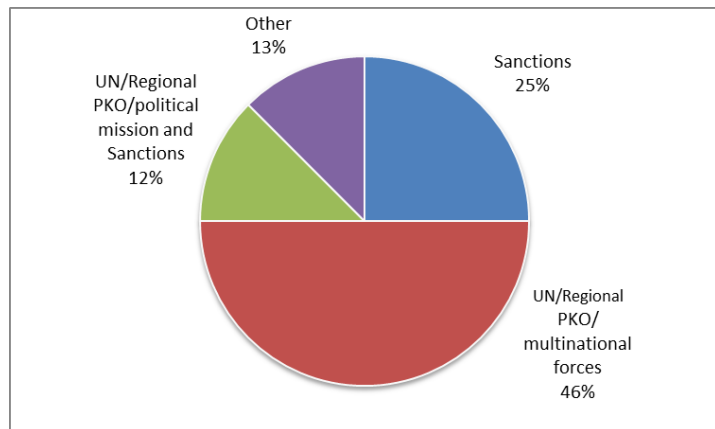
The Council continued to adopt the vast majority of its resolutions (43 out of 47) unanimously in 2013. There were no cases of veto. However, there was one instance in which a draft resolution under the agenda item entitled “Peace and security in Africa” concerning Kenya/International Criminal Court (ICC) failed to be adopted because it received only 7 affirmative votes with 8 abstentions.



[Chart 14] Voting on draft resolutions: 2009-2013

Resolutions under Chapter VII

The Council adopted 24 out of 47 resolutions in 2013, “acting under Chapter VII of the Charter”, including 2 resolutions explicitly stating “taking measures under Article 41”. The majority of the 24 Chapter VII resolutions were adopted in the context of the mandate of UN peacekeeping operations and regional and multinational forces [For details see Annex, Table VI].



[Chart 15] Resolutions under Chapter VII in 2013 by theme

Subsidiary bodies

The powers of the Security Council to establish subsidiary organs are set out in Article 29 of the Charter and reflected in rule 28 of its provisional rules of procedure. These include: peacekeeping missions, political missions and peacebuilding offices, sanctions and other committees overseeing Chapter VII measures, international tribunals, and working groups.

UN peacekeeping operations, political missions and peacebuilding offices

In 2013, the Council established 1 peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA); 1 political mission, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM); and 1 Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations on the disposal of Syria’s chemical weapons (OPCW-UN joint mission in Syria).

- ◇ **MINUSMA:** By resolution [2100 \(2013\)](#) of 25 April adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) for an initial period of 12 months to support the transitional authorities of Mali in the stabilization of the country and carry out a number of security-related tasks.
- ◇ **UNSOM/UNPOS:** By its resolution [2102 \(2013\)](#) of 2 May, the Council established the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) for one year, providing the United Nations good offices functions and a range of strategic policy advice in support of the Federal Government’s peace and reconciliation process. UNSOM replaces the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), which completed its mandate on 2 June 2013, following the adoption of resolution [2093 \(2013\)](#) of 6 March.

- ◇ **OPCW-UN joint mission in Syria:** Through an exchange of letters on 7 and 11 October ([S/2013/591](#) and [S/2013/603](#)), the OPCW-UN Joint Mission was established to oversee the timely elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) of 27 September.

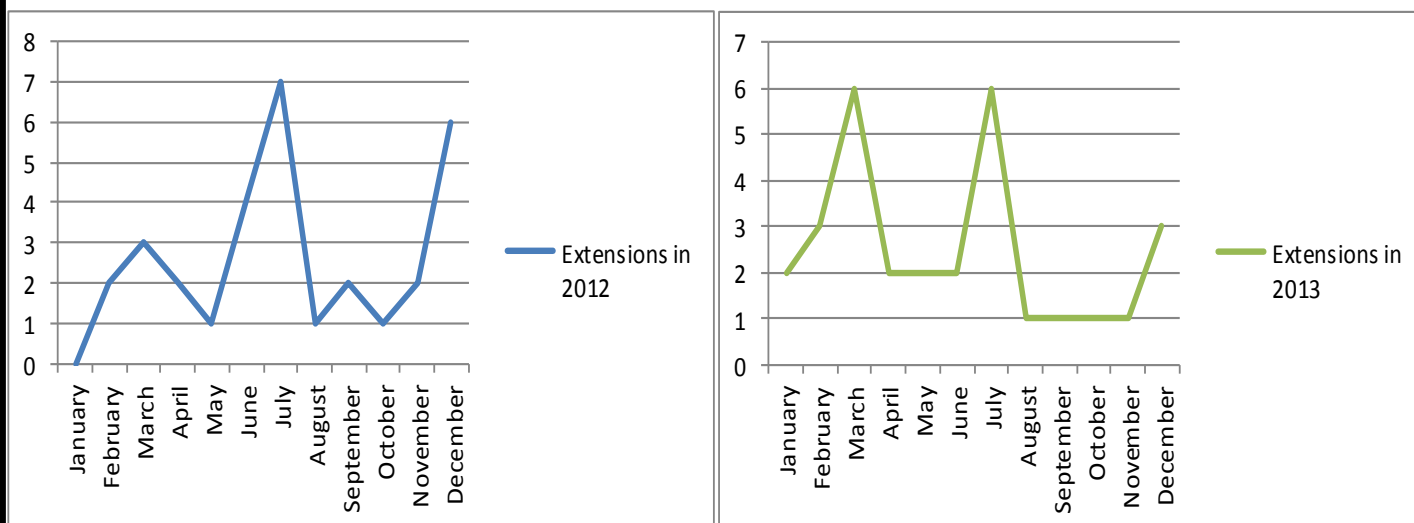
Mandate modifications and composition changes

Also, 11 peacekeeping operations, political missions and peacebuilding offices underwent significant revision of mandate and/or composition in 2013.

Mission	Mandate Modification	Composition Change	Resolution
UNIPSIL (Sierra Leone)	✓	✓	S/RES/2097(2013)
MONUSCO (DRC)	✓		S/RES/2098(2013)
MINURSO (Western Sahara)		✓	S/RES/2099(2013)
UNIOGBIS (Guinea-Bissau)	✓		S/RES/2103(2013)
UNISFA (Abyei)		✓	S/RES/2104(2013)
UNAMI (Iraq)	✓		S/RES/2107(2013)
UNOCI (Côte d'Ivoire)	✓	✓	S/RES/2112(2013)
UNMIL (Liberia)		✓	S/RES/2116(2013)
MINUSTAH (Haiti)		✓	S/RES/2119(2013)
BINUCA (CAR)	✓		S/RES/2121(2013)
UNMISS (South Sudan)		✓	S/RES/2132(2013)

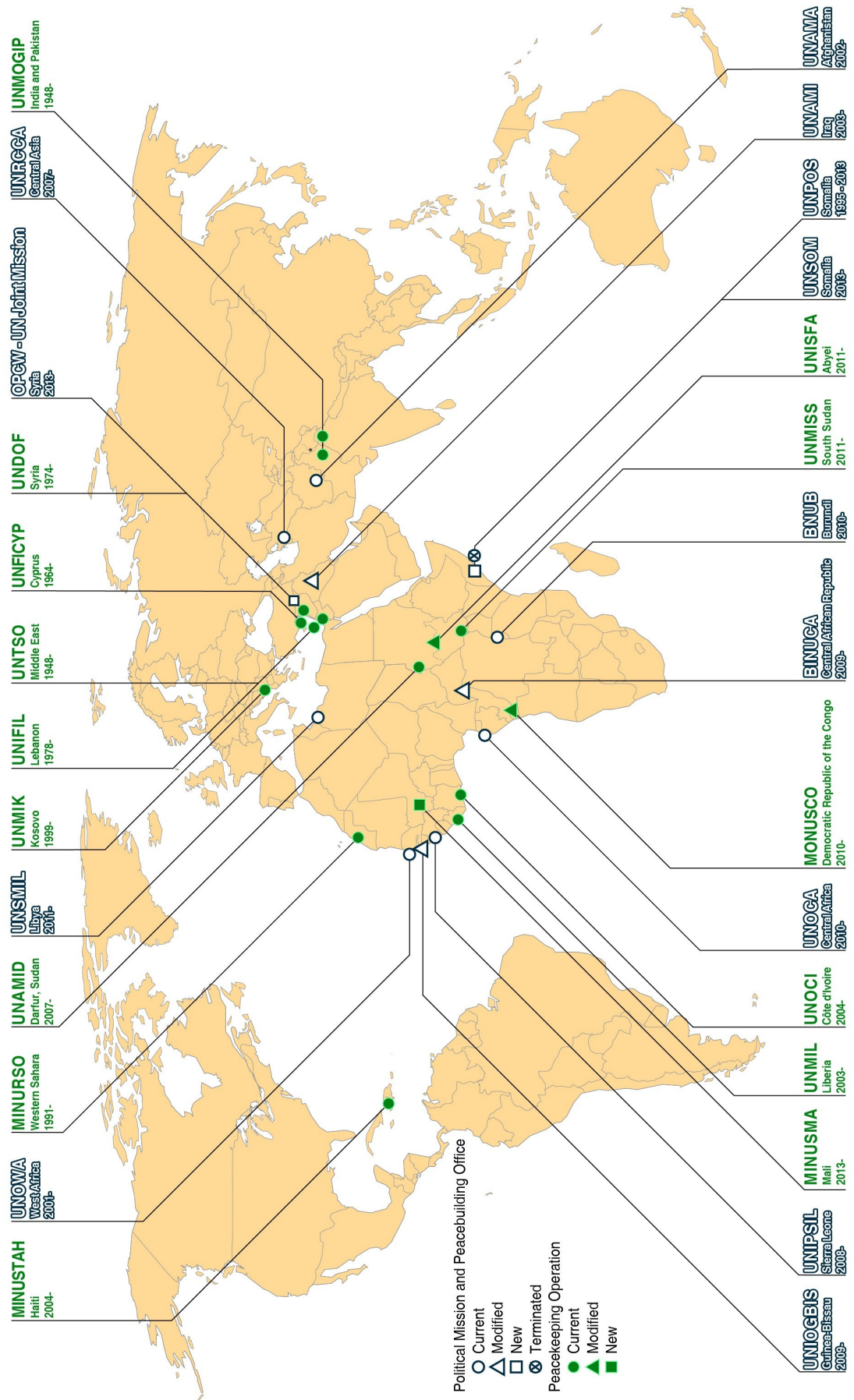
Mandate extension periodicity

The chart below shows the periodicity of Council resolutions related to mandate extensions over the last two years.



[Chart 16] Mandate renewal by month for 2012 and 2013

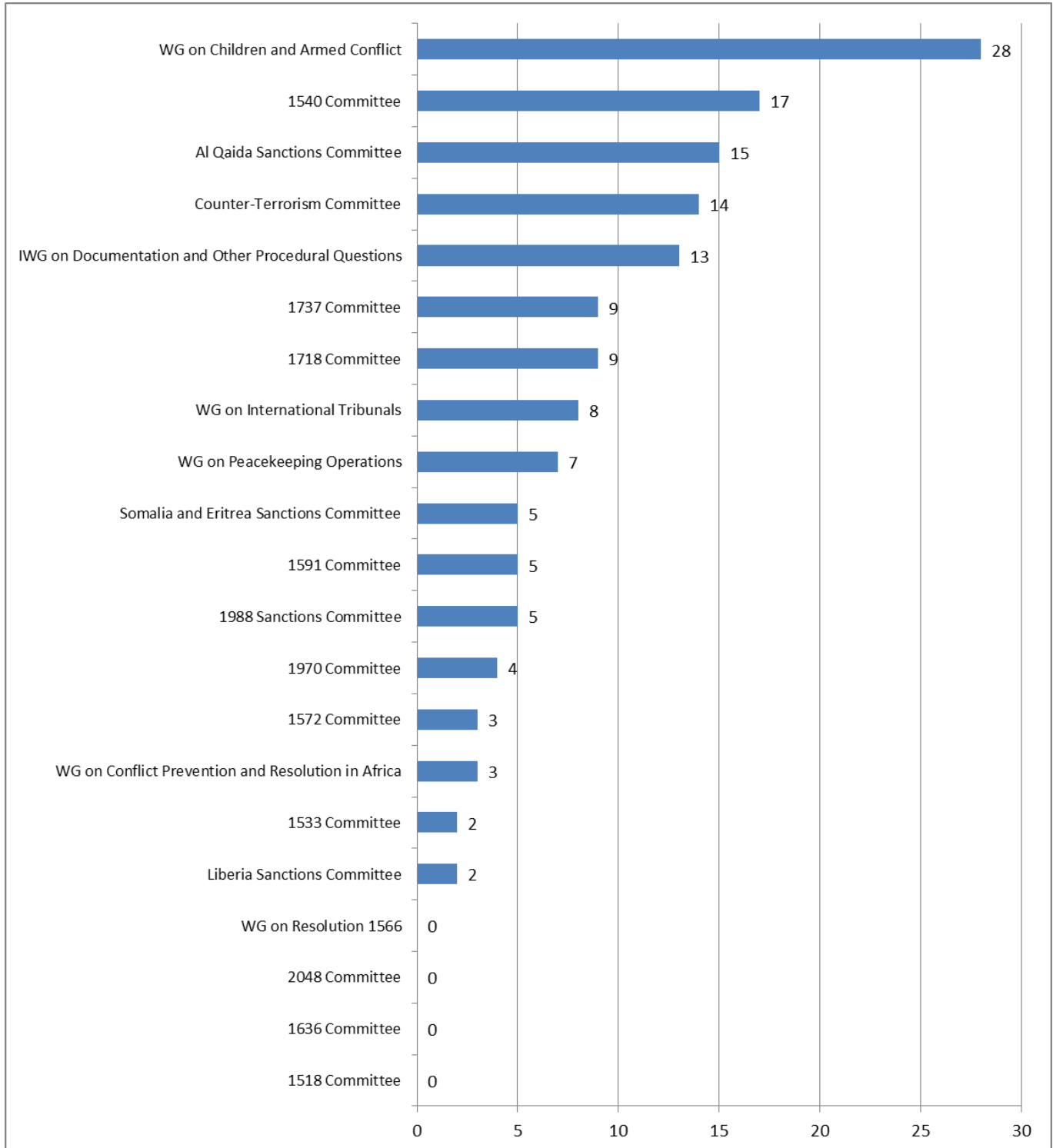
UN Peacekeeping Operations, Political Missions and Peacebuilding Offices in 2013



The year under each Peacekeeping Operation, Political Mission and Peacebuilding Office indicates the year the Security Council authorised its establishment by its decisions. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 * Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties.
 ** Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

Sanctions and other Committees and Working Groups

In 2013, the Security Council established 1 new sanctions committee. By resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) of 5 December, the Council established the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic to oversee the arms embargo on the Central African Republic. Existing Committees and Working Groups continued to meet throughout the year, in both formal and informal meetings.



[Chart 17] Number of meetings per sanctions and other Committees and Working Groups in 2013

Annex

I. High-level meetings in 2013

	Agenda item	Date	Meeting number
1	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts	15 January 2013	6900
2	United Nations peacekeeping operations	21 January 2013	6903
3	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	12 February 2013	6917
4	Peace and security in Africa	15 April 2013	6946
5	Peace and security in Africa	13 May 2013	6965
6	Women and peace and security	24 June 2013	6984
7	The situation in the Great Lakes region	25 July 2013	7011
8	Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security	6 August 2013	7015
9	Small arms	26 September 2013	7036
10	The situation in the Middle East	27 September 2013	7037
11	The situation in the Middle East	27 September 2013	7038
12	Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security	28 October 2013	7050

II. Arria formula meetings in 2013

	Topic	Date
1	Maintenance of international peace and security	15 February 2013
2	Women and peace and security	17 May 2013
3	The situation in the Middle East	21 June 2013
4	The situation in the Middle East	26 July 2013
5	The situation in the Central African Republic	1 November 2013
6	Protection of civilians in armed conflict - The protection of journalists	13 December 2013

III. Informal interactive dialogues in 2013

	Topic	Date
1	UNDOF (Consultations with TCCs on UNDOF)	22 March 2013
2	Sudan/South Sudan	27 March 2013
3	Post-conflict peacebuilding	26 April 2013
4	Libya/ICC	7 May 2013
5	Peace and security in Africa	23 May 2013
6	Peace and security in Africa (Africa's relations with ICC)	31 October 2013

IV. Agenda items discussed at Council meetings (public and private) in 2013

Country-specific/regional agenda items		
	<i>Formal agenda item</i>	<i>Short description</i>
1	Central African region	Central African region
2	Peace and security in Africa	Peace and security in Africa
3	Peace consolidation in West Africa	Peace consolidation in West Africa
4	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan ⁴	Sudan/South Sudan
5	Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998) , 1199 (1998) , 1203 (1998) , 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)	Kosovo ⁵
6	The question concerning Haiti	Haiti
7	The situation concerning Iraq	Iraq
8	The situation between Iraq and Kuwait	Iraq/Kuwait
9	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo
10	The situation concerning Western Sahara	Western Sahara
11	The situation in Afghanistan	Afghanistan
12	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
13	The situation in Burundi	Burundi
14	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire
15	The situation in Cyprus	Cyprus
16	The situation in Guinea-Bissau	Guinea-Bissau
17	The situation in Liberia	Liberia
18	The situation in Libya	Libya
19	The situation in Mali	Mali
20	The situation in Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
21	The situation in Somalia	Somalia
22	The situation in the Central African Republic	Central African Republic
23	The Situation in the Great Lakes region	Great Lakes region
24	The situation in the Middle East	Middle East
25	The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question	Middle East, incl. Palestinian question
Thematic and other agenda items		
	<i>Formal agenda item</i>	<i>Short description</i>
1	Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	Briefing by the OSCE
2	Briefing by the President of the ICJ	Briefing by the President of the ICJ
3	Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council	Briefing by Chairs of subsidiary bodies
4	Children and armed conflict	Children and armed conflict
5	Consideration of the draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly	Security Council report to the GA
6	Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security	Cooperation with regional/subregional organizations

⁴ Pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council dated 11 November 2013 ([S/2013/657](#)), the Council decided to subsume issues pertaining to the Sudan and South Sudan, including the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and Council resolution [2046 \(2012\)](#) under the agenda item entitled "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan."

⁵ Under Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).

7	Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)	Working methods of the Security Council
8	International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991	ICTY
9	International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994	ICTY/ICTR
10	Maintenance of international peace and security	Maintenance of international peace and security
11	Meeting of the Security Council with the troop-and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001) , annex II, sections A and B	T/PCC meetings
12	Non-proliferation	Non-proliferation
13	Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Non-proliferation/DPRK
14	Post-conflict peacebuilding	Post-conflict peacebuilding
15	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	Protection of civilians
16	Security Council mission	Security Council mission
17	Small arms	Small arms
18	The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security	Rule of law
19	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts
20	United Nations peacekeeping operations	United Nations peacekeeping operations
21	Women and peace and security	Women and peace and security

V. Agenda items deleted in 2013 from the list of matters of which the Security Council was seized

	Agenda item	Date of first and last meeting
1	Complaint by Ukraine regarding the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation concerning Sevastopol	20 July 1993; 20 July 1993
2	Protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones	9 February 2000; 26 August 2003
3	Maintenance of international peace and security: role of the Security Council in supporting security sector reform	20 February 2007; 12 May 2008
4	Letter dated 22 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/487)	25 September 2009; 25 September 2009

VI. Chapter VII resolutions adopted in 2013

	Resolution	Date	Agenda (short description)	Theme
1	2091 (2013)	14 February 2013	Sudan/South Sudan	Sanctions
2	2093 (2013)	6 March 2013	Somalia	Regional PKO/UN Political Mission/ Sanctions
3	2094 (2013)	7 March 2013	Non-proliferation/DPRK	Sanctions
4	2095 (2013)	14 March 2013	Libya	UN Political Mis- sion/Sanctions
5	2098 (2013)	28 March 2013	Democratic Republic of the Congo	UN PKO
6	2100 (2013)	25 April 2013	Mali	UN PKO
7	2101 (2013)	25 April 2013	Côte d'Ivoire	Sanctions
8	2104 (2013)	29 May 2013	Sudan/South Sudan	UN PKO
9	2105 (2013)	5 June 2013	Non-proliferation	Sanctions
10	2107 (2013)	27 June 2013	Iraq and Kuwait	Restitution and Compensation
11	2109 (2013)	11 July 2013	Sudan/South Sudan	UN PKO
12	2111 (2013)	24 July 2013	Somalia	Sanctions
13	2112 (2013)	30 July 2013	Côte d'Ivoire	UN PKO
14	2116 (2013)	18 September 2013	Liberia	UN PKO
15	2119 (2013)	10 October 2013	Haiti	UN PKO
16	2120 (2013)	10 October 2013	Afghanistan	Multinational forc- es
17	2123 (2013)	12 November 2013	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Regional PKO/ Multinational forces
18	2124 (2013)	12 November 2013	Somalia	Regional PKO
19	2125 (2013)	18 November 2013	Somalia	Piracy
20	2126 (2013)	25 November 2013	Sudan/South Sudan	UN PKO
21	2127 (2013)	5 December 2013	Central African Republic	Regional PKO/ Sanctions
22	2128 (2013)	10 December 2013	Liberia	Sanctions
23	2130 (2013)	18 December 2013	ICTY	International Tribunals
24	2132 (2013)	24 December 2013	Sudan/South Sudan	UN PKO