

## 20. The situation in Myanmar

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings and adopted one presidential statement in connection with the item entitled “The situation in Myanmar”. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

On 2 September 2017, the Secretary-General addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council in which he shared his deep concern about the security, humanitarian and human rights situation in Rakhine State in Myanmar<sup>234</sup> and, with reference to informal consultations of the whole held on 30 August 2017, highlighted the importance for the international community to send a strong message to support efforts to end the vicious cycle of violence and to press for restraint and calm to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe.

On 28 September 2017, the Council held its first public meeting under the item since 13 July 2009.<sup>235</sup> The Secretary-General briefed the Council on the significant deterioration of the humanitarian situation and the plight of the Rohingya following the intensification of fighting between the Government of Myanmar and rebel forces since 25 August 2017.<sup>236</sup>

In a presidential statement adopted on 6 November 2017, the Council strongly condemned the widespread violence, which had resulted in the displacement of over 607,000 persons, the vast majority belonging to the Rohingya community, and

expressed grave concern over reports of human rights violations, including by Myanmar security forces. Reaffirming the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Myanmar, the Council underlined the Government’s primary responsibility to protect its population and called on it to ensure no further excessive use of military force, to abide by its human rights obligations, to grant immediate, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, to allow for the voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced individuals and refugees and to work on addressing the root causes of the conflict, including through the full implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by Kofi Annan.<sup>237</sup>

On 12 December 2017, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict concerning the situation in Rakhine State. During the discussion, while taking note of the initial steps taken since the adoption of the presidential statement on 6 November 2017, Council members called on the Government of Myanmar to create conditions conducive to the return of refugees and to work towards reconciliation and addressing the root causes of the violence.<sup>238</sup>

<sup>234</sup> S/2017/753.

<sup>235</sup> See S/PV.8060. For more information on the meeting held in 2009, see S/PV.6161 and *Repertoire, Supplement 2008–2009*, part I, sect. 22, “The situation in Myanmar”.

<sup>236</sup> S/PV.8060, pp. 2–4.

<sup>237</sup> S/PRST/2017/22, second to sixth, ninth, eleventh, fifteenth and sixteenth paragraphs.

<sup>238</sup> S/PV.8133, p. 6 (United Kingdom); p. 10 (Kazakhstan); p. 11 (Egypt); p. 11–12 (Sweden); p. 13 (Ethiopia); pp. 13–14 (France); p. 15 (Italy); p. 16 (Plurinational State of Bolivia); p. 17 (Uruguay); p. 18 (Senegal); and pp. 18–19 (Ukraine).

### Meetings: the situation in Myanmar

Meeting record and date	Sub-item	Other documents	Rule 37 invitations	Rule 39 and other invitations	Speakers	Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)
S/PV.8060 28 September 2017			Bangladesh, Myanmar <sup>a</sup>		Secretary- General, all Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8085 6 November 2017			Bangladesh, Myanmar		All invitees	S/PRST/2017/22

<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.8133 12 December 2017			Bangladesh, Myanmar	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict	All Council members, all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> Myanmar was represented by the Special Envoy of the State Counsellor and National Security Adviser.

## Europe

### 21. The situation in Cyprus

During the period 2016 to 2017, the Security Council held four meetings and adopted four resolutions concerning the situation in Cyprus. More information on the meetings, including on invitees, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. The Council also held four closed meetings in 2016 and 2017 with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).<sup>239</sup>

During the period under review, against the backdrop of the positive momentum in the settlement negotiations, the Council welcomed the commitments set out in the joint statements issued by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders on 15 May 2016, 8 June 2016, 14 September 2016 and 2 April 2017.<sup>240</sup> The Council also encouraged the sides to intensify the substantive negotiations on the unresolved core issues and to sustain their commitment, while stressing that the status quo was unsustainable.<sup>241</sup> The Council further requested the Secretary-General to intensify transition planning in relation to a settlement, guided by

developments in negotiations, and encouraged both sides to engage with each other, as well as with UNFICYP and the United Nations mission of good offices in Cyprus, on issues related to the implementation of a settlement.<sup>242</sup> Throughout the period, the Council urged the implementation of confidence-building measures and looked forward to an agreement on the implementation of mutually acceptable steps, including military confidence-building measures and the opening of crossing points.<sup>243</sup>

In 2016 and 2017, the Council extended the mandate of UNFICYP four times, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the reports of the Secretary-General.<sup>244</sup> The Council also increased the force levels of UNFICYP from 860 to 888, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary-General,<sup>245</sup> and, in a letter dated 25 July 2016 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General, took note of his intention to appoint a new Force Commander of UNFICYP.<sup>246</sup> In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct

<sup>239</sup> Held on 13 January and 20 July 2016 and 20 January and 13 July 2017, under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop-and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B”; see [S/PV.7620](#), [S/PV.7741](#), [S/PV.7867](#) and [S/PV.8000](#).

<sup>240</sup> Resolutions [2300 \(2016\)](#), [2338 \(2017\)](#) and [2369 \(2017\)](#), fourth preambular paragraph. See also [S/PV.7613](#), p. 2 (Egypt); and p. 3 (United Kingdom, United States).

<sup>241</sup> Resolutions [2263 \(2016\)](#), [2300 \(2016\)](#), [2338 \(2017\)](#) and [2369 \(2017\)](#), fifth preambular paragraph.

<sup>242</sup> Resolutions [2300 \(2016\)](#) and [2338 \(2017\)](#), para. 4, and [2369 \(2017\)](#), para. 5.

<sup>243</sup> Resolutions [2263 \(2016\)](#), para. 4, [2300 \(2016\)](#) and [2338 \(2017\)](#), para. 5, and [2369 \(2017\)](#), para. 6.

<sup>244</sup> Resolutions [2263 \(2016\)](#), para. 7, and [2300 \(2016\)](#), [2338 \(2017\)](#) and [2369 \(2017\)](#), para. 8. See also [S/2016/11](#), [S/2016/598](#), [S/2017/20](#) and [S/2017/586](#). For more information on the mandate of UNFICYP, see part X, sect. I, “Peacekeeping operations”.

<sup>245</sup> Resolution [2263 \(2016\)](#), para. 7. See also [S/2016/11](#).

<sup>246</sup> [S/2016/648](#).