

13. Peace and security in Africa

During the period under review the Security Council held 11 meetings, including two high-level meetings,¹⁴⁸ and adopted three resolutions under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”. Of the 11 meetings, two were held in 2016, and nine in 2017. Three meetings on the item were convened to adopt a resolution; seven were briefings; and one was an open debate. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. The deliberations of the Council focused mainly on the developments concerning the Sahel and on the challenges that the region was facing, including the situation in the Lake Chad Basin region.

At a meeting held on 26 May 2016, Council members discussed the impact of climate change on security, development and stability in the region, and the linkages between those threats and organized crime, trafficking and violent extremism. In his briefing to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) reported on the multifaceted challenges facing West Africa and the Sahel. He mentioned the various unresolved conflicts in those regions, the ongoing terrorist activities, trafficking and violent extremism, and the impact of climate change. He also briefed the Council on the fight against Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin area and on the humanitarian situation in the region.¹⁴⁹

At a meeting held on 27 July 2016, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that significant numbers of refugees and internally displaced people in the region placed added pressure on host communities that were already food insecure, and noted the registered increase in the number of reports of incidents of sexual and gender-based violence among the displaced.¹⁵⁰ The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs cited the figures pertaining to the humanitarian crisis affecting the Lake Chad Basin and reported that children were being abducted and forcibly recruited by Boko Haram to take part in the violence, including by acting as suicide bombers.¹⁵¹ Both speakers addressed the economic aspects of the situation in the region and highlighted

the need to address the root causes of the crisis in their respective briefings.¹⁵²

On 12 January 2017, the Council heard briefings on the ongoing violence and attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram and on the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the region. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported that, despite the challenges, progress had been made in addressing the immediate humanitarian needs, and in the restoration of State authority and local governance systems in reclaimed areas. He emphasized, however, that grave human rights violations and abuses had accompanied Boko Haram attacks and the counter-terrorism responses. In that connection, he reported that women and girls remained subject to sexual violence, including sexual slavery and forced marriage, and that counter-insurgency operations, by both national forces and the Multinational Joint Task Force, had been accused of breaches of international humanitarian law.¹⁵³

From 2 to 7 March 2017, the Council dispatched a mission to the Lake Chad Basin region to engage in a dialogue with the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria.¹⁵⁴ Following the mission, on 31 March 2017, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2349 \(2017\)](#), in which it strongly condemned all terrorist attacks, violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights by Boko Haram and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the Lake Chad Basin region, including those involving killings and other violence against civilians. In the same resolution the Council reiterated its call upon Member States to move vigorously and decisively to cut the flows of funds and other financial assets and economic resources to individuals, groups, undertakings and entities on the sanctions list, and reiterated its readiness to consider listing those providing support to Boko Haram.¹⁵⁵

On 21 June 2017, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2359 \(2017\)](#), in which it expressed its continued concern over the transnational dimension of the terrorist threat in the Sahel region and the serious challenges posed by transnational organized

¹⁴⁸ [S/PV.8006](#) and [S/PV.8080](#). For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

¹⁴⁹ [S/PV.7699](#), pp. 2–4.

¹⁵⁰ [S/PV.7748](#), p. 2.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 3–7.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 3 (Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs); and p. 6 (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator).

¹⁵³ [S/PV.7861](#), pp. 3.

¹⁵⁴ For more information on the Security Council missions, see part I, sect. 36.

¹⁵⁵ Resolution [2349 \(2017\)](#), paras. 1 and 6.

crime in the region. The Council welcomed the deployment of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, with up to 5,000 military and police personnel, throughout the territories of its contributing countries,¹⁵⁶ with a view to restoring peace and security in the Sahel region.¹⁵⁷

Pursuant to resolution [2359 \(2017\)](#),¹⁵⁸ in August 2017, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the activities of the Joint Force, including on its operationalization, the challenges encountered and possible measures for further consideration. He reported that the cross-border dimension of the terrorist threat in the Sahel region, as well as the serious challenges posed by transnational organized crime and its links with terrorism, continued to pose a serious threat to stability, prosperity and growth in the Sahel region.¹⁵⁹

On 13 September 2017, the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Lake Chad Basin region,¹⁶⁰ submitted pursuant to resolution [2349 \(2017\)](#).¹⁶¹ The Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, in which he addressed the security and political developments in the region, the humanitarian situation and the development challenges. He reported that Boko Haram's activities persisted, with killings, forceful use of children as suicide bombers and sexual and gender-based violence against women and children.¹⁶²

From 19 to 22 October 2017, the Council went on a mission to the Sahel region, during which it visited Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania. At a meeting held on 30 October 2017, the Council discussed the situation in the Sahel, focusing also on its visit to the region, and considered the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the Joint Force.¹⁶³ The member States of the Group of Five for the Sahel, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, were invited to participate in the meeting and were represented at the ministerial level. The Secretary-

General and other speakers briefed the Council. The Secretary-General reported that in the Sahel poverty, underdevelopment and climate change had contributed to the humanitarian and security crises affecting the region, and that the weakness of institutions and the exclusion and marginalization of some groups were exploited by extremists and terrorists.¹⁶⁴

On 8 December 2017, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2391 \(2017\)](#), in which it requested the Secretary-General to conclude a technical agreement between the United Nations, the European Union and the States of the Group of Five for the Sahel, with a view to providing specified operational and logistical support through MINUSMA to the Joint Force.¹⁶⁵

The activities of the Council during the period under review also focused on the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.¹⁶⁶ Following the signing on 19 April 2017 of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, at a meeting held on 19 July 2017, the Council discussed ways of enhancing African capacities in the area of peace and security.¹⁶⁷

In August 2017, further to the high-level mission of the Deputy Secretary-General to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria, the Council heard a briefing on the mission to the two countries. The Deputy Secretary-General reported that the mission had deepened the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, as they worked together to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063 as well as the accompanying Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.¹⁶⁸

¹⁵⁶ Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger.

¹⁵⁷ Resolution [2359 \(2017\)](#), fourth preambular paragraph and para. 1.

¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 7.

¹⁵⁹ [S/PV.8024](#), p. 2.

¹⁶⁰ [S/2017/764](#).

¹⁶¹ Resolution [2349 \(2017\)](#), para. 34.

¹⁶² [S/PV.8047](#), pp. 2–4.

¹⁶³ [S/2017/869](#).

¹⁶⁴ [S/PV.8080](#), pp. 2.

¹⁶⁵ Resolution [2391 \(2017\)](#), para. 13.

¹⁶⁶ For more information on regional arrangements, see part VIII.

¹⁶⁷ [S/PV.8006](#) and [S/PV.8006](#) (Resumption 1).

¹⁶⁸ [S/PV.8022](#), p. 2. The Deputy Secretary-General was accompanied on the mission by the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, both of whom were present at the meeting, and by the African Union Commission Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security.

Meetings: peace and security in Africa

<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.7699 26 May 2016	Challenges in the Sahel region			Six invitees under rule 39	All Council members, all invitees ^a	
S/PV.7748 27 July 2016				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.7861 12 January 2017			Nigeria	Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Borno Women Development Initiative and Youth Programmes Coordinator at Search for Common Ground Nigeria	All Council members, all invitees ^b	
S/PV.7911 31 March 2017		Draft resolution submitted by nine Member States ^c (S/2017/270)	Cameroon, Nigeria		Eight Council members, ^d Cameroon, Nigeria	Resolution 2349 (2017) 15-0-0
S/PV.7979 21 June 2017		Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2017/522)	Mali		One Council member (France), Mali	Resolution 2359 (2017) 15-0-0

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

<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.8006 and S/PV.8006 (Resumption 1) 19 July 2017	Enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security Letter dated 5 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2017/574)		32 Member States ^e	Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members, ^f 31 invitees under rule 37, ^g all invitees under rule 39	
S/PV.8022 10 August 2017			Nigeria	Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations	Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8024 15 August 2017			Mali	Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8047 13 September 2017	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Lake Chad Basin region (S/2017/764)		Nigeria	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Director of the Network of Civil Society Organizations in Borno state	All Council members, all invitees ^h	

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2016–2017

<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.8080 30 October 2017	Report of the Secretary-General on the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (S/2017/869)		Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger	Chairperson of the African Union Commission, European Union Special Representative for the Sahel	Secretary-General, all Council members, ⁱ all invitees ^j	
S/PV.8129 8 December 2017		Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2017/1022)	Mali, Mauritania		11 Council members, ^k Mali, Mauritania	Resolution 2391 (2017) 15-0-0

^a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWAS; Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and Assistant Secretary-General; Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; Coordinator of the Association des femmes peules autochtones du Tchad; African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel; and European Union Special Representative for the Sahel. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General participated in the meeting via videoconference from Niamey.

^b The Borno Women Development Initiative and Youth Programmes Coordinator at Search for Common Ground Nigeria participated in the meeting via videoconference from Maiduguri, north-eastern Nigeria.

^c Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

^d Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Japan, Russian Federation, Senegal and United Kingdom (President of the Security Council).

^e Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^f Senegal was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad; and Ukraine was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^g Ireland was represented by its Minister for Food, Forestry and Horticulture. The Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine; the representative of Denmark spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; and the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The representative of Romania did not make a statement.

^h The Director of the Network of Civil Society Organizations in Borno State participated in the meeting via videoconference from Maiduguri, Nigeria.

ⁱ France was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Sweden was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; the United Kingdom was represented by the Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations; Ukraine was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; and the United States was represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet.

^j Burkina Faso was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Burkinabe Abroad; Chad was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation; Mali was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and African Integration; the Niger was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad; and Mauritania was represented by its Minister of Defence. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission participated in the meeting via videoconference from Pretoria.

^k China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan (President of the Security Council), Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

14. The situation in Libya

During the period under review, the Security Council held 24 meetings, adopted nine resolutions, including five under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued two presidential statements in connection with the item entitled “The situation in Libya”. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2016–2017, the Council heard nine briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), in which he expressed great concern about the ongoing political, security, humanitarian, economic and institutional challenges in Libya, and emphasized the importance of the Mission’s support to the country’s political and democratization process.

Other speakers included the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. In the three briefings by the Prosecutor of the Court, she reported on the investigations into the situation in Libya, including on the possible arrest and surrender to the Court of Saif Al-Islam Al-Qadhafi. The Chair briefed the Council eight times on the activities of the Committee and its Panel of Experts. The briefings highlighted violations of the sanctions regime and the activities of armed groups and certain political actors detrimental to the peace process.

In their deliberations, Council members repeatedly reaffirmed their support for the Libyan Political Agreement, and called upon all parties to accelerate its implementation.

The Council addressed such issues as the institution of a universally recognized and respected Government at the national level, amendments to the Agreement to consider the interests of all Libyan stakeholders and the drafting of a new constitution for Libya. In resolution 2291 (2016), the Council reiterated its grave concern at the growing threat of terrorist groups in Libya proclaiming allegiance to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (also known as Da’esh) and the growing trend of groups associating themselves with it, as well as the continued presence of other Al-Qaida-linked terrorist groups and individuals operating there.¹⁶⁹ In 2017, Council members welcomed the Libyan-led efforts in fighting ISIL,¹⁷⁰ and noted the progress made in Sirte and Benghazi, but warned that if the root causes of terrorism in Libya

remained unaddressed, the threat would spread to other parts of the country.¹⁷¹

In 2016 and 2017, by resolutions 2273 (2016), 2291 (2016), 2323 (2016) and 2376 (2017), the Council extended the mandate of UNSMIL four times for periods of 3, 6, 9 and 12 months, respectively, the last until 15 September 2018.¹⁷² In presidential statements issued on 10 October and 14 December 2017, the Council endorsed the United Nations Action Plan for the resumption of an inclusive Libyan-owned political process under the leadership of the United Nations, in order to deliver the establishment of stable, unified, representative and effective governance under the framework of the Libyan Political Agreement. The Council also expressed support for the sequencing of the Action Plan, including a limited set of amendments to the Agreement.¹⁷³

By resolution 2278 (2016), the Council decided, *inter alia*, to extend the authorizations and measures relating to illicit exports of crude oil, requested the Government of National Accord to provide regular updates to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, and extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts.¹⁷⁴ By resolution 2292 (2016), the Council decided to authorize, to ensure strict implementation of the arms embargo, the inspection of vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya.¹⁷⁵ By resolution 2357 (2017), the authorizations were extended for a further 12 months. By resolution 2362 (2017), the Council extended until 15 November 2018 the authorizations and measures relating to illicit exports of crude oil and expanded their applicability to vessels loading, transporting or discharging petroleum, and also extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 15 November.¹⁷⁶

¹⁷¹ S/PV.7927.

¹⁷² Resolutions 2273 (2016), 2291 (2016), 2323 (2016) and 2376 (2017), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of UNSMIL, see part X, sect. II, “Special political missions”.

¹⁷³ S/PRST/2017/19, second and third paragraphs; and S/PRST/2017/26, fourth and fifth paragraphs.

¹⁷⁴ Resolution 2278 (2016), paras. 1, 3 and 12.

¹⁷⁵ Resolution 2292 (2016), para. 3. For more information on sanctions measures concerning Libya, see part VII, sect. III, “Measures not involving the use of armed force in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter”.

¹⁷⁶ Resolution 2362 (2017), paras. 2 and 13. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, and the mandates of other committees established under Chapter VII of the Charter, see part IX, sect. I, “Committees”.

¹⁶⁹ Resolution 2292 (2016), fourth preambular paragraph.

¹⁷⁰ S/PRST/2017/19, twelfth paragraph.