

Meetings: Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/53)

<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.8154 10 January 2018	Letter dated 8 December 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/1037) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2017/1117)		Colombia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	All Council members, all invitees ^a	
S/PV.8238 19 April 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2018/279)		Colombia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	All Council members, all invitees ^a	
S/PV.8319 26 July 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2018/723)		Colombia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	All Council members, all invitees ^a	
S/PV.8351 13 September 2018		Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom (S/2018/834)	Colombia			Resolution 2435 (2018) 15-0-0
S/PV.8368 10 October 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2018/874)		Colombia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	All Council members, all invitees ^b	

^a Colombia was represented by its Vice-President.

^b Colombia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Asia

17. The situation in Afghanistan

During the period under review, the Security Council held five meetings, adopted one resolution and issued one presidential statement on the situation in Afghanistan. Four of the meetings took the form of debates and one was convened for the adoption of a

decision.²⁵⁰ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the

²⁵⁰ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

table below. In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Afghanistan from 12 to 15 January 2018.²⁵¹

During 2018, as in previous periods, the Council was briefed quarterly by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) further to the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan.²⁵² The Council was briefed twice by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and once by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011). The Council was also briefed once by the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism of the United Nations as well as by representatives of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan and the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution. Finally, the Council was briefed by two civil society representatives, in two separate meetings.

In his briefings, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General highlighted the new momentum in the peace process following the offer by the President of Afghanistan, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, to hold unconditional peace talks with the Taliban, which was endorsed at the second meeting of the Kabul Process for Peace and Security Cooperation, held on 28 February 2018.²⁵³ He described the security and human rights situation, with more than 8,000 civilian casualties from January to September and high levels of child casualties, despite a short ceasefire from both sides in June 2018.²⁵⁴ The Special Representative kept the Council informed of the preparations and outcome of the parliamentary elections held on 20 October 2018 and the joint United Nations-Government of Afghanistan ministerial conference held in Geneva on 27 and 28 November 2018.²⁵⁵ While noting modest progress in the status of women, in particular on the legislative agenda, the Special Representative underlined the importance of ensuring the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts for the promotion, establishment and maintenance of peace and security.²⁵⁶ He also drew attention to the impact of the insecurity on journalists and aid workers in Afghanistan and the significant

humanitarian challenges facing the population, in particular in light of the worst drought in years.²⁵⁷

The Executive Director of UNODC noted that, despite a decline since 2017 due to drought, the area of opium cultivation in Afghanistan was the second-highest recorded since 1994.²⁵⁸ He stressed the need for a strong Afghan lead and international support in counter-narcotics action as well as comprehensive and balanced approaches targeting the nexus between drugs, crime and terrorism.²⁵⁹ The Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) provided an overview of the latest trends in the security situation, as reported by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, including the actions undertaken by the Taliban, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and Al-Qaida, and called upon Member States to play a more active role in providing information to assist the Committee in the implementation of its mandate.²⁶⁰ The Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism also informed the Council about the continued deadly violence across Afghanistan, including terrorist attacks against civilians, and provided an overview of the activities of the Office with respect to the provision of technical assistance to Afghanistan on, inter alia, law enforcement, border security, countering terrorist financing and assistance and support to victims.²⁶¹

During their discussions, Council members expressed support for the Kabul Process and called for an inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. They also urged the Taliban to accept the President's offer for direct talks, and the international community, including regional actors, to support the process. Speakers condemned the high rates of violence against civilians, including terrorist attacks by ISIL (Da'esh) and the Taliban. With respect to the conference in Geneva, speakers welcomed the renewed partnership between the Government and the international community and urged donors and stakeholders to support Afghanistan, including through regional economic and development cooperation. During 2018, the discussions in the Council also addressed the status of women in Afghanistan. Speakers condemned and called for an end to the violence against women and girls and called upon the Government to increase efforts to ensure greater representation of women in the peace process and to implement the measures necessary to ensure their safe participation in the parliamentary and

²⁵¹ For more information on the Council's mission to Afghanistan, see part I, sect. 33.

²⁵² S/2018/165, S/2018/539, S/2018/824/Rev.1 and S/2018/1092.

²⁵³ S/PV.8294, p. 2.

²⁵⁴ S/PV.8426, p. 4.

²⁵⁵ S/PV.8199, p. 3; S/PV.8294, p. 3; S/PV.8354, pp. 2–3; and S/PV.8426, pp. 2–3.

²⁵⁶ S/PV.8199, p. 3; and S/PV.8354, p. 3.

²⁵⁷ S/PV.8294, p. 4; S/PV.8354, p. 3; and S/PV.8426, p. 4.

²⁵⁸ S/PV.8426, p. 4.

²⁵⁹ S/PV.8294, p. 5.

²⁶⁰ S/PV.8426, pp. 5–6. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), see part IX, sect. I.B.

²⁶¹ S/PV.8294, pp. 5–7.

presidential elections, as well as safe access to education and health care.

On 8 March 2018, the Council adopted resolution 2405 (2018), extending the mandate of UNAMA for one year, until 17 March 2019. In the resolution, the Council welcomed the findings of the strategic review of the Mission and called for the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General, including with a view to aligning the Mission's substantive functions in support of peace efforts and an intra-Afghan dialogue.²⁶² While reiterating the Mission's existing priorities, the Council specified that they would include support for the organization of future elections, including the parliamentary and district council elections as foreseen for 2018 and the presidential elections in 2019.²⁶³ The Council called upon UNAMA to increase efforts to achieve greater coherence with other United Nations entities based on a "One United Nations" approach in close consultation with the Government of Afghanistan.²⁶⁴ The Council further stressed the role of UNAMA in supporting an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process while also calling upon all regional and international partners of Afghanistan to continue to support peace and reconciliation through the Kabul Process, working towards holding early and direct talks between the Government and the Taliban, and called for the effective implementation of the strategic plan for peace and reconciliation presented by the High Peace Council.²⁶⁵

The Council welcomed the Government's commitment to empowering women politically and economically and reiterated the importance of increasing the full and effective participation and leadership of

women in decision-making.²⁶⁶ The Council also called for enhanced efforts to secure the rights of women and girls and to ensure that they were protected from violence and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence, and that perpetrators were held accountable.²⁶⁷ In the resolution, the Council further underlined the need to hold accountable perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of all attacks targeting civilians and Afghan and international forces and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Government of Afghanistan and all other relevant authorities in that regard.²⁶⁸

In a presidential statement issued on 23 July 2018, the Council noted the conclusion of the voter registration for the parliamentary elections in October 2018, underscored the importance of developing sustainable democratic institutions in Afghanistan on the basis of inclusive, transparent and credible elections and stressed the need to promote the full and safe participation of women and minority groups, as voters and candidates.²⁶⁹ The Council further stressed the importance of a secure environment for conducting elections, condemned in the strongest terms those who resorted to violence to obstruct the electoral process, including the Taliban and ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates, and reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the ability of all Afghan citizens to exercise their civil and political rights.²⁷⁰

Developments in Afghanistan were also considered elsewhere under the items entitled "Security Council mission" and "Maintenance of international peace and security".²⁷¹

²⁶² Resolution 2405 (2018), paras. 3 and 4. For more information on the mandate of UNAMA, see part X, sect. II.

²⁶³ Resolution 2405 (2018), para. 6 (b).

²⁶⁴ Ibid., paras. 7 and 9. See also para. 6 (c).

²⁶⁵ Ibid., paras. 11–13.

²⁶⁶ Ibid., paras. 19 and 39.

²⁶⁷ Ibid., para. 38.

²⁶⁸ Ibid., para. 23.

²⁶⁹ S/PRST/2018/15, first and fourth paragraphs.

²⁷⁰ Ibid., ninth and twelfth paragraphs.

²⁷¹ For more information, see part I, sects. 33 and 37, respectively.

Meetings: the situation in Afghanistan

<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.8199 8 March 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2018/165)	Draft resolution submitted by Netherlands (S/2018/198)	10 Member States ^a	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in	All Council members, ^b all invitees ^c	Resolution 2405 (2018) 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>
				Afghanistan, Deputy Chair of the High Peace Council of Afghanistan, Executive Director of the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations		
S/PV.8294 26 June 2018	Report of the Secretary- General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2018/539)		12 Member States ^d	Special Representative of the Secretary- General, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Under- Secretary- General of the Office of Counter- Terrorism, representative of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members, all invitees ^e	
S/PV.8315 23 July 2018			Afghanistan		Afghanistan	S/PRST/2018/15
S/PV.8354 17 September 2018	Report of the Secretary- General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2018/824)		11 Member States ^f	Special Representative of the Secretary- General, Afghan youth representative, Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members, all invitees ^g	

<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.8426 17 December 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2018/1092)		14 Member States ^h	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Executive Director of UNODC, representative of the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members, ⁱ all invitees ^j	

^a Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Pakistan and Turkey.

^b The Netherlands was represented by its Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation and Sweden was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^c Australia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

^d Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

^e The representative of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

^f Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

^g The Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

^h Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

ⁱ The representative of Kazakhstan spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011).

^j The Executive Director of UNODC participated in the meeting via videoconference from Vienna. The Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine.

18. The situation in Myanmar

During the period under review, the Security Council held three meetings under the item entitled "The situation in Myanmar". The three meetings took the form of briefings.²⁷² No decisions were adopted by the Council under this item during 2018. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In

addition, the Council conducted a mission to Bangladesh and Myanmar from 28 April to 2 May 2018.²⁷³

In 2018, the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, the United Nations High

²⁷² For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

²⁷³ For more information on the Council's mission to Myanmar and Bangladesh, see part I, sect. 33.