

## 21. Items relating to Ukraine

### A. Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/136)

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings, including one high-level meeting, in connection with the item entitled “Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/136)” and adopted one presidential statement. Except for one, all meetings took the form of briefings.<sup>314</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During 2018, the Council heard briefings from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. Briefers focused on the deterioration of the security situation along the line of contact dividing eastern Ukraine, including sniper fire and mine and unexploded ordnance contamination. Briefers also touched upon the lack of progress in the implementation of the Minsk agreements and the humanitarian crisis resulting from the conflict, in particular the issue of humanitarian access, the situation of displaced persons, the threat to civilians posed by shelling and the impact of the destruction of civilian infrastructure.<sup>315</sup>

These topics were also discussed by Council members. They focused, in particular, on the need for all parties to comply with the ceasefire and on the impact of the conflict on the civilian population and the potential threat of long-term environmental damage posed by attacks on civilian infrastructure.<sup>316</sup> Speakers also focused on the human rights situation in Crimea, affecting, among other groups, the Crimean Tatar community.<sup>317</sup> Council members also discussed the updates of the joint investigation team on the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH-17, emphasizing the

importance of abiding by resolution 2166 (2014).<sup>318</sup> They also considered the possibility of deploying a United Nations-mandated peacekeeping mission to eastern Ukraine.<sup>319</sup>

At the request of six Council members,<sup>320</sup> the Council held a meeting on 30 October under this item and the item entitled “Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/264)” to discuss the announcement of leadership elections in Donetsk and Luhansk on 11 November 2018 and the potential impact on efforts for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. At the outset of the meeting, the representative of Sweden noted that the meeting was being held under two items “without the formal creation of a new agenda item”. He further indicated that the two items remained separate and distinct.<sup>321</sup> The representative of Sweden objected to the invitation under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the briefer proposed by the Russian Federation. The representative of Sweden indicated that France, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States would oppose the invitation if the matter was put to a procedural vote.<sup>322</sup> In response, the representative of the Russian Federation requested “for reasons of transparency” the participation of the “heads of the central electoral commissions of the Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics”.<sup>323</sup> Immediately thereafter, the Council held a procedural vote on the proposal to extend the invitation under rule 39. The proposal was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes.<sup>324</sup> At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on the situation in Ukraine, including the increase in violations of the ceasefire by the parties to the Minsk agreements, the humanitarian situation and the impact of the conflict on civilians.

Against the backdrop of heightened tensions, on 26 November, the Council met to address the security incident that had occurred the previous day near Crimea involving a confrontation between Ukrainian

<sup>314</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>315</sup> S/PV.8270 and S/PV.8386.

<sup>316</sup> Ibid.

<sup>317</sup> S/PV.8270, S/PV.8386 and S/PV.8410.

<sup>318</sup> S/PV.8270.

<sup>319</sup> Ibid.

<sup>320</sup> France, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. See S/PV.8386, p. 2.

<sup>321</sup> For more information on the agenda, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>322</sup> S/PV.8386, p. 2.

<sup>323</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>324</sup> For more information on participation, see part II, sect. VII. For more information on decision-making by voting, see part II, sect. VIII.

and Russian vessels when the former attempted to enter the Sea of Azov through the Kerch Strait. The meeting was held further to a meeting held under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”.<sup>325</sup> At the meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the incident and called for the immediate de-escalation of tensions in the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. In the discussion that ensued, Council members expressed concern about the escalation of tensions and called upon the parties to refrain from actions that could aggravate the situation. Many Council members reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The representative of the Russian Federation argued instead that Ukraine had violated the border in a place that had been Russian territory before 2014.<sup>326</sup>

During the review period, the Council issued the first presidential statement in relation to the situation

in Ukraine. In that statement, the Council expressed grave concern about the deterioration of the security situation in eastern Ukraine and its impact on the civilian population, condemned the continuous violations of the ceasefire regime, welcomed the work of United Nations agencies in addressing the humanitarian situation and expressed support for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. The Council also reaffirmed its full support for resolution 2166 (2014) on the downing of flight MH-17 and underlined the need for strict compliance with resolution 2202 (2015) on the implementation of the Minsk agreements.<sup>327</sup>

In 2018, the Council also considered the situation in Ukraine under the item entitled “Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe”.<sup>328</sup>

<sup>325</sup> For more information, see part I, sect. 37.

<sup>326</sup> [S/PV.8410](#), p. 13.

<sup>327</sup> [S/PRST/2018/12](#).

<sup>328</sup> For more information on the briefing, see part I, sect. 32.

**Meetings: Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))**

<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.8270</a> 29 May 2018			Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8276</a> 6 June 2018						<a href="#">S/PRST/2018/12</a>
<a href="#">S/PV.8386</a> 30 October 2018 <sup>c</sup>			Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	14 Council members, <sup>d</sup> all invitees	Procedural vote (rule 39) 1-7-7 <sup>e</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8410</a> 26 November 2018			Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> The Netherlands and Poland (President of the Security Council) were represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>b</sup> The Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine participated in the meeting via videoconference from Minsk. Ukraine was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>c</sup> This meeting was held also under the item entitled “Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/264](#))”.

<sup>d</sup> Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, France, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>e</sup> *For*: Russian Federation; *against*: France, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States; *abstaining*: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait.