

Middle East

23. The situation in the Middle East

During the period under review, the Security Council held 47 open meetings in relation to the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”.³⁴⁰ In 2018, most meetings held under the item took the form of briefings.³⁴¹ In the context of those meetings, the Council considered a variety of topics, principally, the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, the conflict in Yemen, the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Council also met once, in January 2018, to consider the developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the period under review, the Council adopted seven resolutions and issued one presidential statement in connection with the item. The Council, however, failed to adopt four draft resolutions in relation to the situations in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen owing to the negative vote of one or more permanent members of the Council in two cases and the failure to obtain the required number of votes in the other two cases. In addition, the Council held three closed meetings with countries contributing troops and police to UNDOF and UNIFIL.³⁴² More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the tables below.

The meetings in the Council during the period under review in relation to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic focused on three defined aspects: the political process to end the conflict; the proliferation and use of chemical weapons; and the humanitarian situation in the country. With regard to the political process, the Council heard monthly briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, who updated the Council on the efforts aimed at reaching a political agreement and de-escalating the conflict. The Special Envoy gave a briefing to the Council on the

progress of the Geneva consultations, the Astana arrangements and the Congress of the Syrian National Dialogue, held in Sochi, Russian Federation, in January 2018. He also gave a briefing to the Council on other developments concerning the armed conflict in the country and, in particular, the implementation of resolution 2401 (2018) of 24 February 2018, in which the Council had demanded the cessation of hostilities for a 30-day humanitarian pause.³⁴³ Other developments covered were the ceasefire agreement reached in Duma in March 2018 between the military of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and Jaysh al-Islam (Army of Islam), as well as the agreement between the Russian Federation and Turkey of 17 September 2018 to establish a demilitarized zone in Idlib. The Special Envoy also gave a briefing to the Council on the negotiations on and challenges to the formation of the constitutional committee agreed to in the final statement of the Congress of the Syrian National Dialogue.³⁴⁴ According to the statement, a constitutional committee would be formed to draft a constitutional reform as a contribution to the political settlement under the auspices of the United Nations in accordance with resolution 2254 (2015), and would comprise “at the very least” the Government, opposition representatives in the intra-Syrian talks, Syrian experts, civil society, independents, tribal leaders and women.³⁴⁵

With respect to the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Council heard regular briefings by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and her Deputy on the progress in the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013) on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The briefings focused on the process of the destruction of the two remaining chemical weapons production facilities, as well as the work of the fact-finding mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Government and non-State actors. The briefings also addressed the viability of establishing an accountability mechanism

³⁴⁰ The provisional agenda for the 8209th meeting was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes (see [S/PV.8209](#)). For more information on the adoption of the agenda, see part II, sect. II.A.

³⁴¹ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

³⁴² Under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353(2001), annex II, sections A and B”, the Council held two meetings in relation to UNDOF, on 14 June 2018 (see [S/PV.8286](#)) and 11 December 2018 (see [S/PV.8417](#)); and one meeting in relation to UNIFIL, on 9 August 2018 (see [S/PV.8326](#)).

³⁴³ Resolution 2401 (2018), para. 1.

³⁴⁴ Letter dated 14 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2018/121](#)), annex.

³⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

to attribute responsibility for the use of chemical weapons in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic further to the expiration of the mandate of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, in November 2017. In that regard, further to the alleged chemical weapons attack in Duma on 7 April 2018, the Council voted on three separate draft resolutions: one sponsored by 26 Member States,³⁴⁶ and two sponsored by the Russian Federation.³⁴⁷ The draft resolution sponsored by 26 Member States and one of the draft resolutions sponsored by the Russian Federation proposed the establishment of the United Nations Independent Mechanism of Investigation.³⁴⁸ However, by the draft sponsored by 26 Member States, the Council would have requested the Syrian authorities to grant the Mechanism and OPCW personnel “immediate and unfettered” access to any sites, materials and individuals deemed of importance for the purpose of its mandate.³⁴⁹ The draft sponsored by the Russian Federation specified, by contrast, that such access would be “justified based on the assessment of the facts and circumstances known at the time”.³⁵⁰

The Council voted on the draft sponsored by 26 Member States first, and failed to adopt it owing to the negative vote of the Russian Federation, a permanent member of the Council. The representative of the Russian Federation explained that the draft proposed replicated the former Mechanism’s “flawed working methods”.³⁵¹ The representative of China regretted that the draft did not take into consideration some of the concerns of certain Council members regarding the Mechanism’s working methods.³⁵² The first of the two draft resolutions sponsored by the Russian Federation was then voted on; the Council failed to adopt it, owing to it not having received the required number of votes. Subsequently, the second draft resolution sponsored by the Russian Federation was voted on, by which the Council would have expressed its support for the fact-finding mission. However, the draft resolution contained no provisions on the establishment of an investigation mechanism. The Council also failed to adopt the draft resolution, it not having received the required number of votes.³⁵³ The draft resolution was criticized by several Council members for its failure to create a mechanism to ensure

accountability for the attacks³⁵⁴ and for not stressing the need for the independence of the fact-finding mission.³⁵⁵ Moreover, some speakers complained at the lack of sufficient time for negotiation of the draft.³⁵⁶

With respect to the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Council heard regular briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and his Deputy, as well as the Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The briefings focused on the detrimental humanitarian effects on the civilian population of continued military operations, particularly in and around Idlib and eastern Ghutah, including frequent, indiscriminate attacks affecting critical infrastructure and civilian objects, obstructions to humanitarian aid delivery, massive displacements across the country and the prospects of the return of internally displaced persons to areas of origin, including to places formerly controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da’esh). The briefers updated the Council on the United Nations cross-border operations and other humanitarian initiatives, as well as on the implementation of resolution 2401 (2018), in which the Council had demanded all parties to cease hostilities for a durable 30-day humanitarian pause throughout the Syrian Arab Republic.

In 2018, all decisions of the Council relating to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic concerned the humanitarian situation in the country. On 24 February 2018, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2401 (2018), in which it underscored the obligation of all Member States under Article 25 of the Charter to carry out its decisions, and demanded all parties to cease hostilities without delay and engage immediately to ensure the full and comprehensive implementation of the demand for a durable humanitarian pause for at least 30 consecutive days throughout the Syrian Arab Republic. The Council also demanded that the parties engage immediately to enable the “safe, unimpeded and sustained” delivery of humanitarian aid and services and medical evacuations of the critically sick and wounded, in accordance with applicable international law.³⁵⁷ The Council affirmed that the cessation of hostilities did not apply to military operations against ISIL (Da’esh), Al-Qaida and Nusrah

³⁴⁶ S/2018/321.

³⁴⁷ S/2018/175 and S/2018/322.

³⁴⁸ S/2018/321, para. 7; and S/2018/175, para. 5.

³⁴⁹ S/2018/321, paras. 12–13.

³⁵⁰ S/2018/175, para. 9.

³⁵¹ S/PV.8228, p. 4.

³⁵² Ibid., p. 6.

³⁵³ Ibid., p. 14.

³⁵⁴ Ibid., pp. 14–15 (United Kingdom), p. 15 (Sweden), p. 17 (Kuwait), p. 18 (France) and pp. 18–19 (Peru).

³⁵⁵ Ibid., p. 18 (Netherlands).

³⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 15 (Equatorial Guinea), p. 16 (United States) and p. 18 (Netherlands).

³⁵⁷ Resolution 2401 (2018), para. 1.

Front, and all other associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as designated by the Council.³⁵⁸ The Council also reiterated its demand that all parties immediately comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law.³⁵⁹ On 13 December 2018, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2449 \(2018\)](#), in which it renewed the 12-month authorization first granted in resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#) for cross-border humanitarian access to the Syrian Arab Republic and the associated monitoring mechanism until 10 January 2020.³⁶⁰ The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and some of the developments concerning the use of chemical weapons were also addressed under other items, namely, “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question” and “Threats to international peace and security”.³⁶¹

In relation to the conflict in Yemen, the Council continued to focus on three distinct areas: the political process to find a solution to the conflict; the humanitarian situation in the country; and the sanctions measures in place against individuals and entities designated as engaging in or providing support for acts threatening the peace, security or stability of Yemen.

Regarding the political process, the Council heard briefings on the political developments by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, in particular the continued fighting between the Government of Yemen and Ansar Allah and the efforts of the Special Envoy to relaunch the peace process. In that regard, in his briefing to the Council on 2 August 2018, the Special Envoy expressed the intention to bring the parties together to Geneva on 6 September 2018 for a first round of consultations.³⁶² After the Houthis had failed to arrive at the scheduled talks, the Special Envoy announced to the Council, on 11 September 2018, that he would continue his consultations with the parties on confidence-building measures, including the reopening of Sana’a airport and the exchange of prisoners, throughout the following weeks during his visits to Sana’a, Riyadh and Muscat.³⁶³ On 14 December 2018, the Special Envoy gave a briefing to the Council on the consultations between the parties held in Stockholm, which had resulted in the signing, on 13 December 2018, of the Stockholm Agreement, circulated to the

Council by the Secretary-General in a letter dated 20 December 2018.³⁶⁴ According to the Stockholm Agreement, the parties had reached an agreement on the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra’s Isa, an executive mechanism on activating the prisoner exchange agreement, and a statement of understanding on Ta’izz.

Regarding the humanitarian situation, the Council continued to hear briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The briefings focused on the adverse consequences of the conflict on the country’s economy and its civilian population, including severe malnutrition and the increasing risk of famine caused by the obstruction of humanitarian deliveries at the ports of entry to the country and restrictions placed by the Government on imports of essential commodities, consequences which were further exacerbated by the spread of cholera and diphtheria. In that regard, the briefers often called upon the parties to open the humanitarian corridors to allow the delivery of food, fuel and medicine, and called upon Member States and other donors to increase humanitarian donations and inject foreign capital into the Yemeni economy.

With regard to the sanctions measures imposed in connection with the conflict in Yemen, on 26 January 2018, during its 8190th meeting, the Council voted on two draft resolutions: one sponsored by the United Kingdom³⁶⁵ and one sponsored by the Russian Federation.³⁶⁶ At the outset of the meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom expressed concern over the alleged use of arms of Iranian origin in Yemen in violation of resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#) and explained that the text of the draft resolution submitted by his delegation provided a balanced and impartial assessment of the situation in Yemen but did not “shy away” from calling out those whose actions undermined international peace and security.³⁶⁷ While expressing support for the majority of its provisions, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that he could not concur with the “unconfirmed conclusions” of the Panel of Experts on Yemen included in the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom.³⁶⁸ The two draft resolutions were voted on

³⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 2.

³⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 7.

³⁶⁰ Resolution [2449 \(2018\)](#), para. 3.

³⁶¹ For more information, see part I, sects. 24 and 36.

³⁶² [S/PV.8323](#), p. 2.

³⁶³ [S/PV.8348](#), p. 3.

³⁶⁴ [S/2018/1134](#).

³⁶⁵ [S/2018/156](#).

³⁶⁶ [S/2018/157](#).

³⁶⁷ [S/PV.8190](#), p. 3.

³⁶⁸ *Ibid.* See also [S/2018/156](#), ninth and tenth preambular paragraphs.

in sequence. The Council voted on the draft resolution sponsored by the United Kingdom first and failed to adopt it owing to the negative vote of the Russian Federation, a permanent member of the Council. The draft resolution sponsored by the Russian Federation was adopted unanimously as resolution [2402 \(2018\)](#). Following the vote, the representative of China noted that there remained “significant differences” among Council members on some elements of the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom and that it was necessary for the Council members to negotiate and meet each other halfway in order to give full play to the sanctions mechanism.³⁶⁹ The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia expressed similar reservations, regretting that some concerns expressed had not been taken into account by the delegation of the United Kingdom.³⁷⁰

By resolution [2402 \(2018\)](#), the Council renewed the sanctions measures imposed pursuant to resolutions [2140 \(2014\)](#) and [2216 \(2015\)](#), namely, an asset freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo.³⁷¹ The Council also extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 28 March 2019.³⁷² In addition to resolution [2402 \(2018\)](#), the decisions of the Council in 2018 relating to the conflict in Yemen also addressed the humanitarian situation in the country and the ceasefire agreed to under the Stockholm Agreement. On 15 March, the Council issued a presidential statement in which it expressed its grave concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen, including the outbreaks of cholera and diphtheria and the threat of famine, as well as the high levels of violence, in particular the indiscriminate attacks resulting in civilian casualties.³⁷³ The Council condemned the ballistic missile attacks by the Houthis against Saudi Arabia, called upon the parties to allow access for humanitarian aid to the affected areas and stressed the need for humanitarian aid to be gender- and age-sensitive.³⁷⁴ The Council also called upon all Member States to fully implement the arms embargo as required by the relevant resolutions.³⁷⁵ On 21 December 2018, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2451 \(2018\)](#), in which it endorsed the Stockholm Agreement

and authorized the Secretary-General to establish an advance team for an initial period of 30 days to support and facilitate its immediate implementation, including the request for the United Nations to chair the Redeployment Coordination Committee.³⁷⁶ The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals on how the United Nations would fully support the Stockholm Agreement and to report to the Council on progress regarding the implementation of the resolution on a weekly basis.³⁷⁷

During the period under review, the mandate of UNDOF was renewed twice for periods of six months each, by resolutions [2426 \(2018\)](#) and [2450 \(2018\)](#), until 31 December 2018 and 30 June 2019, respectively.³⁷⁸ The mandate of UNDOF remained unchanged throughout the reporting period.³⁷⁹ By resolution [2450 \(2018\)](#), the Council took note of the independent review and encouraged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNDOF and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization to continue relevant discussions on the recommendations resulting therefrom to improve mission performance and the implementation of the UNDOF mandate.³⁸⁰ The situation in the area of operations of UNDOF was also addressed under the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”.³⁸¹

In connection with Lebanon, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2433 \(2018\)](#), in which it extended the mandate of UNIFIL for a period of one year, until 31 August 2019.³⁸² In the resolution, the Council called for the Government of Lebanon to develop a plan to increase its naval capabilities, with the goal of ultimately decreasing the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force and transitioning its responsibilities to the Lebanese Armed Forces, and encouraged the deployment by the Government of a model regiment and an offshore patrol vessel in the UNIFIL area of operations.³⁸³ The Council welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardize a culture of performance in peacekeeping, and called upon him to continue his efforts to develop an integrated performance policy framework and apply it to UNIFIL.³⁸⁴ The Council requested the Secretary-General and the troop-contributing countries to seek to

³⁶⁹ [S/PV.8190](#), p. 6.

³⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

³⁷¹ Resolution [2402 \(2018\)](#), para. 2. For more information, see part VII, sect. III, “Measures not involving the use of armed force in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter”.

³⁷² Resolution [2402 \(2018\)](#), para. 5. For more information, see part IX, sect. I, “Committees”.

³⁷³ [S/PRST/2018/5](#), second and third paragraphs.

³⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, third, fourth and sixth paragraphs.

³⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, tenth paragraph.

³⁷⁶ Resolution [2451 \(2018\)](#), paras. 2 and 5.

³⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, paras. 6 and 7.

³⁷⁸ Resolutions [2426 \(2018\)](#), para. 12; and [2450 \(2018\)](#), para. 13.

³⁷⁹ For more information, see part X, sect. I.

³⁸⁰ Resolution [2450 \(2018\)](#), para. 10.

³⁸¹ For more information, see part I, sect. 24.

³⁸² Resolution [2433 \(2018\)](#), para. 1.

³⁸³ *Ibid.*, paras. 7 and 8.

³⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 23.

increase the number of women in UNIFIL and to ensure their meaningful participation in all aspects of operations, and more broadly requested UNIFIL to take fully into account gender considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate.³⁸⁵ The situation in Lebanon was also addressed under the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”.³⁸⁶

On 5 January 2018, the Council met under this item to discuss the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, during which the Assistant-Secretary General for Political Affairs delivered a briefing on the

anti-government protests which had taken place in late December 2017 and early January 2018. During the meeting, some Council members expressed various reservations about the holding of the meeting.³⁸⁷

For the purposes of facilitating the coverage of this item, the meetings are set out below under five separate headings, namely, (a) Syrian Arab Republic; (b) Yemen; (c) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force; (d) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon; and (e) other.

³⁸⁵ Ibid., paras. 23 and 24. For more information, see part X, sect. I.

³⁸⁶ For more information, see part I, sect. 24.

³⁸⁷ S/PV.8152, p. 4 (France), p. 5 (Plurinational State of Bolivia), p. 8 (Sweden), p. 11 (Ethiopia) and p. 12 (Russian Federation). For more information on the discussion, see part VII, sect. I.B, case 5.

Meetings: the situation in the Middle East – Syrian Arab Republic

<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.8164 23 January 2018					14 Council members ^a	
S/PV.8171 30 January 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (S/2018/60)			Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	Seven Council members, ^b invitee	
S/PV.8174 5 February 2018	Letter dated 1 February 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/84)		Syrian Arab Republic	High Representative for Disarmament Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8181 14 February 2018			Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	Seven Council members, ^c all invitees	

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2018

<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.8186 22 February 2018			Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, ^d all invitees ^e	
S/PV.8188 24 February 2018		Draft resolution submitted by 10 Member States ^f (S/2018/146)	Syrian Arab Republic		All Council members, invitee	Resolution 2401 (2018) 5-0-0
S/PV.8195 28 February 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) , 2165 (2014) , 2191 (2014) , 2258 (2015) , 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (S/2018/138)		Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8201 12 March 2018			Syrian Arab Republic	Secretary-General	14 Council members, ^g all invitees	
S/PV.8206 16 March 2018			Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	Five Council members (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan, Peru), all invitees ^h	
S/PV.8209 19 March 2018 (agenda not adopted)					Four Council members (China, France, Russian Federation, United States)	Procedural vote (rule 9) 8-4-3 ⁱ
S/PV.8217 27 March 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation		Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and	All Council members, ^j all invitees ^e	

**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>
	of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) , 2165 (2014) , 2191 (2014) , 2258 (2015) , 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (S/2018/243)			Emergency Relief Coordinator		
S/PV.8221 4 April 2018	Letter dated 28 March 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/283)		Syrian Arab Republic	Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8228 10 April 2018		Draft resolution submitted by Russian Federation (S/2018/175); Draft resolution submitted by 26 Member States (S/2018/321); ^k Draft resolution submitted by Russian Federation (S/2018/322)	Canada, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey		All Council members, Syrian Arab Republic	Draft resolution S/2018/175 not adopted 6-7-2 ^l Draft resolution S/2018/321 not adopted 12-2-1 ^m Draft resolution S/2018/322 not adopted 5-4-6 ⁿ
S/PV.8236 17 April 2018			Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8242 25 April 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) ,			Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	Assistant Secretary-General	

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2018

<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>
	2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/369)					
S/PV.8260 16 May 2018			Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	Six Council members, ^o all invitees ^p	
S/PV.8269 29 May 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/484)			Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	Under-Secretary-General	
S/PV.8296 27 June 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of United Nations cross-border operations (S/2018/617) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/619)		Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	All Council members, all invitees ^p	
S/PV.8320 27 July 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation		Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and	All Council members, all invitees	

**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>
	of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/724)			Emergency Relief Coordinator, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict		
S/PV.8332 28 August 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/777)		Syrian Arab Republic	Director of Operations and Advocacy of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8344 6 September 2018	Letter dated 28 August 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/804)		Syrian Arab Republic	High Representative for Disarmament Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8345 7 September 2018			Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Director of Operations and Advocacy of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	All Council members, ^q all invitees ^p	
S/PV.8347 11 September 2018			Iran (Islamic Republic of), Turkey		All Council members, all invitees	

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2018

<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.8355 18 September 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) , 2165 (2014) , 2191 (2014) , 2258 (2015) , 2332 (2016) , 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/845)		Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	14 Council members, ^r all invitees	
S/PV.8373 17 October 2018			Seven Member States ^s	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8383 26 October 2018			Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	All Council members, all invitees ^t	
S/PV.8384 29 October 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) , 2165 (2014) , 2191 (2014) , 2258 (2015) , 2332 (2016) , 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/947)		Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8390 5 November 2018	Letter dated 29 October 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/971)		Syrian Arab Republic	High Representative for Disarmament Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8406 19 November 2018			Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria ^p	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8411 29 November 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the			Director of Operations and Advocacy of the	Three Council members	

**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>
	implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/1041)			Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	(Kuwait, Russian Federation, United States), invitee	
S/PV.8423 13 December 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/1104)	Draft resolution submitted by Kuwait and Sweden (S/2018/1110)	Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	Resolution 2449 (2018) 13-0-2
S/PV.8434 20 December 2018			Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	All Council members, all invitees	

^a The representative of Ethiopia did not make a statement.

^b Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Equatorial Guinea, France, Netherlands, Peru, United Kingdom and United States.

^c Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Peru, Russian Federation and United States.

^d Kuwait (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^e The Under-Secretary-General participated in the meeting via videoconference from Geneva.

^f Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

^g The representative of Sweden did not make a statement. The representative of Kuwait spoke also on behalf of Sweden.

^h The Special Envoy participated in the meeting via videoconference from Brussels.

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

^j The Netherlands (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Kuwait spoke also on behalf of Sweden.

^k Albania, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

^l *For*: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation; *against*: France, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States; *abstaining*: Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait.

^m *For*: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Russian Federation; *abstaining*: China.

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

^o Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2018

^p The Special Envoy participated in the meeting via videoconference from Geneva.

^q Kuwait was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, who spoke also on behalf of Sweden.

^r The United States (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Secretary of State's Special Representative for Syria Engagement. The representative of Kuwait did not make a statement. The representative of Sweden spoke also on behalf of Kuwait.

^s Egypt, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey.

^t The Special Envoy participated in the meeting via videoconference from Beirut.

Meetings: the situation in the Middle East – Yemen

<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.8190 26 February 2018	Letter dated 26 January 2018 from the Panel of Experts on Yemen mandated by Security Council resolution 2342 (2017) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/68)	Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom (S/2018/156) Draft resolution submitted by Russian Federation (S/2018/157)			10 Council members ^a	Draft resolution S/2018/156 not adopted 11-2-2 ^b Resolution 2402 (2018) 15-0-0
S/PV.8191 27 February 2018			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8205 15 March 2018						S/PRST/2018/5
S/PV.8235 17 April 2018			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8323 2 August 2018			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	

**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.8348 11 September 2018			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen	All Council members, all invitees ^c	
S/PV.8361 21 September 2018			Yemen	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8379 23 October 2018			Yemen	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8404 16 November 2018			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Founder and Director of the Peace Track Initiative	All Council members, all invitees ^d	
S/PV.8424 14 December 2018			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees ^c	
S/PV.8439 21 December 2018		Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom (S/2018/1147)	Yemen		12 Council members, ^e invitee	Resolution 2451 (2018) 15-0-0

^a Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, France, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

^b *For*: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Russian Federation; *abstaining*: China, Kazakhstan.

^c The Special Envoy participated in the meeting via videoconference from Amman.

^d The Executive Director participated in the meeting via videoconference from Ottawa.

^e Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Ethiopia, France, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

Meetings: the situation in the Middle East – United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

<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.8303 29 June 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 23 February to 23 May 2018 (S/2018/550)	Draft resolution submitted by Russian Federation and United States (S/2018/647)				Resolution 2426 (2018) 15-0-0
S/PV.8436 21 December 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (S/2018/1088)	Draft resolution submitted by Russian Federation and United States (S/2018/1143)				Resolution 2450 (2018) 15-0-0

Meetings: the situation in the Middle East – United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#)

<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.8338 30 August 2018	Letter dated 30 July 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/750)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2018/796)	Israel, Lebanon		Five Council members (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States)	Resolution 2433 (2018) 15-0-0
S/PV.8432 19 December 2018			Israel, Lebanon	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations	All Council members, all invitees	

Meetings: the situation in the Middle East – Other

<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.8152 5 January 2018			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	

24. The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

During the period under review, the Security Council held 15 meetings in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. The Council continued to hear monthly briefings and hold quarterly open debates to consider this item.³⁸⁸ In addition, the Council held two unscheduled briefings and failed to adopt two competing draft resolutions in connection with the situation in the Gaza Strip. Under this item, the Council also considered developments in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen and the overall political situation in the Middle East.³⁸⁹ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During 2018, the Council heard briefings in most meetings held under this item by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General. The Council also heard briefings, on occasion, by the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs. In the context of the monthly briefings, the Special Coordinator reported on the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip, the developments in the West Bank with regard to settlement activities and violence, the situation in the Golan Heights, the regional dynamics and the status of the peace process. During those briefings, concerns were also raised over the funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. On 20 February 2018, in the context of a monthly briefing to the Council under this item, the President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, was invited to participate (the representative of Israel was also invited to participate).³⁹⁰ At that meeting, Mr. Abbas called for an international conference to form a multilateral mechanism in support of the parties to negotiate all permanent status issues as defined by the Oslo Accords, within a specific time frame and to secure full United Nations membership for the State of Palestine and mutual recognition of

Palestinian and Israeli statehood along the 1967 lines.³⁹¹

Every three months, briefings were also used to report on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016). During those briefings, which took place in March, June, September and December, the Special Coordinator reported on the Israeli settlement activities, on the violence against civilians, including acts of terror, incitement, provocation and inflammatory rhetoric, on the steps and efforts to advance the peace process and on the actions taken by all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967. On 14 May 2018, 10 Council members addressed a letter to the Secretary-General in which they noted the practice of presenting oral reports on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016) and requested the Secretary-General to circulate a written report thereon.³⁹² On 18 June 2018, the Secretary-General presented the sixth quarterly report on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016) in written form.³⁹³ No other written report was presented during the period under review. On 21 December 2018, 10 Council members and 3 incoming members addressed a letter to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council with reference to the letter sent on 14 May concerning the lack of implementation of resolution 2334 (2016).³⁹⁴ In the letter, the signatories reaffirmed their conviction that written reports would contribute to furthering the implementation of the resolution. They also expressed their expectation of receiving written reports at least every second reporting occasion, and once again requested the Secretary-General to circulate a written report on the implementation of the resolution to the Council prior to its meetings designated for the follow-up to resolution 2334 (2016).

Concerning the situation in the Gaza Strip and in response to the rise in violence in March and May 2018, the Council held additional meetings, in the context of which Council members heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, on 30 March, and by the Special Coordinator, on 15 May. At the meeting of 30 March, the Assistant Secretary-General reported to the Council that about 30,000 people had participated in the so-called Great March of

³⁸⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

³⁸⁹ For more information, see part I, sect. 23, “The situation in the Middle East”.

³⁹⁰ For more information on participation, see part II, sect. VII.

³⁹¹ S/PV.8183, pp. 8–9.

³⁹² S/2018/454.

³⁹³ S/2018/614.

³⁹⁴ S/2018/1150.