

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>	
Participation of women in the security sector and in security sector reform			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2405 (2018)	19, 21
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2448 (2018)	40 (b) (iv)
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2409 (2018)	37 (ii) (b)
	Peace consolidation in West Africa	S/PRST/2018/3	Twelfth

31. Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings under the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts” and issued one presidential statement. Three of the meetings took the form of briefings and one was convened for the adoption of a decision.⁵⁰⁶ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

The Council’s deliberations during 2018 continued to focus on topics addressed in previous years, such as the sanctions measures against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da’esh) and Al-Qaida, the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and the countering of the threat of terrorism through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and international cooperation. The discussions also focused on the response to extremist propaganda and the underlying conditions causing young men and women to be lured into violent extremism, the implementation of resolution [2341 \(2017\)](#), on the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks, and the establishment of an investigative mechanism to document crimes committed by ISIL (Da’esh) in Iraq.⁵⁰⁷

The Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism gave briefings to the Council twice, on 8 February and 23 August 2018. During his first briefing, he noted that the fight against ISIL (Da’esh)

was entering a new phase and that the report of the Secretary-General showed that the group and its affiliates continued to pose a significant and evolving threat around the world. As explained in the report, ISIL (Da’esh) was no longer focused on conquering and holding territory; instead, it had been forced to adapt and focus primarily on smaller and more motivated groups of individuals who remained committed to inspiring, enabling and carrying out attacks. In addition, returning foreign terrorist fighters, and those who had relocated to other regions, continued to present a considerable threat to international security. While the structure of the global propaganda machinery of ISIL (Da’esh) continued to deteriorate, members and sympathizers of the group were still able to use social media and encrypted technology and communications tools to communicate and coordinate and facilitate attacks. He noted that the ability of ISIL (Da’esh) to generate revenue had been considerably weakened, largely owing to its loss of control of oil and gas fields in the Syrian Arab Republic; its revenues had fallen by more than 90 per cent since 2015.⁵⁰⁸

In his second briefing, the Under-Secretary-General reiterated that ISIL (Da’esh) remained a serious and significant concern and that its evolution from a proto-State structure into a covert network brought new challenges. The Under-Secretary-General highlighted how the United Nations system was strengthening the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of its counter-terrorism efforts in support of Member States. He also reported on his visit to Afghanistan on 14 and 15 August 2018, during which he had held high-level consultations with the President, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and other Cabinet members and senior officials of the Government of

⁵⁰⁶ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁵⁰⁷ For more information on the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, see part I, sect. 36, “Threats to international peace and security”, part VI, sect. II, “Investigation of disputes and fact-finding”, and part IX, sect. III, “Investigative bodies”.

⁵⁰⁸ [S/PV.8178](#), p. 2.

Afghanistan responsible for countering terrorism.⁵⁰⁹ Also at the meeting on 23 August 2018, the Council heard briefings from the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and from a Senior Research Fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence.

In her briefing, the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate highlighted three key challenges associated with the issue of returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, namely: the difficulties in conducting comprehensive risk assessments and prosecutions of foreign terrorist fighter returnees, as requested in resolution 2396 (2017); the new demands posed by the imprisonment of returned foreign terrorist fighters, including the potential for in-prison radicalization; and the risks posed by the release of imprisoned foreign terrorist fighters and their potential to re-engage in terrorist activities.⁵¹⁰ The representative of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence presented research on the strategic, tactical and operational engagement of women and minors by ISIL (Da'esh), an issue which she stressed required immediate and urgent attention.⁵¹¹

The Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism briefed the Council once, on 13 February 2018, to provide an update on the implementation of resolution 2341 (2017), relating to the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks.⁵¹² The Chair encouraged Member States to develop national strategies for reducing risks and to incorporate those strategies into their national counter-terrorism plans. He stressed the importance of Governments and the private sector sharing information on threats, vulnerability and measures to mitigate risks. He also stressed the importance of including other relevant Council resolutions, such as resolution 2309 (2016), on

civil aviation, and resolution 2322 (2016), on international judicial cooperation, in work to protect critical infrastructure.⁵¹³

On 21 December 2018, the Council issued a presidential statement noting that it had reviewed the implementation of the sanctions measures concerning ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida, as described in paragraph 1 of resolution 2368 (2017), in accordance with paragraph 104 of resolution 2368 (2017), and that no further adjustments to the measures were necessary at that time.⁵¹⁴ Also in the presidential statement, the Council noted that it would continue to evaluate the implementation of such measures and make adjustments, as necessary.⁵¹⁵

At the meeting held on 21 December 2018, the representative of Sweden, speaking also on behalf of France, Kuwait, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, welcomed the adoption of the presidential statement. He reiterated their strong support for the mandate of the Ombudsperson to the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and welcomed the continued discussions on how to ensure respect for due process standards across sanctions regimes.⁵¹⁶ He also encouraged the Council to consider, during further evaluation of the implementation of the measures, the proposals put forward by the Group of Like-Minded States on Targeted Sanctions in its letter dated 7 December 2018 to the President of the Council.⁵¹⁷

⁵¹³ *Ibid.*, pp. 2–3.

⁵¹⁴ S/PRST/2018/21.

⁵¹⁵ For more information, see part VII, sect. III, “Measures not involving the use of armed force in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter”.

⁵¹⁶ S/PV.8437, p. 2.

⁵¹⁷ S/2018/1094. For more information on the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as well as the Ombudsperson, see part IX, sect. I.B “Committees established under Chapter VII of the Charter”.

⁵⁰⁹ S/PV.8330, pp. 2–4.

⁵¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

⁵¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

⁵¹² S/PV.8180, p. 2.

Meetings: threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

<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.8178 8 February 2018	Sixth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2018/80)			Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism	All Council members, Under-Secretary-General	
S/PV.8180 13 February 2018					All Council members ^a	
S/PV.8330 23 August 2018	Seventh report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2018/770)			Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Senior Research Fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence	All Council members, ^b all invitees	
S/PV.8437 21 December 2018					One Council member (Sweden)	S/PRST/2018/21

^a The representative of Peru spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism.

^b The United Kingdom was represented by its Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

32. Briefings

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings, in the form of briefings, that were not explicitly connected to any specific item before it. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the tables below.

In 2018, two of the meetings were held under the item “Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council”. On 3 October 2018, the Council held a joint briefing of the three committees related to counter-terrorism, namely, the Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#)

concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The briefing covered the work of the three committees, including their ongoing cooperation and that of their groups of experts in detecting and countering the spread of terrorism, in particular the evolving threat to international peace and security posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), Al-Qaida and affiliates, stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters,