

**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>
<a href="#">S/PV.8301</a> 29 June 2018	Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its eleventh session ( <a href="#">S/2018/83</a> )			Romania (Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission), Republic of Korea (former Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission)	One Council member (Equatorial Guinea), <sup>b</sup> all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8413</a> 5 December 2018	Post-conflict reconstruction and peace, security and stability  Letter dated 28 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2018/1063</a> )		Burkina Faso, Japan, Rwanda and Senegal	Chairperson of the African Union Commission	Secretary-General, all Council members, <sup>c</sup> all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8430</a> 18 December 2018					One Council member (Sweden)	<a href="#">S/PRST/2018/20</a>

<sup>a</sup> Côte d'Ivoire, Peru and Sweden were represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs; and the Netherlands was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>b</sup> Equatorial Guinea spoke also on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia.

<sup>c</sup> Côte d'Ivoire was represented by its President; Equatorial Guinea was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; and the Netherlands was represented by its Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.

<sup>d</sup> Burkina Faso was represented by its Minister for African Integration and Burkinabés Abroad.

## 36. Threats to international peace and security

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings and issued one presidential statement in connection with the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security". Five of the meetings took the form of briefings and one was convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>575</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2018, under this item, the Council addressed issues related to the link between counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime and the mandate of the

United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, established pursuant to resolution [2379 \(2017\)](#), and the commencement of its work. Departing from previous practice, the Council also specifically considered conflict-specific and regional issues, namely the situation in the Middle East region, focusing on the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Palestinian question. With respect to the Syrian Arab Republic, discussions focused on the reports of a chemical weapons attack in Duma on 7 April 2018 and the bombing of Syrian military targets by the United States, France and the United Kingdom on 13 April 2018, as well as the work of the fact-finding mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab

<sup>575</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

Republic and how the Council should ensure accountability in that context. On the Palestinian question, Council members discussed the escalation of violence between Israel and Gaza in May 2018 and the overall humanitarian conditions in Gaza.

In connection with counter-terrorism, on 8 May 2018, the Council issued a presidential statement in which it recalled its concern about the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, strongly encouraged Member States and regional, subregional and international organizations to enhance cooperation and strategies to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime, to build the capacity to secure their borders against and investigate and prosecute such terrorists and transnational organized criminals working with them, and to continue conducting research to better understand the nature and scope of the links that might exist between terrorists and transnational organized criminals.<sup>576</sup> Also in that statement, the Council called on Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting from the financial proceeds of transnational organized crime and gaining support from transnational organized criminal groups and to prevent the movement of terrorists by effective national border controls.<sup>577</sup> The Council also encouraged the United Nations, as well as regional and subregional organizations, to continue their endeavours in assisting Member States in their capacity-building and in sharing effective practices to prevent and combat terrorism that might benefit from transnational organized crime.<sup>578</sup>

Regarding the work of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, on 4 December 2018, further to his first report submitted to the Council,<sup>579</sup> the Special Adviser and Head of the Investigative Team gave a briefing to the Council on the formal commencement of the Investigative Team's activities, on 20 August 2018, and its deployment to Iraq,

on 29 October 2018.<sup>580</sup> He stated that investigative activities were expected to commence in early 2019 and noted the Team's priorities of, inter alia, standardizing its operating procedures and collecting and analysing evidence gathered by the Iraqi authorities to identify existing gaps. The Special Adviser emphasized the importance of the Investigative Team being established as an independent, objective and trusted source of evidentiary material capable of conducting its work to the highest possible standards in support of the Government of Iraq and other Member States.<sup>581</sup>

Under the new sub-item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the Council heard briefings on two occasions from the Secretary-General and once each from the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and the Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.<sup>582</sup> At the meeting held on 9 April 2018, the Special Envoy gave a briefing to Council members regarding reports of a chemical weapons attack in Duma on 7 April 2018. He noted that a number of States had expressed suspicion that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was responsible for the alleged chemical attack, while others had strongly questioned the credibility of those allegations. The Special Envoy further informed the Council that, hours after the attack, the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic, on one side, and Jaysh Al-Islam, on the other, had reached an agreement encompassing a ceasefire. He urged the two Governments to ensure the protection of civilians and the implementation of resolution 2401 (2018). He called on all sides to ensure respect for international humanitarian and human rights law and emphasized the need for the Council to prevent impunity and any further use of chemical weapons and not to allow an uncontrollable situation to develop in the Syrian Arab Republic.<sup>583</sup> In his briefing, the Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs stated that the Council must unite in the face of the continuing threat of chemical weapons and fulfil its

<sup>576</sup> S/PRST/2018/9, second and third paragraphs. For more information on the work of the Council related to counter-terrorism in 2018, see part I, sect. 31, "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts".

<sup>577</sup> Ibid., tenth and eleventh paragraphs.

<sup>578</sup> Ibid., twelfth paragraph.

<sup>579</sup> S/2018/1031.

<sup>580</sup> 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 VI, sect. II, "Investigation of disputes and fact-finding", and part IX, sect. III, "Investigative bodies". By an exchange of letters dated 9 and 13 February 2018 between the Secretary-General and the President of the Council, the Council approved the terms of reference of the Investigative Team (S/2018/118 and S/2018/119). See also letter dated 15 August 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/773).

<sup>581</sup> S/PV.8412, pp. 2–5.

<sup>582</sup> For more details, see part I, sect. 23, "The situation in the Middle East". See also part III, sect. II.B, "Constitutional discussion relating to Article 2 (4)".

<sup>583</sup> S/PV.8225, pp. 2–4.

responsibilities, including regarding a dedicated mechanism for accountability.<sup>584</sup>

On 13 April, the Secretary-General stated that the situation in the Middle East was in chaos to such an extent that it had become a threat to international peace and security. In that regard, the Secretary-General stated that existing divisions in the region were reflected in a multiplicity of conflicts, several of which were clearly linked to the threat of global terrorism. He mentioned in particular the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the conflicts in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya and Yemen. He stated that the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic represented the most serious threat to international peace and security and expressed his outrage regarding the continued reports of the use of chemical weapons in the country. In that regard, the Secretary-General referred to his letter to the Council dated 11 April 2018,<sup>585</sup> including his appeal to the Council to fulfil its duties and not give up on efforts to agree upon a dedicated, impartial, objective and independent mechanism for attributing responsibility with regard to the use of chemical weapons.<sup>586</sup>

In his briefing on 14 April, the Secretary-General informed Council members about reports of air strikes on three military locations in the Syrian Arab Republic conducted by the United States, France and the United Kingdom on 13 April. He reminded Member States that there was an obligation, particularly when dealing with matters of peace and security, to act consistently with the Charter of the United Nations and with international law in general. The Secretary-General added that there could be no military solution to the crisis.<sup>587</sup> At that same meeting, the Council failed to adopt a draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation owing to the lack of the required number of votes. In the draft resolution, the Council would have condemned the aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic by the United States and its

allies in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. In their statements after the vote, the representatives of Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru and Sweden, explaining their decision to either vote against or abstain in the vote on the draft resolution, noted that the text, in their view, did not provide the necessary elements to address the alleged use of chemical weapons.<sup>588</sup> The representatives of Ethiopia and Kazakhstan called for a constructive approach without further aggravating tensions.<sup>589</sup> The representative of France stated that the results of the vote demonstrated that Council members understood the circumstances of, reasons for and objectives of the military action taken.<sup>590</sup> The representative of China expressed support for the draft resolution on the basis of its principled position against any unilateral military action in violation of the Charter and international law.<sup>591</sup>

Regarding the Palestinian question, on 30 May 2018, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on the escalation of violence with the shelling of Israel from Gaza by the Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad between 28 and 30 May, Israeli retaliatory fire, and the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The Special Coordinator noted the key priorities in addressing the situation, namely preventing a war with potential regional implications, addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of the population, and supporting Egyptian efforts at reconciliation between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.<sup>592</sup>

<sup>584</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

<sup>585</sup> S/2018/333.

<sup>586</sup> S/PV.8231, pp. 2–3. See also part VI, sect. II.

<sup>587</sup> S/PV.8233, pp. 2–3.

<sup>588</sup> S/PV.8233, p. 23 (Sweden), pp. 23–24 (Netherlands), p. 24 (Kuwait) and p. 25 (Peru).

<sup>589</sup> Ibid., p. 23 (Ethiopia and Kazakhstan).

<sup>590</sup> Ibid., p. 23.

<sup>591</sup> Ibid., p. 24.

<sup>592</sup> S/PV.8272, pp. 2–3. For more details, see part I, sect. 24, “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”.

### Meetings: threats to 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.8225 9 April 2018	The situation in the Middle East		Syrian Arab Republic	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, <sup>a</sup> Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs		

## 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>
<a href="#">S/PV.8231</a> 13 April 2018	The situation in the Middle East		Syrian Arab Republic		Secretary-General, all Council members, invitee	
<a href="#">S/PV.8233</a> 14 April 2018	The situation in the Middle East	Draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation ( <a href="#">S/2018/355</a> )	Syrian Arab Republic		Secretary-General, all Council members, invitee	Draft resolution ( <a href="#">S/2018/355</a> ) not adopted 3-8-4 <sup>b</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8247</a> 8 May 2018						<a href="#">S/PRST/2018/9</a>
<a href="#">S/PV.8272</a> 30 May 2018			Israel	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, <sup>c</sup> Permanent Observer of the observer State of Palestine to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8412</a> 4 December 2018	Letter dated 15 November 2018 from the Special Adviser and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2018/1031</a> )		Iraq	Special Adviser and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant	All Council members and invitees	

<sup>a</sup> The Special Envoy joined the meeting via videoconference from Geneva.

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

<sup>c</sup> The Special Coordinator joined the meeting via videoconference from Jerusalem.

## 37. Maintenance of international peace and security

During the period under review, the Security Council held 16 meetings (including 5 high-level meetings)<sup>593</sup> under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”.<sup>594</sup> The Council also adopted two resolutions, one of them under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued two presidential statements. Of the 16 meetings held under the item during the reporting cycle, 6 were briefings to the Council, 4 were open debates, 3 were debates and 3 were held to adopt Council decisions.<sup>595</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During 2018, the Council held meetings under a broad range of sub-items of both a thematic and a regional nature. The thematic sub-items were: (a) purposes and principles of the Charter in the maintenance of international peace and security; (b) youth and peace and security; (c) upholding international law within the context of the maintenance of international peace and security; (d) mine action; (e) understanding and addressing climate-related security risks; (f) mediation and settlement of disputes; (g) corruption and conflict; (h) non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; (i) root causes of conflict: the role of natural resources; and (j) strengthening multilateralism and the role of the United Nations. The region-specific sub-items were: (a) building regional partnership in Afghanistan and Central Asia as a model to link security and development; (b) comprehensive review of the situation in the Middle East and North Africa; and (c) migrant smuggling and human trafficking in Libya (addressed under the sub-item entitled “Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 2380 (2017) (S/2018/807)”).

In 2018, while the Council held meetings on sub-items that had already been considered in the past under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, some of them addressed new themes, such as corruption and conflict, and strengthening multilateralism and the role of the United Nations.<sup>596</sup>

In relation to corruption and conflict, Council members discussed the challenge posed by corruption to maintaining peace and security, noting the impact that corruption had on the socioeconomic development of a country, and stressed the need for good governance.<sup>597</sup> At the meeting, several Council members objected to the consideration of the sub-item, noting that corruption in itself was not a threat to international peace and security, and that other organs were better suited to addressing it.<sup>598</sup> In connection with strengthening multilateralism and the role of the United Nations, Member States reiterated their commitment to multilateralism, with the United Nations at its centre, and highlighted the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and peacekeeping action as paragons of multilateralism.<sup>599</sup>

In 2018, the decisions of the Council addressed some of the themes outlined above. In a presidential statement adopted on 18 January 2018, the Council recognized that development, peace and security, and human rights were interlinked and mutually reinforcing and underlined the importance of putting an emphasis on conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, sharing best practices and formulating forward-looking recommendations and strategies on them in the light of the increasingly transnational nature of the causes of conflict.<sup>600</sup> The Council also commended the Secretary-General for his efforts to enhance the performance of the Secretariat’s peace and security pillar and encouraged him to continue his efforts to, inter alia, ensure better use of conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy tools in cooperation with regional and subregional organizations.<sup>601</sup> In that connection, the Council acknowledged the determined work to strengthen strategic cooperation and coordination among the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations that could play an important role in conflict prevention.<sup>602</sup> The Council also reaffirmed the important role of women in peacebuilding and noted the substantial link between women’s full and meaningful involvement in efforts to prevent, resolve and rebuild from conflict and the

<sup>593</sup> S/PV.8162, S/PV.8185, S/PV.8262, S/PV.8307 and S/PV.8362.

<sup>594</sup> The provisional agenda for the 8409th meeting was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes (see S/PV.8409). For more information on the adoption of the agenda, see part II, sect. II.A.

<sup>595</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>596</sup> For more information on new sub-items, see part II, sect. II.A.

<sup>597</sup> See S/PV.8346.

<sup>598</sup> S/PV.8346, p. 15 (Russian Federation), pp. 16–17 (Plurinational State of Bolivia) and p. 21 (Ethiopia). For more information on the Council’s relations with other organs, see part IV.

<sup>599</sup> See S/PV.8395.

<sup>600</sup> S/PRST/2018/1, sixth and seventh paragraphs.

<sup>601</sup> Ibid., fifteenth and sixteenth paragraphs.

<sup>602</sup> Ibid., seventeenth paragraph.