
Africa

1. The situation concerning Western Sahara

During 2018, the Security Council held two meetings and adopted two resolutions on the situation concerning Western Sahara. The two meetings under this item were convened to adopt the two resolutions.² The Council also met twice with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).³ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

On 27 April, the Council adopted resolution [2414 \(2018\)](#), extending the mandate of MINURSO for six months, until 31 October 2018, with 12 votes in favour and three abstentions. In the resolution, the Council emphasized the need to make progress towards a realistic, practicable and enduring political solution to the question of Western Sahara based on compromise and the importance of aligning the strategic focus of MINURSO and orienting the resources of the United Nations to that end.⁴

As the pen holder of the resolution, the representative of the United States explained that her country had taken a different approach to the extension of the mandate of MINURSO with the goal of sending two messages: that there could be no more “business as usual” with MINURSO and Western Sahara and that it was the time for the Council to lend its full support to the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara. She also explained that the change in the extension of the mandate from one year to six months was due to her country’s desire to see progress in the political process to resolve the conflict.⁵ Council members who had abstained in the voting expressed dissatisfaction with the conduct of the negotiations and with the failure to achieve consensus on the text.⁶ The representative of the Russian Federation cautioned that attempts to accelerate the political process could backfire and added that a review of Mission’s mandate was unacceptable. Furthermore, he opposed efforts to

include human rights monitoring in the mandate.⁷ Other Council members commented on the conduct of the negotiations and the lack of balance in the text of the resolution.⁸

On 31 October 2018, the Council adopted resolution [2440 \(2018\)](#), extending the mandate of MINURSO for six months, until 30 April 2019. While not all members cast the same vote, the result was identical to that of resolution [2414 \(2018\)](#), with 12 votes in favour and three abstentions. In resolution [2440 \(2018\)](#), the Council expressed its full support for the intention of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to relaunch negotiations before the end of 2018. In that regard, the Council noted the invitations to an initial round-table meeting in Geneva on 5 and 6 December 2018 and welcomed the positive responses from Morocco, the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), Algeria and Mauritania.⁹

As the pen holder of the resolution, the representative of the United States again repeated the explanations in favour of the resolution and indicated that his country was encouraged by the progress made in the previous six months.¹⁰ While acknowledging that some of the members of the Council would have preferred a 12-month mandate,¹¹ he argued that the political process required the Council’s close attention and support and that a shorter mandate signalled the Council’s determination to accelerate the political process and move beyond the status quo.¹² The representative of the Russian Federation stated that the Council’s efforts should be based on parameters previously agreed upon, which identified the parties to the conflict in Western Sahara, were based on the principle of a mutually acceptable definitive solution and stipulated the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the framework of procedures consistent with the Charter. In that regard, he regretted that resolution [2440 \(2018\)](#) amplified the ambiguity of

² For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

³ Held on 5 April and 9 October 2018 under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B”; see [S/PV.8222](#) and [S/PV.8367](#).

⁴ Resolution [2414 \(2018\)](#), para. 2.

⁵ [S/PV.8246](#), p. 2.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 3 (Ethiopia), pp. 3–4 (Russian Federation) and p. 6 (China).

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 5 (Sweden) and p. 8 (Plurinational State of Bolivia).

⁹ Resolution [2440 \(2018\)](#), para. 3.

¹⁰ [S/PV.8387](#), p. 2.

¹¹ In his report on the situation concerning Western Sahara, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council extend the mandate of MINURSO for one year ([S/2018/889](#), para. 86).

¹² [S/PV.8387](#), p. 3.

those parameters. He further noted that the process had been once again “neither transparent nor consultative”.¹³ The other members of the Council who had abstained explained that fundamental principles for finding a political solution raised during the negotiations had not been taken into consideration¹⁴ and that the issue of the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara was not sufficiently reflected in the final text.¹⁵

¹³ Ibid., p. 5.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 5 (Ethiopia).

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 8 (Plurinational State of Bolivia).

In both resolutions, the Council requested the Secretary-General to brief the Council on a regular basis and at any time he deemed appropriate.¹⁶ In addition, in resolution 2440 (2018), the Council requested the Secretary-General to brief the Council within three months from the most recent mandate renewal and again prior to its expiration.¹⁷

¹⁶ Resolutions 2414 (2018), para. 14; and 2440 (2018), para. 11.

¹⁷ Resolution 2440 (2018), para. 11.

Meetings: the situation concerning Western Sahara

<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.8246 27 April 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2018/277)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2018/394)			All Council members	Resolution 2414 (2018) 12-0-3 ^a
S/PV.8387 31 October 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2018/889)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2018/970)			14 Council members ^b	Resolution 2440 (2018) 12-0-3 ^c

^a For: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States; against: none; abstaining: China, Ethiopia, Russian Federation.

^b Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

^c For: China, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States; against: none; abstaining: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ethiopia, Russian Federation.

2. The situation in Liberia

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting in connection with the situation in Liberia and issued one presidential statement. The meeting took the form of a briefing.¹⁸ More information on the meeting, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

On 19 April 2018, the Council heard briefings by the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden, on behalf of the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, and the Chief Executive Officer of the

company Liberty and Justice. Against the backdrop of the final report of the Secretary-General and the drawdown and closure of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions focused on the political situation and economic prospects in Liberia, as well as on the impact and legacy of the Mission in the country. On behalf of the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden focused on the future of the country and the need to address the remaining root causes of the conflict and the key structural reforms set out in the peacebuilding plan. The Chief Executive Officer of Liberty and Justice briefed the Council on the role of civil society groups in achieving peace in Liberia and

¹⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.