

principle in the repatriation of refugees. Some members³⁵² added that the Rohingya who remained in Rakhine, including internally displaced persons, should be allowed freedom of movement and basic services. Other Council members³⁵³ encouraged the Government of Myanmar to fully implement the memorandum of understanding, signed on 6 June 2018 with the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to address the humanitarian crisis and to ensure safe, full and unhindered access to Rakhine State for United Nations and other humanitarian actors. Many Council members³⁵⁴ also emphasized that implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, including those on citizenship and equal rights for the Rohingya, was critical in fostering conditions for voluntary repatriation and providing a solution to the crisis.

In a letter dated 22 August 2019 addressed to the President of the Council,³⁵⁵ the Permanent Representative of Myanmar expressed concern regarding

³⁵² Indonesia, France, Belgium, Poland, South Africa and Peru.

³⁵³ Dominican Republic, Belgium, Poland, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, Peru and United States.

³⁵⁴ United Kingdom, Indonesia, France, Dominican Republic, Poland and Russian Federation.

³⁵⁵ [S/2019/676](#).

the Arria-formula meeting announced for the next day, entitled “Mass atrocity crimes in Myanmar: where do we stand on accountability?”, to be co-hosted by Germany, Peru and Kuwait.³⁵⁶ In his letter, the Permanent Representative stated that the title and the purpose of the meeting were grossly misleading and conveyed the erroneous message that “mass atrocity crimes” had actually been committed in Myanmar. Concerning the choice of briefers, he added that it indicated a serious imbalance, as the individuals chosen included those who advocated the “prejudicial and foregone conclusion” that the alleged atrocities had been committed by the Myanmar security forces. On the basis of those and other reasons, the Permanent Representative explained that Myanmar would not participate in the meeting, but would continue its constructive engagement with the members of the Council for the resolution of the complex issue of Rakhine State.

The situation of children in Myanmar was also considered in connection with the item entitled “Children and armed conflict”, pursuant to the conclusions adopted by the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established under Council resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#).³⁵⁷

³⁵⁶ For more information on Arria-formula meetings in 2019, see part II, sect. I.C.

³⁵⁷ See [S/2019/719](#). For more information, see part I, sect. 28.

Meetings: the situation in Myanmar

<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.8477 28 February 2019			Bangladesh, Myanmar	Special Envoy of the Secretary- General on Myanmar	All Council members, all invitees ^a	

^a Bangladesh was represented by its Foreign Secretary.

Europe

19. The situation in Cyprus

During 2019, the Council held two meetings and adopted two resolutions concerning the situation in Cyprus, by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes is given in the table below. The Council also held two private (closed) meetings with countries contributing troops and police

to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).³⁵⁸ In

³⁵⁸ Held on 17 January and 15 July 2019, 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.8447](#) and [S/PV.8574](#).

addition to those meetings, in 2019, the Council held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Cyprus.³⁵⁹

On 30 January 2019, in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,³⁶⁰ the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2453 \(2019\)](#), in which it extended the mandate of UNFICYP for a period of six months, until 31 July 2019.³⁶¹ In the resolution, the Council expressed regret at the lack of progress towards a settlement since the conclusion of the Conference on Cyprus held in 2017 and urged the sides and all involved participants to seize the important opportunity presented by the consultations of the United Nations consultant on a way forward, by engaging actively and constructively in those consultations.³⁶² The Council called upon the sides to explore ways to establish mechanisms and to enhance existing initiatives, with UNFICYP as facilitator through its liaison role, for effectively alleviating tensions and to help address island-wide matters that affected all Cypriots.³⁶³ In that regard, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit, by 15 April 2019, a report on his good offices and on progress towards reaching a consensus starting point for meaningful results-oriented negotiations and, by 10 July 2019, a report on the implementation of the resolution, including on how United Nations activities on Cyprus could be best configured to advance political progress while preserving stability.³⁶⁴ The Council also welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardize a culture of performance in United Nations peacekeeping and called on him to apply a comprehensive and integrated performance policy framework to UNFICYP.³⁶⁵

On 25 July 2019, in connection with the subsequent report of the Secretary-General on the operation in Cyprus,³⁶⁶ the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2483 \(2019\)](#), in which it extended the mandate

of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, until 31 January 2020.³⁶⁷ In the resolution, the Council called for a reduction of tensions in the eastern Mediterranean and called upon the leaders of the two Cypriot communities to refrain from any actions and rhetoric that might damage the chances of success.³⁶⁸ The Council made reference to the meeting held on 26 February between the two leaders and to their agreement with respect to confidence-building measures and to achieving a mine-free Cyprus.³⁶⁹ The Council also expressed serious concern about the increased number of violations of the military status quo along the ceasefire lines and called upon the sides to intensify their efforts to establish a mechanism for direct contacts at the military level and to continue to explore ways to enhance existing initiatives for effectively alleviating tensions.³⁷⁰

After the vote,³⁷¹ the representative of the United States thanked the United Kingdom for its efforts in reaching consensus and for producing a more concise resolution. He expressed disappointment at the lack of progress made in the two years since the Conference on Cyprus and affirmed that the resolution was the unanimous expression of the Council's support for the leaders to take the political risks necessary to engage meaningfully and with a sense of urgency. The representative of the Russian Federation explained that his delegation supported the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP in an unchanged form, adding that the mission played a key role in strengthening stability. He cautioned, however, that the mission should not be used as an instrument to exert political pressure on Cypriots. He noted that the current system of guarantees, with the participation of three foreign States, did not help the Cypriots to arrive at an independent settlement for themselves and affirmed that the most effective way to ensure the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of a united Cyprus would be guarantees from the Security Council. He also urged those who may be tempted to draw Cyprus into "geopolitical games in an attempt to push out traditional players from the eastern Mediterranean" to refrain from doing so.

³⁵⁹ See [S/2019/840](#) and [S/2020/192](#).

³⁶⁰ [S/2019/37](#).

³⁶¹ Resolution [2453 \(2019\)](#), para. 13. For more information regarding the mandate of UNFICYP, see part X, sect. I.

³⁶² Resolution [2453 \(2019\)](#), para. 1.

³⁶³ *Ibid.*, para. 6.

³⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 20.

³⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 18.

³⁶⁶ [S/2019/562](#).

³⁶⁷ Resolution [2483 \(2019\)](#), para. 8.

³⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 2.

³⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 6 and 11.

³⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, paras. 5 and 9.

³⁷¹ [S/PV.8586](#).

Meetings: the situation in Cyprus

<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.8453 30 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2019/37)	Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom (S/2019/89)			Four Council members (China, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States)	Resolution 2453 (2019) 15-0-0
S/PV.8586 25 July 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2019/562)	Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom (S/2019/595)			Two Council members (Russian Federation, United States)	Resolution 2483 (2019) 15-0-0

20. Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia

A. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2019, the Council held two meetings and adopted one resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter in connection with the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council continued the consideration of the item in the context of semi-annual briefings by the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina.³⁷² More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes is given in the table below.

In his briefings to the Council in 2019, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina provided updates on developments in connection with his two reports for the year.³⁷³ At the meeting on 8 May 2019,³⁷⁴ the High Representative reported that seven months after the general elections, the process of building coalitions and appointing governments continued to dominate the political dynamic in Bosnia and Herzegovina and that, while the Republika Srpska and some cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had moved swiftly to form governments, there had been no appointment of a State-level council of Ministers or of a Federation government. He also underlined that the continuation of divisive and destabilizing rhetoric from some of the political

leadership posed a serious challenge to Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite the positive consensus on the need for further integration with the European Union. In that regard, he implored the country's leaders to abandon such rhetoric and to take strides to keep the country moving forward on the path to the European Union. He said that political leaders continued to shirk their obligations with respect to the rule of law, particularly and persistently failing to respect binding decisions of the State judiciary, and that there had been efforts to curb freedom of expression and dissent.

During the discussion that followed the briefing of 8 May, most Council members welcomed the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote national reconciliation and socioeconomic development and its continued engagement in the process of integration with the European Union. Speakers expressed concern about the delays in the formation of the Federation government and of the State Council of Ministers six months after the elections and urged political representatives to engage constructively and to refrain from using divisive rhetoric to create favourable conditions for the reconciliation process. In addition, most members of the Council reiterated their calls on the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take the steps required to implement the "5+2" agenda, necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina. The representative of the Russian Federation said that the report of the High Representative was far from an impartial assessment of the situation in the country and

³⁷² For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

³⁷³ See [S/2019/364](#) and [S/2019/843](#).

³⁷⁴ See [S/PV.8522](#).