

4. The situation in the Great Lakes region

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings on the situation in Great Lakes region, both in the form of briefings.⁵⁷ The Council did not adopt any decisions on this item in 2019. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the briefings under the item were delivered by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, in connection with the two reports of the Secretary-General.⁵⁸ In both briefings to the Council, the Special Envoy focused on the activities of the office in supporting the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, including the facilitation of the voluntary repatriation, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants and security cooperation aimed at neutralizing negative forces.

In 2019, the Secretary-General appointed a new Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region.⁵⁹ On 26 March 2019,⁶⁰ the outgoing Special Envoy delivered his final briefing and emphasized the importance of political will among regional leaders in addressing protracted challenges in security and humanitarian challenges in the Great Lakes region. He also noted his office's close cooperation with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in operationalizing the security and confidence-building mechanisms and developing a regional strategy and action plan for the refugee situation. He explained that, during his tenure, he had focused on key priority areas to support the signatory countries in the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. One of those priorities was the strengthening of regional ownership of the implementation process, which he had sought to achieve by, among other strategies, reinvigorating the Regional Oversight Mechanism. He also made reference to maintaining a regional and international focus on the need to strengthen cooperation with regard to countering negative forces and building confidence among all countries; promoting regional cohesion and international attention with regard to the situations in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of

the Congo; and promoting the participation of women in political and peace processes in the region. In closing, he addressed the issues of encouraging political conversation on ways to transform natural resources into vehicles of shared prosperity and the promotion of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

On 3 October 2019,⁶¹ the Council heard a briefing by the new Special Envoy who, at the outset, noted the significant steps taken in the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, owing in particular to the peaceful transfer of power in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the restated willingness of the region's leaders to jointly face the challenges that hindered its development. During his briefing, he also addressed his office's latest initiatives to support the implementation of the Framework, such as undertaking consultations with the countries concerned on the issue of non-military measures to complement military operations. He also highlighted the importance of implementing cross-border development projects to create employment opportunities for young people and noted that regional cooperation and integration was being revitalized. He added that the office had been supporting the preparation of the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference, to be held in Kigali in March 2020, and called on the Council members to support the initiative.

During their discussions, Council members welcomed recent political developments, in particular in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the continuing efforts of regional leaders to achieve political stability in the Great Lakes region. Council members reaffirmed the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework as the cornerstone mechanism to address regional challenges.⁶² Some Council members expressed concern over the continued violence in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Ebola outbreak, the deteriorating humanitarian situation and the forced displacement of populations.⁶³ Council members also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation through such regional arrangements as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Southern African Development Community and the African Union and

⁵⁷ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁵⁸ [S/2019/229](#) and [S/2019/783](#).

⁵⁹ See [S/2019/67](#) and [S/2019/68](#). For more information on special advisers, envoys and representatives, see part IX, sect. VI.

⁶⁰ See [S/PV.8491](#).

⁶¹ See [S/PV.8630](#).

⁶² See [S/PV.8491](#) (Russian Federation, United States and Poland).

⁶³ See [S/PV.8630](#) (Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Russian Federation and South Africa).

urged further cooperation in addressing protracted problems of armed groups, the humanitarian situation, including Ebola, and socioeconomic development.⁶⁴ With respect to Burundi, at the meeting in March,⁶⁵ the representative of the United Kingdom called on international partners to continue supporting the East African Community in its efforts to end the political crisis in Burundi and preserve the Arusha Peace and

Reconciliation Agreement. He also encouraged all stakeholders to consider whether the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework could play an enhanced role in promoting dialogue in Burundi. At the meeting in October,⁶⁶ the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom expressed concern about the restrictions on freedom of assembly and expression; they also emphasized the importance of good governance, a point that was echoed by Germany.

⁶⁴ See [S/PV.8491](#) (Russian Federation and Kuwait); and [S/PV.8630](#) (China, Indonesia and Russian Federation).

⁶⁵ See [S/PV.8491](#).

⁶⁶ See [S/PV.8630](#).

Meetings: the situation in the Great Lakes region

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8491 26 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2019/229)		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8630 3 October 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2019/783)		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General	All Council members, all invitees	

5. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

During the period under review, the Council held seven meetings and adopted three resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter in relation to the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Three meetings were convened to adopt a decision of

the Council and four took the form of briefings.⁶⁷ The Council also met twice with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of

⁶⁷ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II., sect. I.