

<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>
					Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group	

<sup>a</sup> The Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office participated in the meeting by videoconference from Kyiv.

**B. Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/264)**

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings in connection with the item entitled “Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/264)”.<sup>410</sup> Both meetings took the form of briefings.<sup>411</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

During the two meetings held under this item on 12 February and 16 July 2019, the Council heard briefings by a variety of speakers. At the meeting on 12 February,<sup>412</sup> the Council heard briefings by the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group. In their statements, briefers focused on the overall security situation in eastern Ukraine and the continued challenges to the implementation of the Minsk agreements. They called for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure through, among other things,

the full withdrawal of heavy weapons, the disengagement of forces and the scaling up of humanitarian mine action. They also called for improving the access of humanitarian actors and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission.

These topics were also discussed by Council members. Also at the meeting on 12 February, the representative of the Russian Federation explained that the meeting was being held at the initiative of his delegation in order to discuss the implementation of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements signed four years earlier, on 12 February 2015. Most Council members called for the full implementation of resolution 2202 (2015), by which the Council had endorsed the Package of Measures, and of the presidential statement of 6 June 2018,<sup>413</sup> in which, inter alia, the Council reiterated the importance of implementing the Minsk agreements and called for the United Nations to address the humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine. Council members expressed differing views about the origins of the conflict and the parties responsible for the situation.<sup>414</sup>

On 16 July 2019,<sup>415</sup> the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. The briefings were focused on the law establishing Ukrainian as the sole State language in Ukraine, which entered into force on 16 July 2019, and on the views and recommendations of the relevant office of the United Nations and OSCE. While acknowledging the right of Ukraine to promote its national language, the briefers expressed the need to respect the ethnic and linguistic diversity of the country and called for sufficient legal guarantees for the protection of the linguistic rights of persons belonging to national minorities. At the same

<sup>410</sup> In addition to the two meetings held, the provisional agenda for the 8529th meeting was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes (S/PV.8529). For more information on the adoption of the agenda, see part II, sect. II.A.

<sup>411</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>412</sup> See S/PV.8461.

<sup>413</sup> S/PRST/2018/12.

<sup>414</sup> See S/PV.8461 (Russian Federation, Germany, Poland, United States, France, United Kingdom and Belgium).

<sup>415</sup> See S/PV.8575.

meeting, Council members discussed the country's language law in the context of the ongoing crisis in eastern Ukraine and reiterated the need for the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. In that connection, they called for the continuation of the dialogue between the parties in the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group and progress in terms of prisoner exchanges, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructures and the provision of humanitarian assistance. Some Council members<sup>416</sup> referred to the law enacted in April 2019 by the Russian Federation, to provide expedited Russian

<sup>416</sup> France, United Kingdom and Poland.

citizenship to Ukrainian citizens living in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. Council members<sup>417</sup> also recalled the fifth anniversary of the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17.

In 2019, the Council also considered the situation in Ukraine under the item entitled "Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/136)".<sup>418</sup>

<sup>417</sup> United States, France, United Kingdom, Poland, Belgium and Germany.

<sup>418</sup> See part I, sect. 21.A.

**Meetings: letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/264)**

<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.8461</a> 12 February 2019			Ukraine	Assistant Secretary- General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, Assistant Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in- Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	Procedural vote (rule 9) 5-6-4 <sup>b</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8529</a> 20 May 2019 (agenda not adopted)						

<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.8575 16 July 2019			Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities	All Council members, all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> The Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office participated in the meeting by videoconference from Minsk.

<sup>b</sup> *For*: China, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Russian Federation, South Africa; *against*: Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; *abstaining*: Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru.

## Middle East

### 22. The situation in the Middle East

During the period under review, the Council held 42 public meetings in relation to the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”. Consistent with past practice, in 2019, most meetings held under the item took the form of briefings. In the context of those meetings, the Council considered a variety of topics, principally, the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic; the conflict in Yemen; the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF); and the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Following established practice, the Council also held two private (closed) meetings with countries contributing troops and police to UNDOF and UNIFIL.<sup>419</sup> In addition, in a departure from previous practice, the Council held one private (closed) meeting under the item, on 5 November 2019,<sup>420</sup> to hear briefings by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

In connection with this item, the Council adopted a total of six resolutions and issued two presidential statements. On 16 January 2019, the Council established the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) for an initial period of six months, to oversee the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement;<sup>421</sup> on 15 July 2019, it extended the mandate of UNMHA for a further period of six months.<sup>422</sup> On 26 February 2019, the Council renewed the sanctions measures in relation to the situation in Yemen until 26 February 2020 and extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts for 13 months until 28 March 2020.<sup>423</sup> The Council also renewed the mandate of UNDOF twice, for periods of 6 months each,<sup>424</sup> and extended the mandate of UNIFIL once, for a period of 12 months.<sup>425</sup> The Council failed to adopt four draft resolutions in relation to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. As outlined below, two draft resolutions were not adopted owing to the negative vote of one or more permanent members, and two draft resolutions were not adopted owing to the failure to obtain the required number of votes.

<sup>419</sup> Held under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B”. For UNDOF, see S/PV.8544 (11 June 2019); for UNIFIL see S/PV.8594 (8 August 2019).

<sup>420</sup> See S/PV.8659.

<sup>421</sup> Resolution 2452 (2019), para. 1.

<sup>422</sup> Resolution 2481 (2019), para. 1.

<sup>423</sup> Resolution 2456 (2019), paras. 2 and 5.

<sup>424</sup> Resolutions 2477 (2019), para. 13, and 2503 (2019), para. 14.

<sup>425</sup> Resolution 2485 (2019), para. 1.