

On 19 February 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement, in which it recalled its resolution 2107 (2013) on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and all its previous resolutions and presidential statements addressing the issues of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and the return of Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.⁴⁸⁰ The Council commended the United Nations Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) and its senior leadership for their ongoing efforts in implementing resolution 2107 (2013) and for their efforts to resolve outstanding issues related to Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and to the return of Kuwaiti property.⁴⁸¹ The Council welcomed the strong bilateral relations between Iraq and Kuwait, commended the Government of Kuwait for its continued support for Iraq in its efforts to achieve stability and welcomed efforts by Iraq to fulfil all remaining obligations in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions.⁴⁸² It also welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the two countries in the search of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and encouraged the international community to provide to Iraqi authorities the advanced and innovative technical equipment necessary to assist in identifying burial locations in accordance with best practices.⁴⁸³ While expressing strong support for the perseverance of the members of the tripartite mechanism and its Chair, the International Committee of the Red Cross, in their efforts to locate the remains of the missing persons, the Council noted with regret that there remained 369 cases of missing Kuwaiti and third-

country nationals still unresolved and that no human remains had been exhumed since 2004.⁴⁸⁴

At the meeting,⁴⁸⁵ following the reading of the statement, the representative of Kuwait said that the adoption of the presidential statement came as an assurance that the issues of detainees, missing nationals and the repatriation of property were pending and remaining commitments under relevant Council resolutions. While acknowledging that those issues had nothing to do with international peace and security, he asserted that they were humanitarian issues in nature and were reminders of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in 1990. Kuwait noted that, in its statement, the Council stressed that those issues, namely, the detainees, the missing nationals and the Kuwaiti property, were at the heart of the mandate of UNAMI, pursuant to resolution 2107 (2013). He added that the presidential statement sent an important message to Iraq, namely, that the Council appreciated and valued the efforts made by that country's Government to search for detainees and missing nationals so as to know their fate, and an important message to Kuwait, specifically to the families of the missing nationals who did not know the fate of their loved ones, that the Council was interested in the issue and that it followed up on it, as it remained on the agenda of the Council.

In 2019, the Council also considered the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals under the item entitled "The situation concerning Iraq" and the issue of missing persons generally under the item entitled "Protection of civilians in armed conflict".⁴⁸⁶

⁴⁸⁰ S/PRST/2019/1, first paragraph.

⁴⁸¹ Ibid., second paragraph.

⁴⁸² Ibid., third paragraph.

⁴⁸³ Ibid., fourth paragraph.

⁴⁸⁴ Ibid., sixth and seventh paragraphs.

⁴⁸⁵ See S/PV.8463.

⁴⁸⁶ For more details, see part I, sects. 25 and 29.

Meetings: the situation between Iraq and Kuwait

<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.8463 19 February 2019					One Council member (Kuwait)	S/PRST/2019/1

24. The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

During the period under review, the Council held 12 meetings in connection with the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question". Consistent with prior practice, the Council continued to hear monthly briefings and hold quarterly

open debates to consider the item.⁴⁸⁷ In 2019, however, the Council did not adopt any decisions under the item. Under this item, the Council also considered developments in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon,

⁴⁸⁷ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen and the overall political situation in the Middle East.⁴⁸⁸ More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

At most of the meetings held under the item in 2019, the Council heard briefings by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General. The Council also heard two briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs,⁴⁸⁹ one by the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)⁴⁹⁰ and one by the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator,⁴⁹¹ which was the first time since November 2016 that the Council heard a briefing on the item by a representative of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.⁴⁹² The Council also heard briefings by four representatives of civil society. The Co-Directors of EcoPeace Middle East described the activities they had undertaken in the region and called on the Council to urge the Governments of Israel, the State of Palestine and Jordan to advance cooperation on water and the environment.⁴⁹³ The Executive Director of the organization Gisha: Legal Center for Freedom of Movement denounced the situation in Gaza and encouraged Council members to note that, in addition to the Israeli settlements, the isolation of Gaza was also a primary obstacle to peace.⁴⁹⁴ Adele Raemer, representing the residents of the Eshkol region in Israel, spoke about her personal experiences living in Kibbutz Nirim, on the border with the Gaza Strip, since 1975.⁴⁹⁵

In his monthly briefings, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process focused on the continued stalemate of the peace process, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the continued lack of progress on intra-Palestinian reconciliation, the continued construction of settlements and the violence

in the West Bank. He also focused on the decision by Israel to withhold Palestinian tax revenue transfers, the dwindling international financial assistance to UNRWA and the decision by Israel, on 28 January, not to renew the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron. Throughout the period, he warned the Council about the risk of escalation and described the eruption of violence in April and May 2019 as the worst since 2014, with hundreds of rockets fired into Israel from Gaza and multiple deaths and injuries of both Palestinians and Israelis. In response to the announcement made on 18 November by the United States that it no longer viewed settlements as inconsistent with international law, the Special Coordinator reaffirmed the position of the United Nations in accordance with resolution 2334 (2016), namely, that Israeli settlement activities constituted a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution.⁴⁹⁶ In his briefings, the Special Coordinator also addressed topics other than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, such as the situations in Lebanon, including the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), and the situation in the occupied Golan.

On a quarterly basis, the monthly briefings were used to report on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016). During the briefings that took place in March, June, September and December,⁴⁹⁷ the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process continued to report on the lack of progress on the implementation of the main provisions of the resolution, namely, those relating to: Israeli settlement activities; violence against civilians, including acts of terror, incitement, provocation and inflammatory rhetoric; steps and efforts to advance the peace process; and actions by all States to distinguish in their relevant dealings between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967. In March and December 2019, respectively, the ninth and twelfth quarterly reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016)⁴⁹⁸ were submitted in writing. This notwithstanding, during several meetings of the Council in 2019, Council members reiterated the importance of reports being submitted in writing.⁴⁹⁹ Most Council members at those meetings expressed concern about the lack of progress made with respect to the implementation of the resolution and reaffirmed their

⁴⁸⁸ For more information, see part I, sect. 22.

⁴⁸⁹ See [S/PV.8517](#) and [S/PV.8583](#). In addition to her regular briefings, Council members also heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General, in informal consultations of the whole, on the decision of Israel to end the Temporary International Presence in Hebron in January 2019 (see [S/2019/1015](#)).

⁴⁹⁰ See [S/PV.8532](#).

⁴⁹¹ See [S/PV.8466](#).

⁴⁹² For more information on that briefing, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2016–2017*, part I, sect. 25.

⁴⁹³ See [S/PV.8517](#).

⁴⁹⁴ See [S/PV.8669](#).

⁴⁹⁵ See [S/PV.8690](#).

⁴⁹⁶ See [S/PV.8669](#).

⁴⁹⁷ See [S/PV.8489](#), [S/PV.8557](#), [S/PV.8625](#) and [S/PV.8690](#).

⁴⁹⁸ [S/2019/251](#) and [S/2019/938](#).

⁴⁹⁹ See, for example, [S/PV.8466](#) (Kuwait, South Africa and Indonesia); [S/PV.8557](#) (Belgium and Kuwait); [S/PV.8604](#) (Kuwait, China, Peru and South Africa); [S/PV.8648](#) (South Africa); [S/PV.8669](#) (Belgium and South Africa).

commitment to a two-State solution. During the last briefing of the year, on 18 December 2019,⁵⁰⁰ the representative of the United States affirmed that the Trump Administration strongly opposed resolution 2334 (2016), which was deemed “one-sided and unfairly critical of Israel”. At the same meeting, other Council members⁵⁰¹ expressed a different view and mentioned that Israeli actions were in violation of international law, including resolution 2334 (2016).⁵⁰²

In 2019, the Council held open debates every quarter, in January, April, July and October.⁵⁰³ At those meetings, Council members and Members States focused on the lack of progress of the peace process and the continued deterioration of the situation in Gaza. Discussions during the debates were held against the backdrop of a series of developments, including the decision by Israel in January 2019 not to renew the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron; the ministerial meeting to promote a future of peace and security in the Middle East, co-hosted by Poland and the United States and held in Warsaw in February 2019; the decision by the United States, in March 2019, to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights; the third high-level Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development in Bangkok and the Peace to Prosperity workshop in Bahrain, both held in June 2019; and the semi-annual meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of International Assistance to Palestinians, held in New York in September 2019. The Council heard briefings by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process in two of the above-

mentioned open debates and by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in the other two. In their briefings, they updated the Council on the latest developments concerning Israeli settlements, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures, the violence in Gaza and the West Bank, the overall situation in Gaza and the status of Palestinian reconciliation. They reported on the growing risk of unilateral actions and the loss of hope that peace could be achieved through negotiations, warning that, without the prospect of viable negotiations on the horizon, facts on the ground continued to undermine the possibility of achieving a two-State solution. They also covered developments on the situations in Lebanon, including with regard to resolution 1701 (2006), and in the Golan. In 2019, Council members addressed, in those open debates, the question of international consensus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the role of international law and the binding nature of Council resolutions.⁵⁰⁴ During the open debates, Council members expressed concern about the situation and called for a resumption of the negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. Concerning UNRWA, many Council members welcomed the renewal of its mandate until 2023 underscoring the importance of its mandate. Speakers also addressed other conflicts and situations, including the situations in Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Libya and Yemen, as well as in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf region. Also during the open debates, reference was made to the mandate of the Secretary-General, in accordance with resolution 598 (1987), to examine measures for the security of the region in consultation with the parties in the region.⁵⁰⁵

⁵⁰⁰ See [S/PV.8690](#).

⁵⁰¹ Indonesia, Dominican Republic and Belgium.

⁵⁰² For more information on that discussion and others concerning the binding nature of resolutions, see part V, sect. II.

⁵⁰³ See [S/PV.8449](#), [S/PV.8517](#), [S/PV.8583](#) and [S/PV.8648](#).

⁵⁰⁴ For more details on those discussions, see part V, sect. II.

⁵⁰⁵ See, for example, [S/PV.8517](#) (Russian Federation) and [S/PV.8648](#) (Russian Federation).

Meetings: the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

<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.8449 22 January 2019			29 Member States ^a	Six invitees ^b	All Council members, ^c all invitees ^d	

**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>
S/PV.8466 20 February 2019				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	Five Council members (Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Kuwait, South Africa), all invitees ^e	
S/PV.8489 26 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) (S/2019/251)		Israel	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations	All Council members, ^f all invitees	
S/PV.8517 29 April 2019			31 Member States ^g	Seven invitees ^h	All Council members, all invitees ⁱ	
S/PV.8532 22 May 2019			Israel	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, observer for the State of Palestine	All Council members, ^c all invitees ^j	
S/PV.8557 20 June 2019				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	All Council members, invitee	
S/PV.8583 23 July 2019			28 Member States ^k	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations, representative of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees ^l	

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2019

<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.8604 27 August 2019				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process	All Council members, ^m invitee ^e	
S/PV.8625 20 September 2019			Israel, Jordan	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, observer for the State of Palestine	All Council members, all invitees ⁿ	
S/PV.8648 28 October 2019			28 Member States ^o	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	All Council members, ^p 31 invitees ^{e,q}	
S/PV.8669 20 November 2019			Israel	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Executive Director of Gisha: Legal Center for Freedom of Movement	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8690 18 December 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) (S/2019/938)		Israel	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Adele Raemer (resident of Eshkol, Israel)	All Council members, all invitees ^r	

^a Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

^b Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General; Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations; Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine; Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States; and Permanent Observer of the Holy See.

^c Indonesia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^d The Special Coordinator participated in the meeting by videoconference from Geneva. The representative of Bangladesh spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; the representative of Libya spoke on behalf of the Group of Arab States; and the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The representative of Cuba spoke twice, once in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and once in her national capacity.

^e The Special Coordinator participated in the meeting by videoconference from Jerusalem.

^f Indonesia was represented by its Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

- ^g Bangladesh, Bahrain, Botswana, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.
- ^h Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine; Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States; Permanent Observer of the Holy See; and two Co-Directors of EcoPeace Middle East.
- ⁱ The representative of Finland spoke also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; the representative of the United Arab Emirates spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Japan was represented by its Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Holy See was represented by the First Counsellor of its Observer Mission.
- ^j The Special Coordinator and the Commissioner-General participated in the meeting by videoconference from Jerusalem and Gaza City, respectively.
- ^k Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
- ^l The representative of Croatia spoke also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; the representative of Saudi Arabia spoke on behalf of the Group of Arab States; the representative of Uganda spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- ^m Poland (President of the Council) was represented by the Secretary of State of the Chancellery of its President.
- ⁿ Jordan was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates; and the State of Palestine was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- ^o Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam.
- ^p Germany was represented by its State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office; and South Africa (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for International Relations and Cooperation.
- ^q The representative of Lebanon did not make a statement. The representative of Azerbaijan spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; the representative of Croatia spoke also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom; the representative of Tunisia spoke on behalf of the Group of Arab States; and the representative of United Arab Emirates spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The representative of Namibia spoke both in his capacity as Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and in his national capacity.
- ^r Ms. Raemer participated in the meeting by videoconference from Tel Aviv.

25. The situation concerning Iraq

In 2019, the Council held four meetings and adopted one resolution in connection with the situation concerning Iraq. On 21 May 2019, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) until 31 May 2020, through the unanimous adoption of resolution 2470 (2019). All meetings under the item during the period under review took the form of briefings.⁵⁰⁶ For more information on the meetings, including participants, speakers and outcomes, please see the table below. In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Iraq and Kuwait from 27 to 30 June 2019.⁵⁰⁷

During the period under review, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI on the situation concerning Iraq. In her four briefings,⁵⁰⁸ she reported on the progress made towards the formation of a Government and on senior appointments to the federal Cabinet and parliamentary committees. She also reported on the progress made regarding the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives.

In a briefing given to the Council at the beginning of 2019,⁵⁰⁹ the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported on the Turkish military

⁵⁰⁶ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁵⁰⁷ For more information on the Council's mission to Iraq and Kuwait, see part I, sect. 33.

⁵⁰⁸ See [S/PV.8462](#), [S/PV.8531](#), [S/PV.8606](#) and [S/PV.8676](#).

⁵⁰⁹ See [S/PV.8462](#).