

Thematic issues

26. United Nations peacekeeping operations

During the period under review, the Council held six meetings and issued one presidential statement in connection with the item entitled “United Nations peacekeeping operations”. The Council convened two meetings in the form of briefings, two as debates and two as open debates under this item.⁵²⁸ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcome, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the Council heard two briefings by the Secretary-General and four by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations. The Council also heard briefings by the senior leadership of six peacekeeping operations, as well as by representatives of civil society, non-governmental organizations and local government. The focus of discussions in the Council was the progress made in the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative to strengthen peacekeeping and its Declaration of Shared Commitments, launched by the Secretary-General in 2018. Special focus was placed on how to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping, the safety and security and training of peacekeepers, triangular cooperation between the Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries, and the role of police components.

On 11 April 2019, at the initiative of Germany, which held the Presidency for the month,⁵²⁹ the Council held an open debate under the sub-item entitled “Women in peacekeeping”, chaired by the Federal Minister of Defence of Germany.⁵³⁰ At the meeting, the Secretary-General reported that, with the launch of the system-wide strategy on gender parity in 2017, the United Nations had embarked upon a system-wide effort to enhance women’s representation at all levels and in all areas, a key priority of which was peacekeeping.⁵³¹ Recalling the Council’s call in resolution 2242 (2015) for the doubling of the number of women in peacekeeping operations by 2020, and with the United Nations approaching the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), he highlighted the efforts of the Secretariat to ensure

the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all stages of peace processes and to promote the involvement of women in operations, as well as the roll-out of the uniformed gender parity strategy, which defined new targets for 2028. In her remarks at the meeting, the Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization provided examples of her efforts to increase the numbers of women in missions, promote mindfulness of gender issues and reach out to the local community. The Secretary-General of the South Sudan Democratic Engagement Monitoring and Observation Programme, a national civil society organization in South Sudan, who was also the women’s representative to the National Constitutional Amendment Committee, appealed to the Council to improve working conditions for female peacekeepers, enable women and youth organizations to participate in the design and implementation of peacekeeping operations, and not to lose track of justice and accountability for sexual and gender-based violence committed by peacekeeping personnel. In the subsequent discussion, speakers pointed to the need for all peacekeeping stakeholders to work together on removing the barriers to the participation of women in peacekeeping, improving national recruitment efforts, training and capacity-building, addressing sexual exploitation and abuse and improving the conditions of service.

On 7 May 2019, at the initiative of Indonesia, which held the Presidency for the month,⁵³² the Council held an open debate under the sub-item entitled “Investing in peace: improving safety and performance of United Nations peacekeepers”, chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia.⁵³³ At the start of the meeting, the President of the Council delivered a statement on behalf of the Council, in which it welcomed efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to mobilize all partners and stakeholders in support of more effective United Nations peacekeeping through his Action for Peacekeeping initiative and recognized the added value that the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations had in relation to training and capacity-building.⁵³⁴ The Council also welcomed the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference, as well

⁵²⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁵²⁹ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 4 April 2019 (S/2019/293).

⁵³⁰ See S/PV.8508.

⁵³¹ See letter dated 27 March 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/275).

⁵³² The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 30 April 2019 (S/2019/359).

⁵³³ See S/PV.8521.

⁵³⁴ S/PRST/2019/4, fourth paragraph.

as other meetings, to strengthen support to peacekeeping operations, including in the area of training and capacity-building, and underscored the importance of fulfilling the pledges made by a number of Member States at the Conference.⁵³⁵

Following the presidential statement, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General in which he updated Council members on the Secretariat's progress in fulfilling its commitment to training and capacity-building of peacekeeping personnel, specifically highlighting the action plan to improve the security of peacekeepers, through training support and assessment visits, as well as other measures. Despite the notable progress made, the Secretary-General pointed to training gaps in critical areas such as weapons handling, first aid, human rights and protection issues, and urged Member States to consider increased funding, in-kind contributions and the provision of trainers.

In his remarks, the Force Commander of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) provided an overview of the comprehensive approach taken by the Mission in order to fulfil its mandate and noted that training was both an essential pillar to ensure the desired performance of peacekeepers and a continuous process that had to be tailored to each mission's operational environment. The Director of the Challenges Forum International Secretariat, a partnership of 49 civilian, military and police departments and organizations, shared several recommendations with the Council on how to improve the safety and security and performance of peacekeepers, particularly through the use of scenario-based training and the deployment of women in operational and outward-facing roles. In the ensuing discussion, speakers underscored that enhancing training and capacity-building were shared commitments of all peacekeeping partners and called for investment in women personnel, continued assessments and accountability, and partnerships with regional organizations.

On 18 June 2019, the Council held the annual briefing with selected force commanders of United Nations peacekeeping operations.⁵³⁶ In his briefing to the Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations underscored that cooperation with host States was key for ensuring the effectiveness of peace operations. The Force Commander of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) described cooperation with host States as crucial for the successful implementation of mandates, while the Force Commander of the United Nations

Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) said that the impartial execution of the Force's mandate allowed him and the military component to effectively maintain the status quo, prevent tensions and ensure calm and stability. The two force commanders also responded to questions and comments from Council members on the situation in the Sudan and Cyprus, relations with the host States and the measures to enhance the safety and security and performance of peacekeeping operations.

On 10 July 2019, at the initiative of Peru, which held the Presidency for the month,⁵³⁷ the Council held an open debate under the sub-item entitled "Strengthening triangular cooperation".⁵³⁸ In his briefing to the Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations stated that strong triangular cooperation between the Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries was crucial to enhancing peacekeeping operations, including with respect to improving safety and security and making mandates more focused, adaptable and achievable. In terms of how triangular cooperation could be strengthened, the Under-Secretary-General shared some thoughts regarding the creation of a more institutionalized system of formal and informal exchanges among the Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries, the holding of Council meetings on cross-cutting peacekeeping issues, Council visits to missions and the activities of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations. He added that in many contexts, peacekeeping missions were likely to benefit from closer engagement between the Council and the host Government, as well as from partnerships with regional organizations. With respect to African Union operations authorized by the Council, he noted the existence of a form of quadrilateral cooperation among the Council, troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the African Union, including its Peace and Security Council and the Commission.

The Force Commander of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) stated that triangular cooperation was key in order to set the conditions for effective mandate implementation, emphasized that troop-contributing countries had to deliver on their mandates and rules of engagement, and added that the United Nations should continue to increase and revise its mechanisms for evaluating units and ensuring accountability. In her remarks, the Senior Fellow at the Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations at the International Peace Institute made several proposals in connection with the institutionalization of regular informal meetings among the Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-

⁵³⁵ *Ibid.*, fifth paragraph.

⁵³⁶ See [S/PV.8552](#).

⁵³⁷ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 27 June 2019 ([S/2019/538](#)).

⁵³⁸ See [S/PV.8570](#).

contributing countries, noting that such cooperation would allow the Council to consider matters on the ground from a closer perspective and build consensus on how to carry out operations. Concurring that triangular cooperation was essential to the effective performance of missions, speakers in the open debate discussed the need for transparent, inclusive, substantive and timely triangular consultations and the involvement of financial contributors and host States.

On 9 September, the Council held the annual briefing on peacekeeping reform further to paragraph 10 of resolution 2378 (2017).⁵³⁹ At the meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations highlighted the progress made in the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative in order to strengthen peacekeeping operations, including the promotion of political solutions as a prerequisite to sustainable peace, partnerships with regional organizations and across the United Nations system, reductions in the number of fatalities, strengthened performance and increased numbers of women peacekeepers. He urged Member States to ensure that new mandate priorities were consistent with resources and to provide united political engagement with regard to the conflicts where operations were based, and underscored the need to adapt mission footprints and strengthen capacity to ensure a more mobile, robust, aware and integrated operational approach.

On 6 November, the Council held its annual briefing of police commissioners.⁵⁴⁰ At the meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations stated that United Nations police were particularly well placed to respond to such challenges as dealing with high concentrations of people, organized crime and international terrorism, and building the national capacities of States, particularly in the area of the rule of

law. Within the framework of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, he cited the efforts of the Secretariat to enhance peacekeeping performance, including by rolling out the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System in five missions, implementing a training curriculum for police components, increasing the number of women peacekeepers and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse.

In her remarks, the adviser to the Mayor of the third arrondissement of Bangui informed the Council that significant security improvements had been made in that sensitive part of the city through the efforts of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), with the signing of a non-aggression pact in 2015, communication and awareness-raising on violence against women and sexual exploitation, and support for community policing. The police commissioners of MONUSCO, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and MINUSMA addressed the work of their respective missions on dealing with organized crime, strengthening national rule of law capacities, supporting community protection initiatives, supporting the development of security forces in the area of civilian protection and the restoration of State authority, and strengthening the participation of women. In their remarks, Council members discussed and posed questions to the Under-Secretary-General and the police commissioners on the adequacy of police officers' training and equipment, efforts to increase the number of women police officers, engagement with local communities, partnerships with regional organizations and the protection of civilians and efforts to ensure their safety and security. Speakers further underscored the importance of United Nations police components across the conflict spectrum, particularly in the context of conflict prevention and the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

⁵³⁹ See [S/PV.8612](#). For more information, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2016–2017*, part I, sect. 27.

⁵⁴⁰ See [S/PV.8661](#).

Meetings: United Nations peacekeeping operations

<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.8508 11 April 2019	Women in peacekeeping Letter dated 27 March 2019 from the Secretary- General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/275)		43 Member States ^a	Head of Mission and Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, Secretary-General of the South Sudan Democratic Engagement Monitoring and	Secretary- General, 13 Council members, ^b all invitees ^c	

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<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>
	Letter dated 4 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/293)			Observation Programme and women's representative to the National Constitutional Amendment Committee, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations		
S/PV.8521 7 May 2019	Investing in peace: improving safety and performance of United Nations peacekeepers Letter dated 30 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/359)		40 Member States ^d	Force Commander of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Director of the Challenges Forum International Secretariat, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Permanent Observer of the African Union	Secretary-General, all Council members, ^e 39 invitees under rule 37, ^f all other invitees ^g	S/PRST/2019/4
S/PV.8552 18 June 2019				Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Force Commander of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8570 10 July 2019	Strengthening triangular cooperation Letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/538)		Six Member States ^h	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Force Commander of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Senior Fellow at the Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations at the International Peace Institute	13 Council members, ⁱ all invitees	

**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.8612 9 September 2019			14 Member States ^j	Under-Secretary- General for Peace Operations	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8661 6 November 2019	Police Commissioners			Under-Secretary- General for Peace Operations, Adviser to the Mayor of the third arrondissement of Bangui, Police Commissioner of MONUSCO, Police Commissioner of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, Police Commissioner of MINUSMA	All Council members, all invitees ^k	

^a Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

^b The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke also on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and South Africa. Germany was represented by its Federal Minister of Defence.

^c The Secretary-General of the South Sudan Democratic Engagement Monitoring and Observation Programme participated in the meeting by videoconference from Juba. Hungary was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Viet Nam was represented by its Vice-Foreign Minister. The representative of Canada spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security; the representative of Norway spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; and the representative of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

^d Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Sudan, Thailand, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

^e Indonesia (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^f The representative of Rwanda did not make a statement. Ukraine was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Denmark spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; and the representative of Thailand spoke on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

^g The Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

^h Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Rwanda and Uruguay.

ⁱ The representative of Côte d'Ivoire spoke also on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

^j Bangladesh, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Italy, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and United Republic of Tanzania.

^k The adviser to the Mayor of the third arrondissement of Bangui participated in the meeting by videoconference from Bangui.