

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
31 August 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/870</a>	Letter dated 31 August 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Draft resolution <a href="#">S/2020/852</a> (not adopted) 14-1-0 <sup>a</sup> <a href="#">S/2020/865</a>
18 December 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/1266</a>	Letter dated 19 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2557 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) <a href="#">S/2020/1254</a>
29 December 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/1311</a>	Letter dated 29 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2560 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 <a href="#">S/2020/1305</a>

<sup>a</sup> *For*: Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Viet Nam; *against*: United States; *abstaining*: none.

### 30. Briefings

As with previous supplements, briefings by various speakers not explicitly connected to a specific item under the Council's agenda are featured in the present section. In 2020, the Council held one such meeting in the form of a briefing. More information on the meeting, including on participants and speakers, is provided in table 1 below. In addition, Council members held three open videoconferences to hear briefings that were not explicitly connected to any specific item on the agenda of the Council. More information on the videoconferences is provided in tables 2 and 3 below.

Consistent with prior practice, the Council held one meeting under the item "Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe". At the meeting, held on 6 February, <sup>794</sup> the Council heard a briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on contemporary security challenges. He explained that Albania's strategic goal at the helm of OSCE would be to defend multilateralism at a time when it was felt to be under attack. He elaborated on the three main priorities of OSCE under the chairmanship of Albania. With regard to the first priority, namely, making a difference on the ground, Albania would be promoting the work of OSCE where it was closest to the people and, in that connection, conflict resolution efforts would be at the top of the agenda. He specifically addressed the situation

in Ukraine, <sup>795</sup> the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the situation in Georgia and the Transnistrian settlement process in the Republic of Moldova. <sup>796</sup> Women continued to be disproportionately affected by conflicts in the OSCE area and were being unjustly excluded from peace efforts. Inspired by the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#), Albania would inject a new momentum into promoting the role of women in peace processes. Albania's second priority was to implement its commitments. In that regard, he mentioned immediate and urgent priorities such as promoting freedom of expression and freedom of the media, safeguarding the rights of national minorities and combating violence against women. The third priority of Albania's chairmanship was dialogue. In that connection, the Chairperson-in-Office announced that he would make it his personal commitment to advance dialogue among OSCE States and among and within OSCE States' societies, also noting that risk reduction, incident prevention and environmental protection would feature in debates among OSCE States, international organizations and civil society. He signalled, however, that a major obstacle to dialogue was the rise of intolerance, hate crimes and hate speech and expressed the intention to redouble efforts to promote tolerance and non-discrimination.

Following the briefing, members of the Council noted the importance of cooperation with regional

<sup>794</sup> See [S/PV.8714](#).

<sup>795</sup> For more information on discussions relating to Ukraine, see part I, sect. 19.

<sup>796</sup> See [S/PV.8714](#).

arrangements, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and welcomed the continued cooperation between the Council and OSCE in the maintenance of international peace and security.<sup>797</sup> Several Council members also expressed support for the efforts of the Chairperson-in-Office to feature women and peace and security as one of the top priorities during Albania's chairmanship of OSCE.<sup>798</sup>

On 18 June, Council members held a videoconference<sup>799</sup> to hear a briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In his intervention, the High Commissioner highlighted three areas of concern. First, he addressed the rising number of displaced persons, focusing on the Sahel region of West Africa and Libya. His second point concerned protection. He agreed with how others had referred to COVID-19 as a protection crisis and mentioned that despite the call of the Secretary-General for a global ceasefire, conflicts had continued to grow.<sup>800</sup> He made reference to the situation of refugees and displaced persons, focusing on Yemen, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Syrian Arab Republic and the broader region around it. Finally, he referred to the need not to give up on solutions. In that regard, he focused specifically on the countries of origin of two thirds of the refugees and people crossing borders, namely, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar. On those specific countries, he offered his views with a focus on solutions with respect to the situations in South Sudan and Myanmar. In closing, he called on Council members to echo and follow up on the ceasefire call of the Secretary-General and to use their leadership and influence to seek out and expand space for solutions. He expressed concern regarding the Council's divisions and his expectation that the Council would send decisive, clear and unanimous messages to end conflicts and pursue avenues for peace.

In line with previously established practice, the Council heard a briefing by the President of the

International Court of Justice, held in the format of a closed videoconference.<sup>801</sup>

In 2020, Council members held two videoconferences in connection with the item "Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council". On 23 November, Council members held a videoconference<sup>802</sup> to hear a joint briefing by the Chairs of the three committees related to counter-terrorism and non-proliferation, namely, the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). During their briefing, the Chairs provided an overview of the work of the three committees, including their ongoing cooperation and that of their groups of experts in assisting Member States to counter the financing of terrorism and proliferation. In their deliberations, Council members discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on exacerbating conditions conducive to terrorism and expressed concern that terrorist groups, such as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and Al-Qaida, might take advantage of the disruption and increased use of information technology.<sup>803</sup> In addition, while briefers and some Council members noted the importance of ensuring respect for human rights and international human rights and humanitarian law when countering terrorism,<sup>804</sup> the representative of the Russian Federation expressed concern about the high level of politicization of issues related to the protection of human rights and the fight against violent extremism and extremist ideology. The forthcoming comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) was also raised and several Council members noted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the initial timeline for that process.<sup>805</sup> In addition, in a videoconference held on 16 December,<sup>806</sup> Council members heard the end-of-year briefing by the outgoing Chairs of the various subsidiary bodies, namely, the Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia; the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015)

<sup>797</sup> Viet Nam, Tunisia, France, Estonia, Niger, China, Indonesia, South Africa, Russian Federation and Belgium. For more information about the role of regional arrangements in the maintenance of international peace and security, see part VIII.

<sup>798</sup> Germany, Viet Nam, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom, South Africa and Belgium.

<sup>799</sup> See [S/2020/560](#).

<sup>800</sup> In his statement, the High Commissioner referred to a separate meeting under the item "Protection of civilians in armed conflict" at which COVID-19 was referred to as a protection crisis. For more details, see part I, sect. 26.

<sup>801</sup> See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 19.

<sup>802</sup> See [S/2020/1143](#).

<sup>803</sup> China, Dominican Republic, France, South Africa and Viet Nam.

<sup>804</sup> Estonia, France, Germany, Niger, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

<sup>805</sup> Germany, Russian Federation and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

<sup>806</sup> See [S/2020/1258](#).

concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities; the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011); the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004); the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006); the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya; the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) concerning Mali; the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. In their briefings, several Chairs raised the issue of a more equitable distribution of chairmanships of subsidiary

organs among the elected and permanent members of the Council.<sup>807</sup> Furthermore, Chairs discussed the importance of transparency and respect for the procedural aspects of the work of the respective committees and working groups.<sup>808</sup> Other topics discussed during the briefing included the working conditions of the members of the panels of experts, the implementation of sanctions measures and the institutional set-up for the way in which the United Nations dealt with sanctions regimes.

<sup>807</sup> Belgium, Indonesia and Germany.

<sup>808</sup> Belgium, Indonesia and Dominican Republic.

Table 1

**Meeting: briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

<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.8714 6 February 2020					Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Prime Minister and Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania	All Council members, invitee

Table 2

**Videoconference: briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
18 June 2020	S/2020/560	Letter dated 22 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

Table 3

**Videoconferences: briefings by chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Council**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
23 November 2020	S/2020/1143	Letter dated 25 November 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
16 December 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/1258</a>	Letter dated 18 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

### **31. The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security**

During the period under review, the Council held no meetings in connection with the item entitled “The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security”. Council members did, however, hold one videoconference in 2020. The Council issued one presidential statement in connection with the item, which was announced during a videoconference in accordance with the procedures established following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>809</sup> More information on the videoconferences is given in the table below.<sup>810</sup>

On 18 December, the members of the Council held a videoconference<sup>811</sup> in connection with the item, focused on “Strengthening the cooperation between the Security Council and the International Court of Justice”. At the videoconference, Council members heard a briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice, who emphasized the need to strengthen the partnership between the Council and the Court to uphold the rule of law at the international level. He recalled that the Council had only once exercised its powers under Article 36 (3) of the Charter<sup>812</sup> to recommend that disputing parties settle their dispute through the Court, namely in the *Corfu Channel case (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland v. Albania)*. The Council had also only once requested an advisory opinion from the Court under Article 96 of the Charter<sup>813</sup> in the case of *Legal Consequences for States of the Continued Presence of South Africa in Namibia (South West Africa) notwithstanding Security Council Resolution 276 (1970)*. He indicated, however, that the vitality of the relationship between the two principal organs could not be evaluated by the quantity, but rather by the quality, of their collaboration. Stating that the Court had consistently supported the mission of the Council to maintain

international peace and security, the President of the Court made some recommendations that could further reinforce cooperation between the two organs. First, he shared the view of the General Assembly that a request for an advisory opinion from the Court could play an important role in the Council’s work on the prevention of situations or disputes from becoming a threat to international peace and security and expressed his belief that the Council could consider such a possibility more often. Secondly, he suggested the possibility of an expanded dialogue between the Court and the Council in that, in addition to the annual briefing of the President of the Court to the Council, the Council could include in its schedule a visit to the Court once every three years, following the triennial change in the composition of the Court. Lastly, his third suggestion concerned the jurisdiction of the Court. In that regard, he drew attention to the presidential statements issued in 2006, 2010 and 2012,<sup>814</sup> in which the Council had called upon States to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the Court in accordance with its Statute. He noted that in the previous eight years, no further presidential statements had been issued by the Council and expressed the belief that such statements contributed to strengthening the relationship between the two organs and to the international rule of law and that they could be made periodically – every three to five years – starting from the date of the videoconference.

Following the briefing,<sup>815</sup> Council members affirmed the important role of the International Court of Justice in promoting and strengthening the rule of law, including in preventing conflicts and facilitating lasting peace and stability. In accordance with the procedures agreed upon following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to Council members 11 delegations submitted written statements.<sup>816</sup> Many participants noted the complementary nature of the mandates of the Court and the

<sup>809</sup> For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

<sup>810</sup> See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 25.

<sup>811</sup> See [S/2020/1286](#). For more information on the discussion, see part IV, sect. III.

<sup>812</sup> See resolution [22 \(1947\)](#).

<sup>813</sup> See resolution [284 \(1970\)](#).

<sup>814</sup> See [S/PRST/2006/28](#), [S/PRST/2010/11](#) and [S/PRST/2012/1](#).

<sup>815</sup> See [S/2020/1286](#).

<sup>816</sup> Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Denmark, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Peru and Portugal. For further details, see part II, sect. I.