

<i>Meeting 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>
	the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2020/951)					

^a The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region participated in the meeting by videoconference.

^b Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia (also on behalf of Viet Nam), Russian Federation, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa), United Kingdom and United States.

Videoconference: the situation in the Great Lakes region

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
22 April 2020	S/2020/325	Letter dated 24 April 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

4. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

During the period under review, the Council held one meeting and adopted two resolutions, both under Chapter VII of the Charter, in connection with the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is provided in table 1 below. In addition, Council members held four open videoconferences in connection with the item, two of which were held for the announcement of the vote on the resolutions adopted.⁶⁸ Council members also held a closed videoconference with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).⁶⁹ More information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below. In addition to the meetings and videoconferences, Council members held informal

consultations of the whole and an informal interactive dialogue to discuss the item.⁷⁰

In 2020, the Council was regularly briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General.⁷¹ The Council was also briefed once by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo⁷² and once by the Director of Save Act Mine.⁷³

In her briefings to the Council, the Special Representative provided updates about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Mission's activities and the overall conditions in the country. She also reported on the volatile political situation, which had resulted in the announcement by the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, of the end of the ruling coalition in December 2020, as well as the actions undertaken by the Mission to encourage representatives of political

⁶⁸ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁶⁹ Council members held a closed videoconference on 2 December 2020 in connection with the item entitled "Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B"; see [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 22.

⁷⁰ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 12. See also [S/2020/258](#).

⁷¹ [S/2020/554](#), [S/2020/919](#) and [S/2020/1150](#).

⁷² See [S/2020/987](#).

⁷³ See [S/2020/598](#).

forces and civil society to resolve their differences through dialogue and avoid any actions that could incite violence.⁷⁴ She cautioned that the risk of politicking and positioning ahead of the 2023 elections would become the overriding focus, to the exclusion of the governance reforms and stabilization measures that the country needed.⁷⁵ She addressed the continuing security challenges faced by the country, in particular in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, noting that the protection of civilians through an integrated approach remained a central priority for MONUSCO. She also noted that some of the most serious challenges affecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo – from the presence of foreign armed groups to the illegal exploitation of and trafficking in mineral resources – required regional and international efforts to achieve sustainable solutions. In that regard, the Mission would continue to work closely with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region to support the Government as one of the constituents of the United Nations strategy for the Great Lakes region, as well as with other regional organizations. In her briefings, the Special Representative also referred to the joint strategy on the progressive and phased drawdown of MONUSCO,⁷⁶ which had been shared with the Council by the Secretary-General on 26 October 2020, representing a common vision for the gradual, responsible and sustainable drawdown and exit of the Mission.⁷⁷

Council members discussed the political developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the light of the tensions within the ruling coalition; violations of human rights; the volatile security conditions, in particular in the eastern provinces of the country; the deteriorating humanitarian situation, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic; the importance of regional cooperation; and the phased drawdown of MONUSCO.

Regarding the political developments, several Council members called on the Congolese political actors to resolve their differences peacefully and to reduce tensions within the ruling coalition through dialogue.⁷⁸ With regard to the human rights situation in

the country, Council members were concerned about violations and abuses, including cases of sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children. In that context, some called for accountability and fighting against impunity, strengthening of institutions and continued efforts by the Government to improve the overall human rights environment.⁷⁹

On the humanitarian front, Council members were concerned about the worsening situation intensified by violence and further compounded by flooding, the epidemics of Ebola virus disease, measles and cholera, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁰ In that regard, the representative of Germany noted that the most vulnerable groups – women, children and internally displaced persons – were the hardest hit by the multiple factors affecting the humanitarian situation.⁸¹ Regarding the security situation, Council members expressed concern over the continuing volatile conditions in the eastern parts of the country, condemning attacks on civilians, MONUSCO and the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo. They also noted the importance of security sector reform and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. Several members also voiced their support for the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire and expressed regret at the lack of response to it by the armed groups in the country.⁸² Council members also discussed the role and the capacity of the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade in

⁷⁴ See [S/PV.8778](#).

⁷⁵ See [S/2020/987](#).

⁷⁶ [S/2020/1041](#), annex.

⁷⁷ See [S/PV.8778](#).

⁷⁸ See [S/2020/598](#) (Russian Federation, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia) and Viet Nam); [S/2020/987](#) (South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)); and [S/PV.8778](#) (Germany, Dominican Republic, Russian Federation, China and South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

⁷⁹ See [S/2020/598](#) (Dominican Republic, Estonia, France and Germany); [S/2020/987](#) (Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom and United States); and [S/PV.8778](#) (France, United States, Germany, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom and Estonia).

⁸⁰ See [S/2020/598](#) (Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, South Africa (also on behalf of Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), United Kingdom and Viet Nam); [S/2020/987](#) (France, Germany, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia) and Viet Nam); and [S/PV.8778](#) (France, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Germany, Dominican Republic, China and South Africa (speaking also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

⁸¹ See [S/2020/598](#) and [S/2020/987](#).

⁸² See [S/2020/598](#) (Germany, Indonesia, Russian Federation and United Kingdom); and [S/2020/987](#) (Estonia, Indonesia, Russian Federation and Viet Nam).

addressing the threat posed by the armed groups.⁸³ In that regard, some members asserted the importance of improving the efficiency of the Brigade through its reconfiguration and prompt implementation of mandated reforms, such as the incorporation of additional quick-reaction forces.⁸⁴ The representative of South Africa, speaking also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia, noted that the Brigade required the continued support of the Council and needed to be fully trained to remain effective in addressing the threat against the civilian population in the eastern part of the country.⁸⁵ With regard to the drawdown of MONUSCO, some Council members affirmed the need to take into account the situation on the ground, with the three African members of the Council and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expressing concern over the prospect of a hastened and rushed drawdown.⁸⁶

Council members also discussed the importance of regional cooperation in tackling a multiplicity of the challenges facing the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the broader region.⁸⁷ Several members stressed the need for regional collaboration in countering illicit exploitation of natural resources and noted that they were encouraged by the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, alongside MONUSCO, in pursuing a regional strategy in that regard.⁸⁸ They further welcomed the continued commitment of the Southern African Development Community to assist the Democratic Republic of the

Congo in achieving sustainable peace, security and stability, as well as the cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations in that context.⁸⁹

In 2020, Council members also discussed the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004). On 2 June, the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo submitted its final report, in which the Group of Experts concluded that despite relative political stability and significant changes in the command structures of the Congolese security forces, serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law remained widespread.⁹⁰ On 25 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2528 (2020), in which it renewed until 1 July 2021 the sanctions measures set out in resolution 2293 (2016) and extended to 1 August 2021 the mandate of the Group of Experts as set forth in resolution 2360 (2017).⁹¹ Furthermore, on 6 October Council members held a videoconference⁹² at which the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) provided a briefing to Council members covering the work of the Committee during the previous 12 months. Following the briefing, the representative of France noted that the Committee could do more to address violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by, inter alia, making additional designations. The representative of the Russian Federation affirmed that the restrictions imposed on the country should under no circumstance negatively affect the efficiency of the military operations conducted by the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo against armed groups. The representative of the United States viewed appropriate, targeted and effective sanctions as an essential tool against actors and entities that undermined the peace and security of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo reiterated his delegation's appeal to the international community through the General Assembly for appropriate, targeted and effective sanctions against armed groups, networks and other accomplices, which, through their harmful activities, were destroying the Government's efforts

⁸³ See [S/2020/598](#) (Belgium, Russian Federation, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia) and United Kingdom); [S/2020/987](#) (Estonia, France, Russian Federation, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), United Kingdom and United States); and [S/PV.8778](#) (France, United States, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, China and South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

⁸⁴ See [S/2020/987](#) (France, United Kingdom and United States); and [S/PV.8778](#) (France, United States, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

⁸⁵ See [S/2020/987](#).

⁸⁶ See [S/2020/598](#) (Russian Federation and South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)); and [S/2020/987](#) (Russian Federation and South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

⁸⁷ For more information on the situation in the Great Lakes region, see part I, sect. 3.

⁸⁸ See [S/2020/598](#) (France, Germany, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), United Kingdom and Viet Nam).

⁸⁹ See [S/2020/987](#) (South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)); and [S/PV.8778](#) (Dominican Republic, Belgium, Russian Federation and South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

⁹⁰ See [S/2020/482](#).

⁹¹ Resolution 2528 (2020), paras. 1 and 3. For more information on the mandates of the Committee and the Group of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B.

⁹² See [S/2020/987](#).

aimed at conservation and the sustainable management of biodiversity and the protected areas located in the east of his country.

On 18 December, the Council adopted resolution [2556 \(2020\)](#), under Chapter VII of the Charter, with the abstention of the Russian Federation. By that resolution, the Council extended the mandate of the Mission and the Intervention Brigade for one year until 20 December 2021.⁹³ The Council reiterated the strategic priorities of MONUSCO, mandating it to focus on protecting civilians and supporting the stabilization and the strengthening of State institutions and key governance and security reforms.⁹⁴ The Council also authorized MONUSCO to take all necessary measures to carry out its mandate and requested the Secretary-General to immediately inform the Council should MONUSCO fail to do so.⁹⁵ The Council further emphasized the importance of maintaining international support and engagement to

respond rapidly to infectious disease outbreaks, including Ebola virus disease and COVID-19.⁹⁶ The Council endorsed the joint strategy on the progressive and phased drawdown of MONUSCO and the broad parameters of the Mission's transition.⁹⁷ Furthermore, it requested the Secretary-General to present to the Council no later than September 2021 a transition plan based on the joint strategy, defining the practical modalities of the transfer of tasks to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations country team and other stakeholders.⁹⁸ In explaining its abstention, the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation indicated that it could not agree with the new wording of the paragraphs on international humanitarian assistance proposed by the authors of the draft resolution, which diluted the relevant United Nations guiding principles contained in General Assembly resolution [46/182](#). In its statement, the Russian Federation further added that the guiding principles captured the imperative to ensure respect for the sovereignty of States that were recipients of humanitarian aid, which needed to be duly reflected in documents of the Council.⁹⁹

⁹³ Resolution [2556 \(2020\)](#), para. 22.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 24. For more information concerning the mandate of MONUSCO, see part X, sect. I. For more information on past mandates of MONUSCO, see previous supplements covering the period 2010–2019.

⁹⁵ Resolution [2556 \(2020\)](#), para. 27. For more information concerning the decisions of the Council relating to Article 42 of the Charter, see part VII, sect. IV.A.

⁹⁶ Resolution [2556 \(2020\)](#), para. 37.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 49.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 50.

⁹⁹ See [S/2020/1265](#).

Table 1
Meeting: the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

<i>Meeting 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.8778 7 December 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) (S/2020/1150)		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MONUSCO ^a	12 Council members, ^b all invitees	

^a The Special Representative of the Secretary-General participated in the meeting by videoconference.

^b Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

Table 2

Videoconferences: the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
25 June 2020	S/2020/598	Letter dated 29 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	
25 June 2020	S/2020/601	Letter dated 26 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	Resolution 2528 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/589
6 October 2020	S/2020/987	Letter dated 8 October 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
18 December 2020	S/2020/1265	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 2556 (2020) 14-0-1 ^a (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/1253

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

5. The situation in the Central African Republic

During the period under review, the Council held five meetings and adopted three resolutions, all under Chapter VII of the Charter, in connection with the situation in the Central African Republic. Three of the meetings were convened to adopt a decision of the Council and the remaining two took the form of briefings.¹⁰⁰ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below. Council members also held one open videoconference.¹⁰¹ In addition to meetings and videoconferences, Council members held informal consultations of the whole.¹⁰² The Council also held one closed videoconference with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).¹⁰³ More

information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below.

In 2020, the Council heard three briefings on the reports of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic,¹⁰⁴ consistent with the four-month reporting schedule established by the Council in resolution [2387 \(2017\)](#). Two of those briefings were delivered by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA at meetings of the Council and one briefing was delivered by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations at an open videoconference. The Council was also briefed by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, the Special Envoy of the African Union for the Central African Republic and Head of the African Union Mission for the Central African Republic, the Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

The briefings focused on the political, security, economic and humanitarian situation in the country, in particular developments after the signing of the

¹⁰⁰ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

¹⁰¹ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

¹⁰² See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 13.

¹⁰³ Council members held a closed videoconference on 4 November 2020 in connection with the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B”; see [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 22.

¹⁰⁴ See [S/2020/124](#), [S/2020/545](#) and [S/2020/994](#).