

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
29 May 2020	S/2020/459	Letter dated 29 May 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 2520 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/466
9 June 2020	S/2020/529	Letter dated 11 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	
22 June 2020	S/2020/569	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	Resolution 2527 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/573
28 August 2020	S/2020/854	Letter dated 28 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	Resolution 2540 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/858
28 October 2020	S/2020/1079	Letter dated 30 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	
23 November 2020	S/2020/1136	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	
4 December 2020	S/2020/1170	Letter dated 4 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 2554 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/1173

^a Owing to technical difficulties, instead of an open videoconference to announce the vote on resolution [2516 \(2020\)](#), the videoconference was closed. For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

3. The situation in the Great Lakes region

During the period under review, the Council held one meeting on the situation in the Great Lakes region, which took the form of a briefing.⁵⁸ In addition, Council members held one videoconference in 2020 but did not adopt any decisions in connection with the item.⁵⁹ More information on the meetings and videoconferences is provided in tables 1 and 2.

In connection with two reports of the Secretary-General,⁶⁰ during his briefings the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region focused on the activities of his office in supporting the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.

In a videoconference held on 22 April,⁶¹ the Special Envoy informed the Council about the public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,

⁵⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁵⁹ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁶⁰ [S/2020/272](#) and [S/2020/951](#).

⁶¹ See [S/2020/325](#).

highlighting its negative repercussions on the economy and the implications for the peace, security and development of the region. In that context, he informed the Council that the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework had been affected, resulting in the postponement of important meetings that were to be held in the region, including the second Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference and the tenth Summit of the Regional Oversight Mechanism. Nevertheless, optimism remained given the peaceful political transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the progress in normalizing relations between Uganda and Rwanda, the formation of a unity Government in South Sudan and the diplomatic settlement by the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia of their border dispute. In support of the regional efforts to increase coordination and exchange information among the armed forces of the countries of the region, the Special Envoy had facilitated discussions among the heads of the intelligence services of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. In that regard, the Special Envoy requested the Council's support to enable those countries to secure the necessary technical and financial assistance to implement the measures to be adopted by the Heads of State of the region. The Special Envoy noted, however, that there were still challenges, the greatest of which remained the activities of armed groups, including the illicit exploitation of natural resources. He also referred to the upcoming elections in the region, particularly in Burundi and the Central African Republic, which needed to be closely followed. Faced with challenges that had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing Ebola virus disease epidemic, he affirmed the need to redouble efforts to support the States and peoples of the Great Lakes region to overcome the two public health crises and to consolidate the progress made so far in implementing the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. For his part, in collaboration with the guarantors of the Framework and international partners, the Special Envoy had announced his five priorities for the following months, namely, mobilizing the international community in helping the countries of the region to address the COVID-19 pandemic; supporting the ongoing facilitation processes; encouraging regional security cooperation by promoting a comprehensive approach, with military and non-military measures, in combating armed groups; engaging in regional and international discussions on the illicit exploitation of and trade in natural resources; and continuing the necessary discussions on the convening of the next summit of the

Framework's Regional Oversight Mechanism and of the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference.

During the discussion, Council members⁶² expressed support for the work of the Special Envoy and mentioned the importance of a new peace and security strategy for the Great Lakes region. Several Council members⁶³ also echoed the Secretary-General's ceasefire appeal and highlighted its importance in the light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the humanitarian situation and political processes in the region. Council members further noted the positive developments in the region, at the same time warning about the risk of losing the momentum of regional cooperation. On Burundi, the representative of France expressed France's vigilance and noted that peaceful, inclusive and credible elections would contribute to the region's path towards political stability and peace. Similarly, the representatives of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States expressed concerns about the electoral environment and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the elections in Burundi. The representative of Tunisia, speaking also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa, noted the ongoing preparations for the general elections in Burundi as the only viable alternative for leading the country to consolidate a peaceful and stable political environment. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that political decisions could lead to long-term stability only if they were taken by the countries themselves.

At its meeting held on 13 October,⁶⁴ the Council heard a second semi-annual briefing from the Special Envoy. He noted that overall the situation in the region over the past months had remained stable, with encouraging progress despite the ongoing challenges. On the political front, the Special Envoy welcomed the peaceful transfer of power in Burundi following the May general elections and the fact that the countries of the region were availing themselves of diplomatic means and regional mechanisms to resolve their differences peacefully, as seen in the resolution of the border dispute between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia. The Special Envoy also cited as another positive example the commitment of Rwanda and Uganda to proceed in the process of normalizing their relations through the good offices of Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He noted, however, that the security and humanitarian situations continued

⁶² Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Russian Federation, and Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa).

⁶³ China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

⁶⁴ See [S/PV.8767](#).

to be cause for concern and made reference to the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. In that regard, the activities of armed groups operating in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to cause intolerable human suffering. The impunity enjoyed by those responsible for the crimes traumatized the population and negatively affected relations between the countries of the region. The Special Envoy affirmed that he intended to continue his advocacy to strengthen the fight against impunity, in particular by implementing effectively the Nairobi Declaration on Justice and Good Governance. Regarding the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, the Special Envoy informed the Council about the initiatives he had carried out in line with his five priorities outlined on 22 April. He had submitted the United Nations strategy for peace consolidation and conflict resolution and prevention in the Great Lakes region to the Secretary-General on 12 October. He indicated that 10 priorities had emerged from the various consultations aimed at providing a comprehensive 10-year road map for United Nations action in the region, focusing on a number of concrete priority actions, in particular in the areas of preventive diplomacy, security cooperation, development, the promotion of human rights and strengthening of the roles of women and young people by the year 2023.

During the deliberations, Council members⁶⁵ noted the positive developments in the region, while at the same time expressing concern over the security and humanitarian situation, in particular in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Council members⁶⁶ reiterated their support for the work of the Special

Envoy and looked forward to the finalization of the strategy for peace consolidation and conflict resolution and prevention in the region. In that regard, the representative of Tunisia, speaking also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa, commended the efforts of the Special Envoy in leading the development of the strategy, which they hoped would help to identify and elaborate priorities and streamline the United Nations peace consolidation, conflict prevention and conflict resolution engagements. Similarly, the representative of Belgium hoped that the strategy would allow for an adequate and coherent United Nations footprint in the context of the gradual exit of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and an adaptation of the United Nations approach and presence in Burundi. Furthermore, the representative of Tunisia, speaking also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa, stated that they were encouraged by the positive response of several Member States in the region to the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire, which had been supported by the Council in resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#). With regard to Burundi, Council members noted some positive developments and welcomed the peaceful transfer of power following the last election. The representatives of China and the Russian Federation also noted that Burundi no longer posed a threat to international peace and security and that it should be removed from the agenda of the Council.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Germany, United Kingdom, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and the Russian Federation.

⁶⁶ France, Germany, United Kingdom, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa), Indonesia (also on behalf of Viet Nam), Belgium and the Russian Federation.

⁶⁷ On 4 December 2020, in connection with the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security", the Council issued a presidential statement relating to Burundi ([S/PRST/2020/12](#)), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to cease his periodic reporting on the situation in Burundi and looked forward to the Secretary-General covering Burundi as part of his regular reporting on the Great Lakes region and Central Africa. For more details, see part I, sect. 36, and part IX, sect. VI.

Meeting: the situation in the Great Lakes region

<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.8767 13 October 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region ^a	11 Council members, ^b all invitees	

<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](#).