

Table 2
Videoconference: the situation in the Central African Republic

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
22 June 2020	S/2020/572	Letter dated 24 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	

6. The situation in Guinea-Bissau

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings and adopted one resolution in connection with the situation in Guinea-Bissau. One meeting was convened for the adoption of a decision, while two meetings took the form of briefings.¹²⁸ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition to these meetings, in 2020 Council members also held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Guinea-Bissau.¹²⁹

On 14 February,¹³⁰ the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS). She commended Guinea-Bissau for the completion of its electoral cycle despite the challenges facing the outcome of the presidential election. She also commended state institutions for resorting to legal means to resolve political disputes in connection with the presidential election results, with no military interference and no major human rights violations. She noted that there had been progress in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, referring to the national action plan on drug trafficking and transnational organized crime as a road map. She referred to the three-phase transition and drawdown of UNIOGBIS in line with resolution [2458 \(2019\)](#) by 31 December 2020 and mentioned that with the conclusion of the electoral cycle, the Mission had shifted its efforts towards supporting a reform agenda, as envisioned in the Conakry Agreement on the Implementation of the Economic Community of West

African States Road Map for the Resolution of the Political Crisis in Guinea-Bissau and the stability pact.

At the same meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. He congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the successful legislative and presidential elections in 2019, while acknowledging the legal challenge of the election results. He discussed the continued drawdown of the Mission, highlighting that the role of the United Nations would be to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach in support of nationally led efforts to take forward policies and programmes to address the root causes of instability and promote peace and development. He also stated that it would be important for the international community to continue to help the Government to strengthen democratic and inclusive institutions to assist in internal reforms, support the engagement of women and youth in peacebuilding and promote and protect human rights. He affirmed that the Peacebuilding Commission was prepared to assist UNIOGBIS and the Government of Guinea-Bissau by providing a platform for coherence and coordination among stakeholders, as well as for the promotion of shared analysis and understanding of the multidimensional peacebuilding challenges in the country. During the discussion, most Council members¹³¹ commended the progress achieved and many of them pledged their commitment to future initiatives, including support for the drawdown of UNIOGBIS. Most Council members cautioned about the risks posed by the lack of political stability, which could lead to a deterioration of the security situation,

¹²⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

¹²⁹ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 15.

¹³⁰ See [S/PV.8724](#).

¹³¹ Germany, France, Indonesia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, China, South Africa, Estonia and Viet Nam.

as well as the issue of drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, which continued to pose a serious threat to the stability of the country. Council members also emphasized the importance of bilateral and multilateral partners in implementing the Conakry Agreement and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) six-point road map.¹³² In the light of the changing circumstances in the country and the drawdown of UNIOGBIS, some Council members also addressed the possible lifting or adjusting of the sanctions against Guinea-Bissau,¹³³ while one Council member supported the maintenance of the sanctions.¹³⁴

The issues outlined above were also addressed by the Council in a decision adopted on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. On 28 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2512 \(2020\)](#), extending the mandate of UNIOGBIS for 10 months until 31 December 2020.¹³⁵ In the resolution, the Council endorsed the reprioritization of tasks and reconfiguration of UNIOGBIS for its phased drawdown.¹³⁶ The Council requested the Mission to continue to focus on supporting the full implementation of the Conakry Agreement and the ECOWAS road map and to facilitate an inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation process.¹³⁷ The Council requested the Secretary-General to start the liquidation of UNIOGBIS immediately following the mandate completion date of 31 December 2020, once all substantive staff had left the Mission, and to end the liquidation process no later than 28 February 2021.¹³⁸ The Council also requested the Secretary-General, within five months of the adoption of the resolution, to submit a report to the Council on the implementation of the resolution and the drawdown and transition of UNIOGBIS, and to submit a report to the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2048 \(2012\)](#) concerning Guinea-Bissau on the progress made regarding the stabilization of Guinea-Bissau and the restoration of constitutional order and giving recommendations on the sanctions regime, including, but not limited to, its continuation, adjustment or suspension.¹³⁹ The Council also decided to review the sanctions measures six months after the adoption of the

resolution.¹⁴⁰ Following the vote on the resolution, certain Council members expressed differing views on the continuation of the sanctions concerning Guinea-Bissau.¹⁴¹

On 10 August,¹⁴² the Council heard a second briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. She reported that there had been increasing human rights abuses and political instability between the opposing political parties since her previous briefing. She addressed the particularly fragile situation of Guinea-Bissau as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic due to the country's dire health infrastructure and limited resources, while highlighting the existence of a national response plan to address the pandemic, led by the Resident Coordinator and with the support of the World Health Organization, the World Bank and other United Nations agencies. She also stated that the phased closure of UNIOGBIS, including the transition and the reconfiguration of the United Nations presence, was still proceeding. However, the political crisis and parliamentary paralysis that emerged following the presidential election had prevented the Mission from supporting the urgent reforms outlined in the Conakry Agreement, including the review of the Constitution, the electoral law and the law on political parties. She therefore stated that, regretfully, the mandate of UNIOGBIS was unlikely to be fully implemented before the Mission's departure. She reiterated her plea to Council members for funding as essential to avoid "a financial cliff" and appealed to the Council and to the international community to generously support the Cooperation Framework. She also made reference to the tripartite coordination meetings between UNIOGBIS, ECOWAS and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel to accompany the transition process, and added that the continued role of the Peacebuilding Commission in maintaining the international community's attention on Guinea-Bissau would be of utmost importance following the departure of UNIOGBIS. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission also briefed the Council, noting that despite the progress, the challenges to stability and development had deepened with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic during a year of three transitions: first, the drawdown of UNIOGBIS and transfer of tasks to the United Nations country team; secondly, the country's transition to new political leadership, which had not been uneventful; and, thirdly, the closure of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau. He affirmed that continued international engagement and sustained

¹³² Niger, France, China, South Africa, Viet Nam and United Kingdom.

¹³³ Russian Federation and Belgium.

¹³⁴ Niger.

¹³⁵ Resolution [2512 \(2020\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of UNIOGBIS, see part X, sect. II.

¹³⁶ Resolution [2512 \(2020\)](#), paras. 2 (a) and (b).

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 4 (a).

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 8.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 25. For more information on the sanctions measures concerning Guinea-Bissau, see part VII, sect. III.

¹⁴⁰ Resolution [2512 \(2020\)](#), para. 26.

¹⁴¹ See [S/PV.8736](#) (Niger and Russian Federation).

¹⁴² See [S/PV.8754](#).

focus on the country's peacebuilding priorities would be critical to ensuring economic recovery and sustainable development in Guinea-Bissau. Also at the same meeting, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) affirmed that urgently coordinated action based on shared responsibility was very much needed. Echoing the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁴³ she stated that tackling transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, was critical to building peace and working towards lasting political and economic stability in Guinea-Bissau.¹⁴⁴ Most Council members agreed that the situation in Guinea-Bissau remained fragile, and some expressed concern over the political crisis,¹⁴⁵ the violations of human rights¹⁴⁶ and the possible resurgence of drug trafficking

and organized crime.¹⁴⁷ Many Council members called for action towards stability and the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, the six-point ECOWAS road map and a revision of the Constitution.¹⁴⁸ One Council member questioned the need for the maintenance of sanctions measures, arguing that the situation in the country had changed since the coup d'état that took place in 2012,¹⁴⁹ while another stated that the political and military personnel involvement in drug trafficking and organized crime needed to be followed up and borne in mind when discussing the future of the sanctions measures.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴³ See [S/2020/755](#).

¹⁴⁴ See [S/PV.8754](#).

¹⁴⁵ Germany, Estonia, France, United Kingdom and Indonesia.

¹⁴⁶ Germany, Estonia, United States, Dominican Republic, Belgium and United Kingdom.

¹⁴⁷ Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), Viet Nam and Indonesia.

¹⁴⁸ Russian Federation, Germany, France, China, Belgium and Viet Nam.

¹⁴⁹ Russian Federation.

¹⁵⁰ Germany.

Meetings: the situation in Guinea-Bissau

<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.8724 14 February 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) (S/2020/105)		Guinea-Bissau	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and Head of UNIOGBIS, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All Council members, ^a all invitees	
S/PV.8736 28 February 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on Developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of UNIOGBIS (S/2020/105)				2 Council members (Niger and Russian Federation)	Resolution 2512 (2020) 15-0-0
S/PV.8754 10 August 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on developments		Guinea-Bissau	Special Representative of the Secretary-	12 Council members, ^b all invitees ^c	

<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>
	in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of UNIOGBIS (S/2020/755)				General, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations on behalf of the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	

^a The Niger was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad.

^b The representative of the Niger spoke also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia.

^c The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNDOC participated in the meeting by videoconference from Bissau and Vienna, respectively.

7. Central African region

During the period under review, the Council held two open videoconferences in connection with the Central African region.¹⁵¹ The Council considered developments in Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Congo, the Gulf of Guinea and the Sahel. More information on the videoconferences is given in the table below.

During the period under review, consistent with the six-month reporting period requested by the Council in the statement by the President of the Council of 10 August 2018,¹⁵² the Council heard two briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) with regard to the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa.¹⁵³ In his briefings, the Special Representative apprised the Council on the activities of UNOCA, its continued cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the United Nations Office

for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and its activities as the secretariat for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. The Special Representative updated the Council on the human rights and security situation in the region, including the continued threats posed by terrorism and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the impact of climate change on the security and prosperity of Central African countries. In 2020, the Special Representative also briefed the Council on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region, in particular the negative socioeconomic effects of the pandemic and the efforts of countries in the region, UNOCA and regional organizations to combat the threats posed by the disease.

At the videoconference held on 12 June,¹⁵⁴ the Special Representative recalled that a major consequence of the pandemic was the economic crisis. He noted, however, that the Governments in Central Africa and regional institutions had been able to adapt to the new situation created by the crisis and ensure the continuity of certain crucial activities. In that regard, at its extraordinary ministerial meeting held on 3 and

¹⁵¹ See S/2020/542 and S/2020/1188.

¹⁵² S/PRST/2018/17.

¹⁵³ See S/2020/463 and S/2020/1154.

¹⁵⁴ See S/2020/542.