

B. Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

During the period under review, the Council held two open videoconferences in connection with Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999).⁴⁹⁰ In a note by the President of the Council dated 7 February 2019,⁴⁹¹ the Council expressed its intent to hold briefings on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) three times in 2019 and, as from 2020, to hold briefings twice a year, in April and October. Consistent with the note, at the two open videoconferences in 2020,⁴⁹² Council members heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of UNMIK, in connection with the Secretary-General's reports pursuant to resolution 1244 (1999).⁴⁹³ In line with established practice, statements were also delivered by the representatives of Serbia and Kosovo during the two videoconferences.⁴⁹⁴ No decisions were adopted in connection with the item during the period under review. More information on the videoconferences is given in the table below.

The briefings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General focused on the latest developments on the ground, in particular on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Kosovo, and on the progress made in terms of the relations between Pristina and Belgrade during the reporting period.

In his briefing on 24 April,⁴⁹⁵ the Special Representative stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had been an unprecedented challenge for Kosovo and for the region and it was a reminder that such challenges could be resolved only through regional cooperation. In that regard, he outlined the measures that had been put in place to curtail the spread of the disease and how UNMIK was working closely with the local public health authorities and with international partners in fighting the pandemic.⁴⁹⁶ While stating his regret that political divisions had distracted the attention of many leaders away from the health crisis,

he also highlighted examples of positive cross-community and cross-boundary coordination between Pristina and Belgrade across ethnic and political divides, which had improved communication and coordination in dealing with the health crisis.⁴⁹⁷ He stressed that the removal of the 100 per cent tariff on imports from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as of 1 April 2020, coupled with the introduction of reciprocity measures vis-à-vis Belgrade, marked a step towards resuming more regular commercial relations and a return towards the principles of the Central European Free Trade Agreement, which he viewed as an important signpost towards a restart of the political dialogue between the two capitals. Finally, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General welcomed the appointment by the European Union of a dedicated special representative charged with advancing the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. A coordinated international approach in support of the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade would be essential and remained the best hope for reaching a comprehensive agreement and for sustaining peace.

During the discussion that ensued, Council members welcomed the positive developments during the reporting period, including the joint efforts by Belgrade and Pristina to contain the COVID-19 outbreak⁴⁹⁸ and the lifting of tariffs on goods from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁴⁹⁹ Council members also welcomed the appointment of the European Union Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues⁵⁰⁰ and urged Belgrade and Pristina to resume dialogue with help from the European Union.⁵⁰¹

With regard to the role of UNMIK, a number of Council members expressed their support for the work of the Mission.⁵⁰² More specifically, the representative of the Russian Federation maintained that the Council should continue to support the Mission as it played a leading role for creating the conditions conducive to a

⁴⁹⁰ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁴⁹¹ See [S/2019/120](#).

⁴⁹² See [S/2020/339](#) and [S/2020/1040](#).

⁴⁹³ See [S/2020/255](#) and [S/2020/964](#).

⁴⁹⁴ Serbia was represented by its First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

⁴⁹⁵ See [S/2020/339](#).

⁴⁹⁶ For more information on the mandate of UNMIK, see part X, sect. I.

⁴⁹⁷ See [S/2020/339](#).

⁴⁹⁸ Belgium, France, Germany, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States.

⁴⁹⁹ Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany and United Kingdom.

⁵⁰⁰ Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Tunisia, United Kingdom and United States.

⁵⁰¹ Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

⁵⁰² China, Dominican Republic, France, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

negotiated solution. The representative of the United States reiterated that the Mission had fulfilled its original purpose and that he looked forward to working with other Council members to draw down UNMIK and determine a more relevant role for the United Nations in helping Kosovo and the Western Balkans to realize their full potential. While expressing their recognition for the work of UNMIK, the representatives of Estonia and the United Kingdom also expressed their support for a strategic review of UNMIK. A number of speakers commended the initiatives of UNMIK to promote the participation of women in the peace process.⁵⁰³

At the videoconference on 21 October,⁵⁰⁴ in his second briefing to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General opened his remarks by providing an overview of the different phases Kosovo had moved through during the COVID-19 pandemic, from stringent measures and lockdowns to a more relaxed approach, prioritizing economic recovery. He highlighted the obstacles faced by the government in responding to the rapidly spreading pandemic, including the severe socioeconomic consequences endured by the population, particularly affecting youth, as well as women and vulnerable communities. On the peace process, the Special Representative underscored that the removal of the reciprocity measures on goods from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina had created an impetus for restarting the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. That development had been accompanied by the appointment of the European Union's new dedicated Special Representative and a high-level meeting hosted by the President of France and the Chancellor of Germany on 10 July 2020, which had led to the official resumption of the European Union-facilitated dialogue. Similarly, the Government of the United States had hosted a meeting in Washington, D.C., in September 2020 during which agreements were signed by the parties in economic and other spheres. Commending Belgrade and Pristina for resuming the negotiation process, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General called on both parties to maintain a constructive dialogue process, despite the challenges and differences of views. In the context of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the Special Representative stressed the importance of women's meaningful participation in the peace process at all levels, thus ensuring the broader representation of different sectors

of society. The Special Representative also stated that important steps had been taken to advance the investigative and judicial processes of the Kosovo Specialist Prosecutor's Office and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers concerning the filing of indictments against the President, Hashim Thaçi, and the leader of the Democratic Party of Kosovo in June 2020. He added that the Specialist Chambers and the Specialist Prosecutor's Office were integral parts of the Kosovo justice system and urged the leaders to redouble their efforts to counter misinformation and to ensure that the prosecution and Chambers' proceedings received unambiguous institutional and political support, which was essential for strengthening the rule of law and long-term stability in Kosovo.

During the discussion following the briefing, Council members broadly welcomed the resumption of dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina facilitated by the European Union, as well as the agreements on the normalization of economic relations signed under the auspices of the United States in 2020.⁵⁰⁵ In that connection, a number of speakers expressed support for the efforts of the European Union's new dedicated Special Representative in advancing the political dialogue between the two capitals,⁵⁰⁶ with a few expressing regret that he had not been invited to participate in the meeting.⁵⁰⁷ The representative of the Russian Federation hoped that under the leadership of the new dedicated Special Representative, the European mediation would gain momentum and translate into progress towards resolving Kosovo's problems. With regard to the rule of law and accountability, several Council members called for cooperation with the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and with the Specialist Prosecutor's Office in the fight against impunity for perpetrators of serious crimes.⁵⁰⁸ The representative of the United Kingdom expressed regret at the continuing slow progress in domestic prosecutions for war crimes and urged Kosovo and Serbian authorities to work together in dealing with those crimes. Echoing the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, many speakers called for greater participation of women and youth in the peace process.⁵⁰⁹

⁵⁰³ Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and United Kingdom.

⁵⁰⁴ See [S/2020/1040](#).

⁵⁰⁵ Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

⁵⁰⁶ Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, South Africa, Tunisia and United Kingdom.

⁵⁰⁷ Belgium, France and Germany.

⁵⁰⁸ Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

⁵⁰⁹ Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa.

Council members also commended the work of UNMIK on several fronts, from its role in promoting security, stability and respect for human rights to its efforts to confront the COVID-19 pandemic in Kosovo, with some stressing the need for a review of the Mission, including an option for a drawdown.⁵¹⁰ In that regard, the representative of the United States reiterated that while the United Nations could play an

important role in furthering the development of democratic norms and institutions in the region, it did not require a Chapter VII-mandated mission to advance recognition, integration and normalization. She urged Council members to begin taking the steps needed for a responsible drawdown to ensure a more relevant and effective role for the United Nations in helping Kosovo and the rest of the Western Balkans realize their full potential.

⁵¹⁰ United Kingdom and United States.

Videoconferences: Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
24 April 2020	S/2020/339	Letter dated 28 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	
21 October 2020	S/2020/1040	Letter dated 23 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	

19. Items relating to Ukraine

Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/264)

During the period under review, the Council held one meeting in connection with the item entitled “Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/264)”. The meeting took the form of a briefing.⁵¹¹ More information on the meeting, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

On 18 February, Council members held a meeting at the request of the Russian Federation.⁵¹² At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the

Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs said at the outset that the package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk arrangements, together with the Minsk Protocol and the Minsk Memorandum, remained the only agreed framework for a negotiated, peaceful settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. In her briefing, she updated the Council on progress in the implementation of the Minsk provisions since her last briefing in July 2019. She said that a number of important developments had since given rise to hope for long-elusive progress in the implementation of the Minsk provisions, including key security and political aspects. She highlighted that on 9 December 2019, after a three-year hiatus, the leaders of France, Germany, the Russian Federation and Ukraine had met in Paris under the so-called Normandy format and called for immediate measures to stabilize the situation in the conflict area, measures to implement the political provisions of the Minsk agreements and follow-up steps. The leaders committed to a full and comprehensive implementation of the ceasefire, strengthened by the implementation of all the necessary ceasefire support measures, as well as to supporting the development and implementation of an updated demining plan and an

⁵¹¹ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁵¹² See [S/PV.8726](#).