

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2020

<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>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
					the Women's Monthly Forum on Peace and Political Processes in South Sudan	
S/PV.8744 12 March 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in South Sudan (S/2020/145)	Draft resolution submitted by the United States (S/2020/197)			2 Council members (Germany, United States)	Resolution 2514 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

^a The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Coordinator of the Women's Monthly Forum on Peace and Political Processes in South Sudan participated in the meeting by videoconference from Juba.

Table 6
Videoconferences: reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan – South Sudan

<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/2020/469	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 2521 (2020) 12-0-3 ^a (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/462
23 June 2020	S/2020/582	Letter dated 25 June 2020 from the President of the Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
16 September 2020	S/2020/914	Letter dated 18 September 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
15 December 2020	S/2020/1237	Letter dated 17 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	

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

9. Peace consolidation in West Africa

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings under the item entitled "Peace consolidation in West Africa". One of the meetings took the form of a briefing and two meetings were

convened for the adoption of a decision.²³⁹ More information on the meetings, including invitees, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below.

²³⁹ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

In addition, Council members held a videoconference in connection with the item.²⁴⁰ More information on the videoconference is given in table 2 below. In addition to the meetings and the videoconference, Council members held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the item.²⁴¹

On 8 January,²⁴² the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). During his briefing, he presented the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOWAS and focused on the surge in terrorist attacks against civilian and military targets. He noted that Governments, local actors, regional organizations and the international community were mobilizing across West Africa and the Sahel to respond to terrorism and violent extremism and called upon regional and subregional leaders to follow through on pledges made so as to ensure the most effective support for Governments in the region. He also noted that farmer-herder clashes remained some of the most violent local conflicts in the region, exacerbated by climate change. Despite the worrying trends in terms of security, he highlighted the positive political developments in many parts of West Africa and the Sahel, in particular with regard to the dialogue with citizens across political divides and the conduct of elections. He mentioned that unresolved grievances, incomplete national reconciliation processes and the sentiment that institutions and processes were being manipulated carried risks of tensions and manifestations of political violence. In that regard, he stated that UNOWAS would continue to work closely with all national stakeholders and regional partners, especially the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to promote consensus and inclusiveness in all the elections to be conducted in the region.

During the briefing, Council members expressed concern about the deteriorating security situation in the region related to violent extremism, terrorism and criminal activity. In that regard, some Council members expressed their support for the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and for UNOWAS, including for the strengthening of its mandate.²⁴³ Council members also agreed that the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel

required more international support.²⁴⁴ Some Council members emphasized the need for a development-focused political and security approach to tackle poverty, unemployment and other underlying causes of instability.²⁴⁵ In that connection, Council members reflected on the nexus between climate change and conflict in the region, welcomed the reference in the report of the Secretary-General to the adverse consequences of climate change in the Lake Chad basin and parts of the Sahel, and expressed support for the mandate of UNOWAS to consider the impact of climate change on security as part of its conflict prevention approach.²⁴⁶ In addition, in the light of the risk of political and election-related tensions, Council members stressed the need to hold peaceful presidential elections in six West African countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, the Niger and Togo.²⁴⁷

On 31 January, Council members agreed to renew the mandate of UNOWAS for an additional period of three years, from 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2023, as stated in a letter from the President of the Council to the Secretary-General. The members of the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council every six months on the fulfilment by UNOWAS of its mandate.²⁴⁸

On 11 February, Council members met to issue a presidential statement, in which they expressed their full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in carrying out his mandate and the ongoing activities undertaken by UNOWAS.²⁴⁹ Council members emphasized that security and stability in Mali were inextricably linked to that of the Sahel and West Africa, as well as to that of Libya and North Africa.²⁵⁰ Council members expressed concern regarding the continued deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin, as well as over the challenging security situation in West Africa, fuelled, among other things, by terrorism and transnational organized crime, and called for a continued national, regional and international

²⁴⁰ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

²⁴¹ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 32. See also [S/2020/258](#).

²⁴² See [S/PV.8698](#).

²⁴³ Niger, France, Indonesia, South Africa, Germany and Tunisia.

²⁴⁴ Dominican Republic, China, Indonesia, Tunisia and Russian Federation.

²⁴⁵ Niger, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, China and United Kingdom.

²⁴⁶ Belgium, France, Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Germany, Russian Federation and Viet Nam. See also [S/2019/1005](#).

²⁴⁷ See [S/PV.8698](#) (Niger, France, United Kingdom, United States, South Africa, Tunisia, Russian Federation and Viet Nam).

²⁴⁸ See [S/2020/85](#) and [S/2019/1009](#). For more information on the mandate of UNOWAS, see part X, sect. II.

²⁴⁹ See [S/PRST/2020/2](#), fourth paragraph.

²⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, sixth paragraph.

engagement to help to address the peace and security challenges.²⁵¹ Council members also welcomed the leadership demonstrated by countries in West Africa and the Sahel in spearheading initiatives to address security challenges in the region and commended their efforts, as well as those of the African Union and ECOWAS, including through the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel. They encouraged Member States to support those efforts by providing the necessary assistance and resources.²⁵² Council members emphasized the need for national stakeholders in upcoming elections to ensure genuinely free and fair, credible, timely and peaceful elections.²⁵³ Council members also recognized the adverse effects of climate change, energy poverty, ecological changes and natural disasters, including through drought, desertification, land degradation and food insecurity, among other factors, on the stability of the West Africa and the Sahel region. They continued to stress the need for long-term strategies, based on risk assessments, by Governments and the United Nations to support stabilization and build resilience and encouraged UNOWAS to continue to integrate that information in its activities.²⁵⁴

On 9 July, Council members held a videoconference in connection with the item.²⁵⁵ At the videoconference,²⁵⁶ the members of the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative. He presented the latest report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOWAS²⁵⁷ and said that since his last briefing to the Council in January, attacks by violent extremists and intercommunal violence had continued to undermine peace and security in the region, particularly in the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin.²⁵⁸ He stated that this had resulted in dire implications for the humanitarian and human rights situation in the region and that terrorist attacks had been accompanied by the forced recruitment of children and abductions in Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria. He added that the growing linkages between terrorism, organized crime and intercommunal violence could not be overemphasized. Terrorists had continued to exploit latent ethnic animosities and the absence of the State in peripheral areas to advance their agenda. In that regard, he said that the United Nations had to remain committed to working with all partners to enhance a

more holistic and sustainable approach to the challenges. He added that the international community also needed to increase its support for the full operationalization of the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region, while accelerating the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. He noted that climate change and its effects were amplifying farmer-herder conflicts, increasing social tensions and fostering rural-urban migration, violence and food insecurity and that the COVID-19 pandemic was exacerbating pre-existing conflict drivers, with grave implications for peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel. He said that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the region had witnessed a number of positive developments, including the relatively peaceful conduct of the presidential elections in Togo, local elections in Benin and the completion of the work of the Constitutional Review Commission in the Gambia.

Council members reiterated their support for the work of UNOWAS and the Special Representative and stressed the need for continued international, regional and subregional cooperation.²⁵⁹ Council members expressed concern about the deteriorating security situation in the region, in particular condemning the spread of terrorism and organized crime,²⁶⁰ and commended the role played by the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.²⁶¹ Council members noted with deep concern the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was exacerbating existing grievances and the humanitarian situation in the region.²⁶² Some Council members stressed the security implications of climate change.²⁶³ Some Council members also emphasized the importance of including women in decision-making and peace processes.²⁶⁴ In several statements, participants expressed concern about human rights violations in the region.²⁶⁵ Council members called for

²⁵¹ Ibid., eighth paragraph.

²⁵² Ibid., eleventh paragraph.

²⁵³ Ibid., fourteenth paragraph.

²⁵⁴ Ibid., eighteenth paragraph.

²⁵⁵ See [S/2020/706](#). See also [S/2021/9](#).

²⁵⁶ See [S/2020/706](#).

²⁵⁷ [S/2020/585](#).

²⁵⁸ See [S/2020/706](#).

²⁵⁹ Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany and Russian Federation.

²⁶⁰ Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Indonesia, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

²⁶¹ China, Estonia, Indonesia and Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia).

²⁶² Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

²⁶³ Belgium, Germany, Indonesia and Viet Nam.

²⁶⁴ Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Niger and Viet Nam.

²⁶⁵ Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

peaceful, inclusive and transparent elections in the presidential elections in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and the Niger and agreed on the importance of political processes and dialogue.²⁶⁶

On 28 July, the Council held a meeting to issue a presidential statement in which it expressed continued concern regarding the deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel and Lake Chad basin, as well as about the challenging security situation in West Africa, fuelled, among other things, by terrorism, transnational organized crime committed at sea, conflicts between pastoralists and farmers and transnational organized crime.²⁶⁷ In the presidential statement, the Council reiterated its support for the

Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire, as also expressed in resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#), and expressed concern about the potential of the global COVID-19 pandemic to further exacerbate existing fragilities in the region, undermine development, worsen the humanitarian situation and affect disproportionately women and girls, children, refugees, internally displaced persons, older persons and persons with disabilities and, in that regard, called for international support for the efforts of the countries of region and a coordinated, inclusive, comprehensive and global response.²⁶⁸ The Council also underscored the importance of addressing the underlying conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism and the need for a holistic approach to address the root causes of intercommunal violence.²⁶⁹

²⁶⁶ Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

²⁶⁷ See [S/PRST/2020/7](#), seventh paragraph.

²⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, ninth paragraph.

²⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, twelfth paragraph.

**Table 1
Meetings: peace consolidation in West Africa**

<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>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8698 8 January 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) (S/2019/1005)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and Head of UNOWAS	All Council members, invitee	
S/PV.8720 11 February 2020						S/PRST/2020/2
S/PV.8752 28 July 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOWAS (S/2020/585)					S/PRST/2020/7

Table 2
Videoconferences: peace consolidation in West Africa

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
9 July 2020	S/2020/706	Letter dated 13 July 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

10. Peace and security in Africa

During the period under review, the Council held one meeting, in the form of an open debate, and issued one presidential statement in connection with the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”.²⁷⁰ More information on the meeting, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in table 1 below. Council members also held three open videoconferences in connection with the item. More information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below.

In 2020, Council members held two open videoconferences focusing on the operations of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel on the basis of reports of the Secretary-General on the Joint Force.²⁷¹ In addition, Council members held an open debate to discuss terrorism and violent extremism in Africa and an open videoconference on the situation regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

On 11 March, at the initiative of China, which held the Presidency of the Council for the month,²⁷² the Council held an open debate under the sub-item entitled “Countering terrorism and extremism in Africa”.²⁷³ The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, and the Assistant-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator. Speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General noted that Africa continued to face vulnerabilities that threatened its peace and security, among which were terrorism and violent extremism, which continued to grow in various parts of

the continent, notably in Somalia and East Africa, West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin. Recalling the statement of the Secretary-General that the phenomenon could not be addressed without addressing its underlying factors, she stated that the threat of terrorism was often a consequence of development, humanitarian, human rights and security challenges.

In her remarks on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Permanent Observer of the African Union noted the evolving approaches of the African Union in response to the increasing sophistication of tools employed by terrorist groups, including technology. She emphasized the importance of addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism in an integrated and comprehensive manner, understanding the motivation, particularly for young people, to join the ranks of extremist groups, and paying more attention to the factors that lay beyond the immediate local context. The Assistant-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Administrator of UNDP emphasized that an integrated and balanced approach to security and development was needed to effectively address the challenges posed by violent extremism.

Following the briefings, some speakers emphasized the need to focus on the root causes and structural causes of terrorism and extremism in Africa.²⁷⁴ In addition, some speakers called for the strengthening

²⁷⁰ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

²⁷¹ See [S/2020/373](#) and [S/2020/1074](#).

²⁷² The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 26 February 2020 ([S/2020/161](#)).

²⁷³ See [S/PV.8743](#).

²⁷⁴ See [S/PV.8743](#) (China, Dominican Republic, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Germany, France, Viet Nam, Estonia, Indonesia, European Union, Sierra Leone, Egypt, Côte d’Ivoire, Morocco and Ethiopia); and [S/PV.8743 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Algeria, Eritrea and Senegal).