

Middle East

19. The situation in the Middle East

During the period under review, the Security Council held 23 meetings in relation to the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”. Consistent with prior practice, most meetings held under this item took the form of briefings.⁶⁸⁰ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the tables below. In addition, the Council held a total of 17 open videoconferences in connection with this item.⁶⁸¹ More information on videoconferences is given in the tables below. Under this item, both at meetings and videoconferences, Council members considered a variety of topics, principally, the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic; the conflict in Yemen; the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF); and the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). In 2021, the Council also held three closed meetings with countries contributing troops and police to UNDOF and UNIFIL.⁶⁸² In addition to the meetings and videoconferences, Council members held informal consultations of the whole and closed videoconferences to discuss this item.⁶⁸³

In 2021, the Council adopted a total of six resolutions in connection with this item. The Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA), on 14 July 2021 for one year until 15 July 2022.⁶⁸⁴ On 25 February 2021, the Council renewed the sanctions measures in relation to the situation in Yemen until 28 February 2022 and extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts for 13 months until 28 March

⁶⁸⁰ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁶⁸¹ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁶⁸² Held 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”. For UNDOF, see [S/PV.8793](#) (on 10 June) and [S/PV.8920](#) (7 December 2021); for UNIFIL, see [S/PV.8832](#) (2 August 2021). See also [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 20.

⁶⁸³ See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 2.B. See also [S/2021/1014](#), [S/2021/683](#), [S/2021/1032](#) and [S/2021/938](#). During the first half of the year, consultations of the Council were held in the form of closed videoconferences, for more details on the procedures developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II of this Supplement as well as *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II.

⁶⁸⁴ Resolution [2586 \(2021\)](#), para. 1.

2022.⁶⁸⁵ The Council also renewed twice the mandate of UNDOF for periods of six months each,⁶⁸⁶ and extended the mandate of UNIFIL once for a period of 12 months until 31 August 2022.⁶⁸⁷

During the period under review, the meetings and videoconferences in relation to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to focus on three main aspects: the implementation of the Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process to end the conflict; the humanitarian situation in the country, including the issues of the protection of civilians, worsening economic crisis and humanitarian access; and the proliferation and use of chemical weapons. Briefings concerning the political process and the humanitarian situation in Syria were often addressed jointly during the same meeting or videoconference whereas the proliferation and use of chemical weapons was addressed separately in dedicated meetings and open videoconferences.⁶⁸⁸

Regarding the political process, Council members heard regular monthly briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria on the efforts to reach a political solution to the conflict. In this connection, in 2021, the briefings and discussions focused on the progress of the Constitutional Committee in drafting a constitutional text and on the necessary elements for the implementation of resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), such as a lasting nationwide ceasefire, the issue of detainees, abductees and missing persons, the engagement with civil society representatives and women's groups for their meaningful participation in the political process, and a constructive international diplomacy with key international stakeholders.⁶⁸⁹ In April and May 2021, against the backdrop of the presidential election taking place in Syria, the Special Envoy said that the election was called under the auspices of the current Constitution and was not part of the political process established by resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), adding that the United Nations was not involved in the election and had no mandate to be involved.⁶⁹⁰ In this regard, he emphasized that the

⁶⁸⁵ Resolution [2564 \(2021\)](#), paras. 2 and 9.

⁶⁸⁶ Resolutions [2581 \(2021\)](#), para. 15; and resolution and [2613 \(2021\)](#), para. 15.

⁶⁸⁷ Resolution [2591 \(2021\)](#), para. 1.

⁶⁸⁸ For more information on the format of meetings in relation to this item, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2019* and *Supplement 2018*, part II, sect. I.

⁶⁸⁹ See [S/2021/75](#), [S/2021/265](#), [S/2021/418](#), [S/2021/506](#), [S/PV.8805](#), [S/PV.8841](#), [S/PV.8866](#), [S/PV.8888](#) and [S/PV.8937](#).

⁶⁹⁰ See [S/2021/418](#) and [S/2021/506](#).

resolution mandated the United Nations to facilitate a political process that culminated in the holding of free and fair elections in accordance with a new Constitution, administered under United Nations supervision to the highest international standards of transparency and accountability, with all Syrians, including members of the diaspora, eligible to participate.⁶⁹¹ Furthermore, the Special Envoy repeatedly urged to work towards a nationwide ceasefire as a way to address the continuing challenge posed by the Security Council-listed terrorist groups in Syria, both in the situations of relative, yet fragile calm,⁶⁹² and of escalating violence.⁶⁹³ He also reported on the progress of his engagements with the co-Chairs of the Constitutional Committee and the Syria Women’s Advisory Board and reiterated his appeal to unblock progress on the issue of detainees, abductees and missing persons. In this regard, he called on the Syrian Government and all other Syrian parties to carry out unilateral releases of detainees and abductees and undertake meaningful actions on missing persons. On 27 October, after the sixth session of the Constitutional Committee in Geneva, the Special Envoy informed the Council that draft constitutional texts had been discussed but the co-Chairs were not able to agree on the mechanism for progressing further on the discussion which led to the meeting being concluded without any points of consensus or provisional agreement in the Committee.⁶⁹⁴ On 20 December, he confirmed that he was seeking to reconvene the Syrian-led and Syrian-owned United Nations-facilitated seventh session of the Constitutional Committee as soon as understandings were in place. In this regard, he emphasized the need for a productive drafting process in accordance with the Committee’s mandate.⁶⁹⁵ During his briefings, the Special Envoy highlighted a new form of constructive international diplomacy. He reported about his exploratory discussions with key States about a step-for-step approach as a way to narrow the differences among the various stakeholders, building trust to promote concrete progress.⁶⁹⁶ At the end of 2021, the Special Envoy ascertained that a great level of mistrust among the parties remained. He nonetheless expressed hope to define and agree on incremental, reciprocal, mutual, realistic, precise and

⁶⁹¹ [S/2021/418](#).

⁶⁹² See [S/2021/265](#); [S/2021/418](#) and [S/2021/506](#).

⁶⁹³ See [S/PV.8841](#) and [S/PV.8888](#).

⁶⁹⁴ See [S/PV.8888](#).

⁶⁹⁵ See [S/PV.8937](#).

⁶⁹⁶ See [S/2021/418](#), [S/2021/506](#), [S/PV.8805](#), [S/PV.8841](#), [S/PV.8866](#), [S/PV.8888](#) and [S/PV.8937](#).

verifiable steps in parallel to building trust and confidence and helping move the political process forward.⁶⁹⁷

In 2021, in addition to the Special Envoy, four civil society representatives provided briefings to Council members concerning the political situation in the country, specifically on the topics of detainees, abductees and missing persons, the participation of women in the political process, and the work of the Constitutional Committee for the implementation of resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#).⁶⁹⁸

In relation to the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, Council members also heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator as well as by the Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. The briefings focused on the findings of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of relevant resolutions, including resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#) which authorized cross-border humanitarian operations.⁶⁹⁹ The briefers provided regular updates on the humanitarian conditions in different parts of the country, particularly Idlib in northwestern Syria and the Rukban and Al-Hol refugee camps, and on the efforts of the cross-border and cross-line humanitarian assistance, as well as the distribution of vaccines through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX) across Syria. During the year, the briefers also reported to the Council on the status of the cross-border and crossline humanitarian deliveries in northwestern Syria and highlighted that cross-border assistance remained the central part of the humanitarian response.

Ahead of the expiration of the humanitarian aid delivery mechanism on 10 July 2021,⁷⁰⁰ the Secretary-General strongly appealed to the members of the Council to reach consensus on allowing cross border operations as a vital channel of support for another year underlining that a failure to extend the Council's authorization would have devastating consequences.⁷⁰¹ In

⁶⁹⁷ See [S/PV.8937](#).

⁶⁹⁸ The following representatives provided briefings to the Council: a member and former Chair-Rapporteur of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance, on 15 March 2021 ([S/2021/265](#)); a member of the Syrian Women's Political Movement on 25 June 2021 ([S/PV.8805](#)); the Founder and Director of Sawa for Development and Aid on 28 September 2021 ([S/PV.8866](#)); and the General Coordinator of the Syrian National Conference on 27 October 2021 ([S/PV.8888](#)).

⁶⁹⁹ Resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#).

⁷⁰⁰ Resolution [2533 \(2020\)](#).

⁷⁰¹ See [S/PV.8803](#).

addition to the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Council members heard briefings in connection with the humanitarian situation in Syria twice by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF),⁷⁰² as well as by six civil society representatives in meetings and videoconferences.⁷⁰³

With respect to the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, Council members were regularly briefed by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and her Deputy on the progress in the implementation of resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons program. Except for the months of July and November, the Council heard briefings by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs in open videoconferences or public meetings,⁷⁰⁴ consistent with the practice followed in 2020.⁷⁰⁵ In her briefings, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs reported on the activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and informed the Council about the work undertaken by the Declaration Assessment Team, Fact-Finding Mission and Investigation and Identification Team, as well as the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its work. She reiterated the importance of resolving the remaining outstanding issues of the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic. On 6 May 2021, the High Representative took note of the decision adopted at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, suspending the rights and privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic under the Convention and urged the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate fully with the OPCW.⁷⁰⁶ Further, at the last briefing for the year, on 8 December 2021, she informed the Council that in accordance with the decision adopted in April, the rights and privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic would be reinstated only once the OPCW Director-General reported to the Executive

⁷⁰² See [S/2021/315](#) and [S/PV.8841](#).

⁷⁰³ The following representatives provided briefings to the Council: the Syria Response Director of Save the Children briefed on 25 February 2021 ([S/2021/206](#)); the Founder of Al Amal Fund on 29 March 2021 ([S/2021/315](#)); the Country Director of CARE, Turkey briefed on 23 June 2021 ([S/PV.8803](#)); the Secretary-General of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent on 24 August 2021 ([S/PV.8841](#)); the Regional Director of Syria Relief and Development on 15 September 2021 ([S/PV.8861](#)); and a paediatrician and advocate of the Syrian American Medical Society on 20 December ([S/PV.8937](#)).

⁷⁰⁴ See [S/2021/22](#), [S/2021/109](#), [S/2021/226](#), [S/2021/337](#), [S/2021/446](#), [S/PV.8785](#), [S/PV.8830](#), [S/PV.8849](#) [S/PV.8872](#) and [S/PV.8921](#).

⁷⁰⁵ For the practice in 2020, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part I, sect. 20.

⁷⁰⁶ [S/2021/446](#).

Council that the Syrian Arab Republic had completed all of the measures contained in paragraph 5 of Executive Council decision EC94/DEC.2 which the Syrian Arab Republic had yet to complete.⁷⁰⁷ In addition to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, in June 2021, Council members heard the briefing of the Director-General of the OPCW, who reported on the progress of the Syrian chemical weapons dossier following the issuance of the second Investigation and Identification Team report in April 2021 concerning the use of chemical weapons in Saraqib in 2018.⁷⁰⁸

In 2021, the Council continued to focus in its meetings on three distinct areas in relation to the conflict in Yemen, namely, the political process to find a solution to the conflict, the humanitarian situation in the country, and the sanctions measures in place against individuals and entities designated as engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security and stability in Yemen.

Regarding the political process, the Council heard regular briefings from January to June by Martin Griffiths, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen,⁷⁰⁹ in August by the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations and from September to December by Hans Grundberg as the newly appointed Special Envoy.⁷¹⁰ The briefings focused on updating the Council on the status of the Hodeidah Agreement towards an inclusive political settlement and the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement, including the outcomes of consultations between the parties. Against the backdrop of the decision of the United States to designate Ansar Allah as a foreign terrorist organization in January 2021, Special Envoy Griffith said that he was extremely concerned about its impact on the ongoing efforts in bringing the parties together as well as by the humanitarian consequences. In this regard, he called for the decision to be revoked on humanitarian grounds at the earliest opportunity.⁷¹¹ He reiterated the call for a nationwide ceasefire, the lifting of the restrictions on the imports through the Hodeidah Port, and the opening of the Sana'a International Airport. He also urged the parties to agree on the immediate

⁷⁰⁷ See [S/PV.8921](#).

⁷⁰⁸ See [S/PV.8785](#).

⁷⁰⁹ See [S/2021/56](#), [S/2021/167](#), [S/2021/266](#), [S/2021/372](#), [S/2021/465](#), and [S/PV.8797](#).

⁷¹⁰ See [S/PV.8840](#), [S/PV.8854](#), [S/PV.8878](#) and [S/PV.8929](#).

⁷¹¹ See [S/2021/56](#).

and unconditional release of prisoners and detainees and make progress on this file.⁷¹² In December 2021, Special Envoy Grundberg expressed a deep concern by the considerable military escalation and continued violence in Yemen, which could risk opening a new “chapter of war” and underlined the importance of granting unconditional and regular access to the Envoy for a more comprehensive process; keeping open all communication channels in finding a durable solution to the conflict without preconditions as a matter of priority.⁷¹³ Throughout the year, the briefings by both Special Envoys also highlighted the importance of the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of the inclusive peace process and integrating a gender perspective across all issues.⁷¹⁴ In 2021, the Council also heard briefings by three civil society representatives on the participation of women in the peace process, the humanitarian response plan for the country and the political and economic developments in Yemen.⁷¹⁵ Affirming that women had been excluded from formal and meaningful roles in the United Nations-led peace process and the new Yemeni Government, the founding member and Programs Manager of SOS Center for Youth Capabilities Development called for direct participation of women as stipulated in resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#).⁷¹⁶

Regarding the humanitarian situation in Yemen, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, his Deputy and the Director of the Operations and Advocacy of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, often in conjunction with the Special Envoy. The briefers focused on the deteriorating security situation which had deepened the humanitarian crisis in the country. They noted that the humanitarian crisis had been exacerbated by the economic collapse and protection risk in the country, disproportionately affecting civilians, particularly children and internally displaced people. They also emphasized the need for safe, timely and sustained humanitarian access and a renewed effort to end the conflict. In addition to the UN Office for the

⁷¹² See [S/2021/56](#); [S/2021/167](#) and [S/2021/372](#).

⁷¹³ See [S/PV.8929](#).

⁷¹⁴ See [S/2021/372](#); [S/PV.8797](#); [S/PV.8854](#) and [S/PV.8878](#).

⁷¹⁵ The following representatives provided briefings to the Council Programs Manager of SOS Center for Youth Capabilities Development on 15 June 2021 ([S/PV.8797](#)); Executive Director of the Ma’rib Girls Foundation for Development on 10 September 2021 ([S/PV.8854](#)); and Fellow at the Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies on 14 October 2021 ([S/PV.8878](#)).

⁷¹⁶ See [S/PV.8797](#).

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Council members heard the briefings of the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme on the humanitarian impact of the designation by the United States of Ansar Allah as a terrorist organization on 14 January 2021 (later reversed on 18 February),⁷¹⁷ the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the serious implications of the oil leakage of the *FSO SAFER* for the region in the event of a significant oil spill,⁷¹⁸ and the Executive Director of UNICEF on the public health and socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in Yemen, particularly on the lives of children and their families.⁷¹⁹ The Council also heard a briefing from a civil society representative on the humanitarian situation on the ground in Yemen.⁷²⁰

Council members were also briefed in connection with the sanctions in Yemen by the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in her capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#).⁷²¹

In its decisions in 2021, the Council also addressed the issues outlined above concerning the conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen as well as the mandates of UNDOF and UNIFIL.

In connection with the Syrian Arab Republic and against the backdrop of the expiration of the authorization for the cross-border operations mechanism which had been last renewed on 11 July 2020 by resolution [2553 \(2020\)](#),⁷²² the Council held a meeting on 9 July 2021, to consider a draft resolution submitted by Ireland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America to extend the mechanism.⁷²³ The Council unanimously adopted resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#). By this resolution, the Council extended the decisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#), for a period of six months, until 10 January 2022, only for the border crossing at Bab al-Hawa with an extension of an additional six months, until 10

⁷¹⁷ See [S/2021/56](#) and [S/2021/167](#).

⁷¹⁸ See [S/PV.8786](#).

⁷¹⁹ See [S/PV.8840](#).

⁷²⁰ The Regional Director of CARE's for the Middle East and North Africa provided a briefing to the Council on 16 March 2021 ([S/2021/266](#)).

⁷²¹ See [S/2021/167](#). See also [S/2021/79](#). In addition, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) briefed the Council in the context of the end-of-year briefing by the outgoing Chairs of the various subsidiary bodies under the item "Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council" on 13 December 2021 ([S/PV.8928](#)). For more information, see part I, sect. 29.

⁷²² Resolution [2553 \(2020\)](#), para. 2.

⁷²³ See [S/PV.8817](#). For the draft resolution, see [S/2021/636](#).

July 2022, subject to the issuance of the Secretary General's substantive report, with a particular focus on transparency in operations, and progress on cross-line access in meeting humanitarian needs.⁷²⁴ The Council also requested the Secretary-General to include in his reports overall trends in United Nations cross-line operations, in particular on the implementation of the above mentioned activities on improving all modalities of humanitarian deliveries inside Syria and early recovery projects.⁷²⁵ After the adoption of the resolution, several Council members took the floor welcoming the unanimous adoption of resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#) reauthorizing the Syria cross-border humanitarian mechanism.⁷²⁶ The representative of the United States underlined that it was important that the United States and Russia were able to come together on a humanitarian initiative that served the interest of the Syrian people. The representative of the Russian Federation noted that the resolution was a major milestone in resolving the Syrian crisis, emphasizing the need to improve supplies across the contact lines and that the Council members gave the green light for the cross-border mechanism to be gradually supplemented and then replaced by supplies across the contact lines. While welcoming the unanimous adoption of the resolution, the representative of China said that it was of critical importance to enhance the monitoring of cross-border delivery to help prevent crossing points from being used in a manner that went beyond the Council's mandate. He added that there was much to improve in the draft regarding the lifting of unilateral sanctions and expected the Council members to continue to take effective measures to eliminate the negative impact of unilateral sanctions. The representative of Mexico, whilst noting that he preferred a more ambitious text to address the complex humanitarian situation in Syria, stated that the renewal of the Bal Al-Hawa crossing for 12 months would enable the continuation of humanitarian operations by adding certainty to the planning of activities and budget. The representative of France said that the renewed mechanism was not sufficient to meet the humanitarian needs and regretted that the Bal Al-Salam and Al-Yarubiyah crossings were not reopened. Nonetheless, she added that resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#) could not be interpreted as indicating a change in France's well-known position and reiterated that it would not fund reconstruction and lift sanctions until a credible political process was

⁷²⁴ Resolution [2585 \(2021\)](#), para. 2.

⁷²⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 5.

⁷²⁶ See [S/PV.8817](#), United States, Russian Federation, Norway, India, China, Estonia, United Kingdom, Kenya, Tunisia, Mexico and France.

firmly in place, in accordance with resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#) and also clarified that the resolution did not imply the transmission of data on aid recipients and humanitarian partners that were not intended to be made public.

With regard to the conflict in Yemen, the Council adopted resolution [2586 \(2021\)](#) of 14 July 2021 concerning the United Nations Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA). The Council extended the mandate of the Mission once, for a period of 12 months until 15 July 2022.⁷²⁷ By resolution [2586 \(2021\)](#), the Council reiterated the existing mandate of the Mission, which included leading and supporting the functioning of the Redeployment Coordination Committee to oversee the governorate-wide ceasefire, the redeployment of forces, and mine action operations. It also included the monitoring of compliance by the parties with the ceasefire and the mutual redeployment of forces from the city of Hodeidah and the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa as well as working with the parties so that the security of the city of Hodeidah and the ports of Hodeidah, Salif and Ras Issa was assured by local security forces in accordance with Yemeni law. The mandate also included facilitating and coordinating United Nations support to assist the parties to fully implement the Hodeidah Agreement.⁷²⁸ The Council also requested the Secretary-General to fully deploy UNMHA expeditiously taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and called on the parties to the Hodeidah Agreement to support the United Nations by ensuring the safety, security, and health of UNMHA personnel, and the unhindered and expeditious movement into and within Yemen of UNMHA personnel and equipment, provisions and essential supplies.⁷²⁹

Regarding the sanctions measures imposed in connection with the conflict in Yemen, on 25 February 2021, the Council adopted resolution [2564 \(2021\)](#) under Chapter VII of the Charter, with the abstention of the Russian Federation. By resolution [2564 \(2021\)](#), the Council renewed the sanctions measures in place until 28 February 2022, and extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts for 13 months, until 28 March 2022.⁷³⁰ The resolution also decided that an individual listed in the annex of the resolution would be subject to the measures imposed by paragraphs 11

⁷²⁷ Resolution [2586 \(2021\)](#), para. 1.

⁷²⁸ Resolution [2586 \(2021\)](#), para. 2(a)-(d). For more information on the mandate of UNMHA, see part X, sect. II.

⁷²⁹ Resolution [2586 \(2021\)](#), para. 5.

⁷³⁰ Resolution [2564 \(2021\)](#), paras. 2 and 9. For more information on the sanctions measures, see part VII, sect. III and for more information on the Committee and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.

and 15 of resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) and paragraph 14 of resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#) and in this regard, affirmed that sexual violence in armed conflict, or the recruitment or use of children in armed conflict in violation of international law could constitute an act, as specified in paragraph 18 (c) of resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#), and therefore a sanctionable act of engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability of Yemen.⁷³¹ In this connection, in their explanations of votes, the delegations of Estonia, Ireland, Mexico and the United States welcomed the designation of an individual engaged in violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses in Yemen, including intimidation and use of systematic arrest, detention, torture, sexual violence and rape against politically active women.⁷³² The delegations of Ireland and Mexico, in their joint explanation of their votes, also welcomed the inclusion of language on accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, as well as language on the participation of women in the political process. Nonetheless, they regretted that reference to “the equality of the sexes” was included in the resolution and emphasized that “gender equality” must form the basis of any future discussions since it was the long-established agreed language of the Security Council on matters of women and peace and security. Abstaining in the vote, the delegation of the Russian Federation stated in its explanation of vote that not all of its concerns were met and that there were doubts that the resolution would be of any help in the United Nations efforts to facilitate political dialogue and promote peace in Yemen. It added that during the consultation, the delegation of the Russian Federation had clearly pointed out several newly introduced elements that they could not agree to and presented proposals aimed at amending the text and that some of the provisions included in the draft resolution were not properly discussed within the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#). Noting that any sanctions regime should not become a goal in itself but rather serve the task of ending conflicts, the delegation affirmed that the body should envisage the strategic goal of reaching a comprehensive settlement in Yemen.

In 2021, the mandate of UNDOF was renewed twice by resolutions [2581 \(2021\)](#) and resolution [2613 \(2021\)](#) for periods of six months each, until 31 December 2021 and 30 June

⁷³¹ Resolution [2564 \(2021\)](#), paras. 3 and 8.

⁷³² See [S/2021/194](#), Estonia, Ireland, Mexico and United States.

2022, respectively.⁷³³ By resolution [2581 \(2021\)](#), the Council requested UNDOF to take all appropriate steps to protect the safety, security and health of all UNDOF personnel, in line with resolution [2518 \(2020\)](#), taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷³⁴ The Council also requested the Secretary-General and troop- and police-contributing countries to seek to increase the number of women in UNDOF, as well as to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of uniformed and civilian women at all levels, and in all positions, including senior leadership positions, and to implement other relevant provisions of resolution [2538 \(2020\)](#).⁷³⁵

In connection with Lebanon, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2591 \(2021\)](#), extending the mandate of UNIFIL for one year until 31 August 2022.⁷³⁶ The Council further requested UNIFIL, in line with resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), to take temporary and special measures support and assist the Lebanese Armed Forces with the provision of relevant additional non-lethal material (fuel, food and medicine) and logistical support for a limited period of six months, within the existing resources and without implications to the increase of the budget level. The Council added that this should not be considered as a precedent in the future and be in the framework of the Lebanese Armed Forces-UNIFIL joint activities and in compliance with the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, and without prejudice to the mandate and its implementation, the concept of operations and the rules of engagement of UNIFIL, while fully respecting Lebanese sovereignty and at the request of the Lebanese authorities.⁷³⁷ The Council also requested UNIFIL to take fully into account gender considerations as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Lebanese authorities in ensuring the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels of decision-making, including in the security sector and to support the implementation of the action plan on Women and Peace and Security. The Council further requested enhanced reporting by UNIFIL to the Security Council on this issue.

⁷³³ Resolutions [2581 \(2021\)](#) and [2613 \(2021\)](#), para.15. For more information on the mandate of UNDOF, see part X, sect. I.

⁷³⁴ Resolutions [2581 \(2021\)](#) and [2613 \(2021\)](#), para. 8.

⁷³⁵ Resolutions [2581 \(2021\)](#) and [2613 \(2021\)](#), para. 13.

⁷³⁶ Resolution [2591 \(2021\)](#), para. 1. See also part I, sect. 22. For more information on the mandate of UNIFIL, see part X, sect. I.

⁷³⁷ Resolution [2591 \(2021\)](#), para. 11.

For the purposes of facilitating the coverage of this item, information on meetings and videoconferences is set out below under six separate tables and under four separate headings, namely: (a) Syrian Arab Republic, (b) Yemen, (c) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and (d) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Table 1
Meetings: The situation in the Middle East – Syrian Arab Republic

<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>
S/PV.8785 3 June 2021	Letter dated 27 May 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2021/514)		Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons ^a	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8803 23 June 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) , 2165 (2014) , 2191 (2014) , 2258 (2015) , 2332 (2016) , 2393 (2017) , 2401 (2018) , 2449 (2018) , 2504 (2020) and 2533 (2020) (S/2021/583)		Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey	Secretary-General, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Country Director of CARE Turkey	14 Council members ^b , all invitees, Secretary-General	
S/PV.8805 25 June 2021			Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Syrian women's rights promoter and a member of the Syrian Women's Political Movement	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8817 9 July 2021		Draft resolution submitted by Ireland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America (S/2021/636)	Syrian Arab Republic		11 Council members ^c , invitee	Resolution 2585 (2021) 15-0-0

<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>
S/PV.8830 4 August 2021	Letter dated 29 July 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2021/692)		Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic	Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8841 24 August 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) , 2165 (2014) , 2191 (2014) , 2258 (2015) , 2332 (2016) , 2393 (2017) , 2401 (2018) , 2449 (2018) , 2504 (2020) , 2533 (2020) , and 2585 (2021) (S/2021/735)		Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Secretary General of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8849 2 September 2021	Letter dated 30 August 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2021/764)		Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey	High Representative for Disarmament Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8861 15 September 2021			Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Regional Director of Syria Relief and Development	14 Council members ^d , all invitees	
S/PV.8866 28 September 2021			Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Founder and Director of Sawa for Development and Aid	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8872 4 October 2021	Letter dated 30 September 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2021/842)		Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	High Representative for Disarmament Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	

<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>
S/PV.8888 27 October 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) , 2165 (2014) , 2191 (2014) , 2258 (2015) , 2332 (2016) , 2393 (2017) , 2401 (2018) , 2449 (2018) , 2504 (2020) , 2533 (2020) , and 2585 (2021) (S/2021/890)		Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, General Coordinator of the Syrian National Conference	All Council members, invitees	
S/PV.8921 8 December 2021	Letter dated 30 November 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2021/989)		Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey	High Representative for Disarmament Affairs	All Council members, invitees	
S/PV.8937 20 December 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) , 2165 (2014) , 2191 (2014) , 2258 (2015) , 2332 (2016) , 2393 (2017) , 2401 (2018) , 2449 (2018) , 2504 (2020) , 2533 (2020) , and 2585 (2021) (S/2021/1029)		Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, and Turkey	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Syrian-born paediatrician and advocate of women's and children's rights	All Council members, invitees	
	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations Humanitarian Operations in the Syrian Arab Republic (S/2021/1030)					

^a The Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons participated in the meeting via videoconference from the Hague.

^b The representative of Ireland spoke on behalf of the co-penholders on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, Norway and Ireland.

^c China, Estonia, France, India, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

^d The representative of Norway spoke on behalf of the co-penholders on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, Norway and Ireland.

Table 2
Videokonferences: The situation in the Middle East – Syrian Arab Republic

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
5 January 2021	S/2021/22	Letter dated 7 January 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
20 January 2021	S/2021/75	Letter dated 22 January 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
3 February 2021	S/2021/109	Letter dated 5 February 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
25 February 2021	S/2021/206	Letter dated 1 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
4 March 2021	S/2021/226	Letter dated 8 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
15 March 2021	S/2021/265	Letter dated 17 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
29 March 2021	S/2021/315	Letter dated 31 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
6 April 2021	S/2021/337	Letter dated 8 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
28 April 2021	S/2021/418	Letter dated 30 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
6 May 2021	S/2021/446	Letter dated 10 May 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
26 May 2021	S/2021/506	Letter dated 28 May 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

Table 3
Meetings: The situation in the Middle East – Yemen

<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>
S/PV.8786 3 June 2021			Yemen	Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Director for Operations and Advocacy, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	All invitees	
S/PV.8797 15 June 2021			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Programs Manager of SOS Center for Youth Capabilities Development.	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8819 14 July 2021	Letter dated 3 June 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2021/528)	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom (S/2021/640)				Resolution 2586 (2021) 15-0-0

<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>
S/PV.8840 23 August 2021			Yemen	Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Executive Director of the United Nations International Children's Fund	All Council members, all invitees ^a	
S/PV.8854 10 September 2021			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Deputy Director of Operations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Executive Director of the Ma'rib Girls Foundation for Development	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8878 14 October 2021			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Fellow at the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies.	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8929 14 December 2021			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.	All Council members, all invitees	

^a The Director of the Coordination Division of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs participated in the meeting via videoconference from Geneva.

Table 4
Videoconferences: The situation in the Middle East – Yemen

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
14 January 2021	S/2021/56	Letter dated 18 January 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
18 February 2021	S/2021/167	Letter dated 22 February 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
25 February 2021	S/2021/189	Letter dated 25 February 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution 2564 (2021) 14-0-1 ^a S/2021/194 (Chapter VII)
16 March 2021	S/2021/266	Letter dated 18 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
15 April 2021	S/2021/372	Letter dated 19 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
12 May 2021	S/2021/465	Letter dated 17 May 2021 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:* China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam. *Against:* None. *Abstaining:* Russian Federation.

Table 5
Meetings: The situation in the Middle East – United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

<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>
S/PV.8806 29 June 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (S/2021/516)	Draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America (S/2021/599)				Resolution 2581 (2021) 15-0-0
S/PV.8938 21 December 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (S/2021/994)	Draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation and the United States of America (S/2021/1077)				Resolution 2613 (2021) 15-0-0

Table 6
Videoconferences: The situation in the Middle East – United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

<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>
S/PV.8845 30 August 2021	Letter dated 4 August 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2021/707)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2021/757)				Resolution 2591 (2021) 15-0-0