

34. Maintenance of international peace and security

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”. The Council adopted three resolutions, one of them under Chapter VII of the Charter and issued four presidential statements. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below. In addition, Council members held ten videoconferences in connection with this item.¹¹⁰⁴ More information on the videoconferences is given in table 2 below. In addition to meetings and videoconferences, Council members also held informal consultations of the whole and closed videoconferences in connection with this item.¹¹⁰⁵

As in previous periods, a broad range of new and existing sub-items and themes were discussed in connection with this item.¹¹⁰⁶ The sub-items and themes addressed in 2021 were the following: (i) Challenges of maintaining peace and security in fragile contexts; (ii) Implementation of resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#),¹¹⁰⁷ (iii) Climate and security; (iv) Conflict and food security; (v) Mine action and sustaining peace-stronger partnerships for better delivery; (vi) Upholding multilateralism and the United Nations-centred international system; (vii) Cybersecurity; (viii) Maritime security; (ix) Exclusion, inequality and conflict; (x) Peace and security through preventive diplomacy: a common objective to all the principal organs of the United Nations, and (xi) Security in the context of terrorism and climate change.

On 6 January 2021, at the initiative of Tunisia which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹⁰⁸ Council members held a high-level videoconference focused on the theme “Challenges of maintaining peace and security in fragile contexts”.¹¹⁰⁹ At the videoconference,

¹¹⁰⁴ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

¹¹⁰⁵ See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 34.

¹¹⁰⁶ As explained in *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, videoconferences, whether open or closed, were not considered formal meetings of the Security Council for all relevant purposes, including for the agenda of the Council. Therefore, topics discussed in videoconferences were not considered as formal sub-items. For more information on new sub-items and topics, see part II, sect. III.A.

¹¹⁰⁷ The topics for the open videoconferences on 25 January and 17 February were “Follow-up on the implementation of resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#)” and “Implementation of resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#)” respectively. They were consolidated as one single topic.

¹¹⁰⁸ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 28 December 2020 ([S/2020/1296](#)).

¹¹⁰⁹ For more information on high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II.

Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and the former President of Liberia.¹¹¹⁰

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General stated that addressing the links between fragility and conflict was an essential component of international peace and security, because they were among the greatest obstacles to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Referring to the World Bank's report entitled "Fragility and Conflict: On the Front Lines of the Fight against Poverty", he noted that humanitarian needs had multiplied, reaching the highest levels since the Second World War. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic had further exacerbated those trends.¹¹¹¹ Noting that the climate emergency was a further driver of insecurity, he emphasized that to break the cycle of poverty and conflict, a more ambitious approach based on the principles of interdependence and inclusion enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals was needed. Underscoring that the linkages between conflict and fragility had been particularly visible on the African continent, the Secretary-General advocated for adequate funding for prevention and peacebuilding as well as for the deployment of African peace enforcement operations authorized by the Security Council. He also urged the Council to play a critical role in addressing the links between fragility and conflict, adding that the Council could mobilize the international community's political and financial support, spotlight critical areas of need and foster the commitment of conflict actors where needed.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission reaffirmed that the challenges of peacekeeping in fragile contexts was at the heart of the concerns of the African Union. State fragility remained a major obstacle to development in Africa and overcoming that challenge was therefore a top priority for the African Union. He recounted the policies adopted by the African Union aimed at supporting its member States and strengthening their capacity to prevent conflicts and tensions and recalled that the African Union had focused its tireless efforts on realizing the principle of African solutions to African problems. He commended Council's effort in adopting resolution [2457 \(2019\)](#), but acknowledged the challenges, including access to predictable and sustainable resources in support of operations initiated, or led, by the African Union that had a clear and robust mandate, had continued to undermine the ability of the African

¹¹¹⁰ See [S/2021/24](#).

¹¹¹¹ Ibid.

Union to effectively carry out its mandate.. Noting that exclusion was one of the key drivers of crises and tensions, he posited that the only strategy for addressing fragility was to resolutely succeed in policies to empower women and boldly integrate young people into a genuinely inclusive synergy of those vital forces in societies.

The former President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, highlighted the three keys to ending the brutal armed conflict in Liberia, namely, the desire for peace by ordinary Liberians, the robust mandate of the regional peacekeeping force and its understanding of the threats posed to regional security, and the subsequent international support for the final peace agreement. In addition, she said that another key was women's leadership, affirming that without the Liberian women, Liberia would not have had peace. While noting that countries were questioning the efficacy of peacekeeping operations and the costs of running them, she affirmed that she remained a strong advocate for peacekeeping. She conceded that the architecture must change, with the flexibility to respond to challenging circumstances and in consonance with the recognition of, and support for, local capability and leadership when the warning bells rang. She concluded by noting that the United Nations, with its many entities, especially the Security Council, was established to lead the process of global development and global equity and said that it must be an active mechanism for peace and scaled-up support for the fragile nations that for too long had been left behind.

Following the briefings, speakers discussed the need to address the challenges that fragility and conflict posed in the maintenance of international peace and security, particularly in Africa, including the role of women and young people. In tackling these challenges, many speakers urged the Council to foster a closer cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the African Union and sub-regional organizations. In dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, many Council members expressed concern that it had exacerbated existing drivers of fragility and conflict, such as climate change, terrorism and transnational organized crime.

On 25 January 2021, Council members held a videoconference focused on the theme "Follow-up on the implementation of resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#)". At the videoconference, Council members heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational

Support and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.¹¹¹²

In her briefing, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs stated that the devastation wrought by the pandemic had deepened, with more than two million people dead and close to 100 million of the world's population infected. Highlighting the impact of the pandemic on peace and security, she expressed concern about the effect of COVID-19 on women and youth, including other populations suffering from marginalization. While noting that the pandemic had hindered diplomatic action and complicated the peacemaking efforts, she recalled that the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire had generated widespread support and, in some instances, added new momentum to faltering peace processes offering examples in the situations in Libya, Afghanistan, Mozambique and in eastern Ukraine. Despite these positive developments, she noted that in several other contexts, the ceasefire call had more mixed results, such as the situation in the South Caucasus, where large-scale hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh broke out in September 2021. She described initiatives of the Secretary-General's special representatives, envoys and missions in adjusting to the changing reality brought about by the pandemic, combining virtual and in-person work and taking calculated risks to fulfil their mandates to advance peace processes, de-escalate crises and prevent conflict, including new tools such as digital focus groups that had been developed and used to broaden the inclusiveness of United Nations engagements. She also underscored that the collective and individual engagement of members of the Council and the international community would remain crucial, especially in supporting the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire and engaging with parties to conflicts and their backers to ensure that they heeded the appeal.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations focused his briefing on five key issues. He first underlined the complex political situations that had continued to feel the strain of COVID-19, such as the situations in South Sudan, Cyprus, Lebanon and the Central African Republic. Secondly, he noted that peacekeeping missions had continued to deliver on their mandated tasks, due to the collaboration of Member States, which had enabled troop-and police-contributing countries and host States, missions to demonstrate adaptability, resilience and

¹¹¹² See [S/2021/90](#).

innovation. Thirdly, peacekeeping operations had put a constant and steadfast emphasis on ensuring the safety and health of their personnel, be they military, police or civilian. Fourthly, peacekeeping operations had consistently endeavoured to support host country authorities to contain the spread of COVID-19, at both national and subnational levels. Finally, he stressed the need for the international community to turn its collective attention to managing the long-term impact of the pandemic and the role that peace operations could play. Despite all the challenges, he reaffirmed that the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations had continued to provide a framework for the response and a road map for collective efforts to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping.

The Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support reported on the various actions taken by the Department of Operational Support to allow field operations to continue to carry out their mandates, including proactive measures to support the field with supplies, equipment and personal protective equipment, upgrading of medical facilities, virtual walk-throughs of duty stations, simple but effective solutions to reduce the risk of spread, innovation to minimize exposure and contact as well as the conduct of medical evacuations under the United Nations System-Wide Task Force on COVID-19 Medical Evacuations as an inter-agency and system-wide effort and the establishment of regional hubs. He also reported that the Department of Operational Support had been tasked by the Secretary-General to coordinate a system-wide vaccination effort for all United Nations personnel and dependents worldwide.

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator provided a briefing on the humanitarian impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that almost a quarter of people who had contracted the virus across the world lived in countries facing humanitarian or refugee crises. He drew attention to the risk that the most fragile countries faced due to lack of vaccines and the steep increase in food insecurity resulting in multiple famines on the horizon. In terms of the humanitarian system response to COVID-19, he elaborated on various initiatives by humanitarian agencies in providing life-saving assistance to almost 100 million people. While the humanitarian community had managed to sustain and scale up assistance to an unprecedented level, he expressed concern that those efforts had been outpaced by the growing scale of the crisis and sought the Council's help in three areas, namely,

to provide immediate and generous funding for the Global Humanitarian Overview 2021, to strengthen the support that the international financial institutions provided to their most vulnerable members, and to ensure that vaccines reached the most vulnerable people in the world. He also called to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines did not get financed in the very poorest countries at the expense of other life-saving activities.

During the discussion, Council Members and other participants reaffirmed their support to the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire and peaceful settlement of disputes. Many speakers emphasized the need for the international community to ensure an equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, particularly in conflict areas. They called for engagement in preventative diplomacy, notably, where COVID-19 was exacerbating tensions that could potentially lead to the outbreak of conflict. Speakers stated that the pandemic had disrupted humanitarian aid flows and threatened development and peacebuilding gains in fragile and conflict affected areas.

On 17 February 2021, at the initiative of the United Kingdom, which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹¹³ Council members held a high-level videoconference focused on the theme "Implementation of resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#)".¹¹¹⁴ At the videoconference, the members of the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Vaccine Alliance, and the Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Secretary-General underscored that the COVID-19 pandemic had continued its merciless march across the world, upending lives, destroying economies and undermining the Sustainable Development Goals. He expressed concern that progress on vaccinations had been wildly uneven and unfair, with just 10 countries having administered 75 per cent of all COVID-19 vaccines and more than 130 countries not having received a single dose. He cautioned against allowing the virus to spread like wildfire in the Global South, which could result in new variants and potentially, threaten the effectiveness of current vaccines thereby prolonging the pandemic significantly and enabling the virus to come back to plague the Global North. Referring to the creation of the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, he underscored the

¹¹¹³ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 12 February 2021 ([S/2021/138](#)). For more information on high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II.

¹¹¹⁴ See [S/2021/157](#).

necessity of funding it also, urging the Group of Twenty to establish an emergency task force to prepare a global vaccination plan and coordinate its implementation and financing.

The Executive Director of UNICEF emphasized the need to ensure that vaccinations were available to everyone including the millions of people living through, or fleeing, conflict and instability. She stated that UNICEF was proud to support the global response led by the World Health Organization, bringing its decades of experience and expertise to that massive task. In joining the historic roll out, she noted that the support of the Council was necessary with regard to ensuring that everyone was included in the national vaccination plans of Member States, a global ceasefire by extending the call made in resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#) for a humanitarian pause for the duration of vaccine delivery and finally, helping to restart stalled immunization campaigns for other diseases like measles, diphtheria and polio.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Global Vaccine Alliance stressed the need to ensure that vulnerable at-risk populations everywhere had access to life-saving vaccines. He noted that the pandemic was more than a global health crisis. It was a significant challenge to international peace and security that could be addressed only through multilateral cooperation. He also said that epidemics and pandemics were an evolutionary certainty; and vaccines — where they existed — were a critical tool in preventing them and protecting from new diseases. In that regard, he affirmed that those tools were a key investment in both national and international security. With reference to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) and its goal for equitable access, he said that a proposed humanitarian buffer would enable access to COVID-19 vaccines for high-risk populations in humanitarian settings. However, he noted that the humanitarian buffer was a measure of last resort and asked the Council to reinforce the message for country's national vaccine plans that those available doses should be distributed in order to ensure truly equitable access. He also said it was fundamentally important for the Council to play its political role in enabling supplies to move into conflict-affected settings via neutral humanitarian actors, in accordance with international law. In closing, he asked the Council to advocate for and invest in the unprecedented effort, and to call on all nations to ensure the unhindered deployment of vaccines in settings affected by conflict and into the arms of all high-risk individuals, whether refugee or citizen.

The Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies noted that mistrust had consistently undermined COVID-19 response efforts, just as it did during the Ebola crisis, citing examples of such instances occurring in Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He emphasized that during the current immunization phase of the global response, earning community trust remained crucial, especially against the backdrop of historically high levels of vaccine hesitancy. He suggested that strong involvement of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other local impartial organizations in vaccination activities could help ensure that underserved, alienated or isolated communities — including those living in areas not under the control of States, as well as detainees, internally displaced persons and refugees. In that context, he drew attention to the efforts of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies aimed at maintaining routine immunizations in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and Pakistan, having saved countless lives.

Following the briefings, speakers underscored the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the role of the Council, Member States and the United Nations in ensuring equitable distribution of vaccines especially to people living in conflict and fragile settings. Speakers considered COVID-19 a threat on its own,¹¹¹⁵ with some of them considering it a threat to global peace and security,¹¹¹⁶ to international peace and security,¹¹¹⁷ and to the sustainable development of peoples.¹¹¹⁸ They stressed the need to tackle misinformation leading to vaccine hesitancy. Many participants pointed out the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and children, advocating that they should be put at the centre of the response. Some speakers called for overcoming the challenges of COVID-19 with greater national, regional and international cooperation, with the United Nations playing a key coordinating role. In that context, several Member States emphasized the need to support peacekeeping operations, ensure

¹¹¹⁵ Turkey.

¹¹¹⁶ Ireland and Kenya.

¹¹¹⁷ Niger. For further details on the discussion, see part VII, sect. I.

¹¹¹⁸ See [S/2021/157](#), Cuba.

vaccination of peacekeeping personnel and to utilize peacekeeping operations in the delivery and distribution of vaccines, especially in conflict areas.¹¹¹⁹

On 23 February 2021, again at the initiative of the United Kingdom which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹²⁰ Council members held a videoconference focused on the theme “Climate and security”. At the videoconference, the members of the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, Ms. Nisreen Elsaïm, a youth civil society representative and Chair of the United Nations Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.¹¹²¹

In his remarks, the Secretary-General noted that the climate emergency was the defining issue of the time. He emphasized that the science was clear, reaffirming the need to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C by the end of the century. He urged the international community to protect the people and communities who were being hit by climate disruption and to step up preparations for the escalating implications of the climate crisis for international peace and security. Stating that climate disruption was a crisis amplifier and multiplier, he underscored that the impacts of the crisis were greatest where fragility and conflicts had weakened coping mechanisms, where people depended on natural capital, such as forests and fish stocks, for their livelihoods and where women did not enjoy equal rights, citing the situations in Darfur, Afghanistan, West Africa and the Sahel. He drew attention to the fact that vulnerability to climate risks was also correlated with income inequality. While stressing that much more needed to be done to address the specific risks that the climate crisis posed to peace and security, he described four priority areas. First, the need for a greater focus on prevention through strong, ambitious climate action to get the world on track to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and prevent climate catastrophe. Secondly, the need for immediate actions to protect countries, communities and people from the increasingly frequent and severe climate impacts, ensuring a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience, which meant dramatically raising the level of investment. Thirdly, the need to embrace a concept of security that put people at its centre, noting that the pandemic had shown the devastation that so-called non-traditional security threats could cause on a global scale. Lastly, he highlighted the need to deepen partnerships across and

¹¹¹⁹ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, France; Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Belgium, European Union, Germany and Peru.

¹¹²⁰ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 17 February 2021 ([S/2021/155](#)).

¹¹²¹ See [S/2021/198](#).

beyond the United Nations system by leveraging and building on the strengths of different stakeholders, including the Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, international financial institutions, regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia and others. In closing, he urged Council members to use their influence to ensure the success of COP26 and to mobilize others, including international financial institutions and the private sector to do their part, stating that 2021 was a make-or-break one for collective action against the climate emergency.

The youth civil society representative and Chair of the United Nations Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, in her statement, recalled previous Council debates on climate security risks, while noting that the Council had also included references to climate security risks in resolutions related to Somalia, the Sudan, West Africa and the Sahel, Mali and the Lake Chad basin. Stating that after almost 14 years, the agenda item on climate security was still valid and being discussed at the Council, she added that for a Sudanese young person like her, everything regarding climate change could not be affiliated with security. She recounted living in continuous insecurity due to many factors, which had put the Sudan at the top of the list when it came to climate vulnerability. She recalled resolution [2429 \(2018\)](#) on the Sudan which recognized the adverse effects of climate change, ecological changes and natural disasters.¹¹²² Collecting data about conflict and climate change, consulting local communities and trusting in science were her key recommendations at the meeting. In closing, she asked Member States to give more space and listen and engage young people and urged them to stop conflicts by stopping climate change, to ensure security and secure the future.

Following the briefings, speakers described their national actions and initiatives in combating the negative impact of climate change offering various views on the related security risk. Council members highlighted that climate security concerns must be integrated into early warning and conflict prevention systems for a more effective prevention of future crisis. Many speakers underlined that climate change continued to be a ‘multiplier’ of existing threats to international peace and security. While many Member States stressed that the link between climate and conflict could not be more evident, including the role of the Council in dealing with

¹¹²² See resolution [2429 \(2018\)](#), twenty-first preambular paragraph.

the issue, others signalled that there were already established mechanisms to deal with climate change, primarily, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).¹¹²³ There were also calls by Member States for the United Nations to enhance its cooperation with regional organizations in addressing the climate crisis. To that end, many speakers expressed strong support for the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in addressing climate security risks.¹¹²⁴

On 11 March 2021, at the initiative of the United States which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹²⁵ Council members held a high-level videoconference focused on the theme “Conflict and food security”.¹¹²⁶ At the videoconference, the members of the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of Oxfam International and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

The Secretary-General stated that hunger and poverty combined with inequality, climate shocks, sectarian and ethnic tensions, and grievances over land and resources, to spark and drive conflict. While commending the enormous inroads into hunger that had been made over recent decades, he warned that the international community was facing multiple conflict-driven famines around the world, notably across the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, and accelerating in South Sudan, Yemen and Afghanistan. He informed of his decision to establish a High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine, led by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Elaborating on the mandate of the Task Force, he stated that it would include representatives from the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization and would bring coordinated, high-level attention to famine prevention, and mobilize support to the most affected countries. He added that the Task Force would draw on the support of other Inter-Agency Standing Committee members and cooperate with non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions and other specialized United Nations agencies. He recalled that humanitarian access must not be impeded and that the use of famine as a method of war constituted a war crime. He urged the members of the Council to act

¹¹²³ India, China, Russian Federation, Brazil and South Africa.

¹¹²⁴ For further details on the discussion, see part V, sect. I.

¹¹²⁵ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 3 March 2021 ([S/2021/217](#)). For more information on high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II.

¹¹²⁶ See [S/2021/250](#).

using every means so that those responsible for those atrocious acts were held accountable, as well as to remind the parties to conflict of their obligations in the context of international humanitarian law. He also called on Council members to use their privileged position to end violence, negotiate peace, and alleviate the hunger and suffering afflicting so many millions of people around the world.

The Executive Director of Oxfam International narrated the stories of people who were suffering through acute hunger in countries where conflict and insecurity had stalked. Setting out a set of recommendations, she urged the Council to make good on its unanimous agreement to break the vicious cycle of conflict and food insecurity. First, the Council should deepen its work on the topic with a clear commitment for action. Secondly, the Council must take genuine action to support the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire urgently, while ensuring humanitarian access and the inclusion of women from the beginning of the process. Thirdly, the Council should apply the principles it had endorsed in the abstract to the situations on its agenda. Fourthly, it should endorse, and its members should lead, the effort to fulfil the global appeal for \$5.5 billion to meet additional needs to avert famine, most especially in the light of COVID-19 and lastly, it should endorse a people's vaccine for COVID-19 that was free and accessible to all.

Describing the initiatives and progress made by his organization in providing life-saving assistance to millions of people, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme stated that his organization's food insecurity projections for 2021 were truly shocking, citing the situation in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, South Sudan and the Sahel. Noting that the Council had a moral obligation to end those wars, he urged Council members to provide immediate funding to avoid multiple famines around the world and to transform the lives of people in fragile, conflict-scarred nations while helping to lay new pathways to peace.

In their statements, speakers discussed the worsening food security environment, relevant obligations under international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and challenges in mobilizing adequate and timely resources for humanitarian assistance. Many Council members recalled resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#), drawing attention to the link between armed conflict and violence and conflict-induced food insecurity and the threat of famine. Council members echoed the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire in response to the pandemic.

Some Member States questioned the appropriateness of discussing the issue at the Council and expressed the view that the issue of food security should be dealt with by mechanisms and organs specifically mandated to address those issues.¹¹²⁷

On 8 April 2021, at the initiative of Viet Nam which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹²⁸ Council members held a high-level videoconference focused on the theme “Mine action”.¹¹²⁹ At the videoconference, Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General, United Nations Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Provincial Programme Manager and Manager of Project RENEW.

The Secretary-General in his opening remarks noted that landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) maimed and killed indiscriminately.¹¹³⁰ He noted that while progress had been made, challenges had intensified. Conflict had become more urbanized, armed groups were proliferating and the use of IEDs was increasing. In that connection, he highlighted three areas for attention: first, the constant threat of explosive ordnance endangering the lives of the people serving in and protected by the United Nations missions; second, the role of mine action in advancing and underpinning durable solutions to conflict and third, the need for increased political will and cooperation to prevent and respond to the threat of explosive ordnance. While emphasizing that mine action was a national responsibility, he underlined the need for partnerships and cooperation at the local, regional and international levels and mentioned the existing partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in reducing the threat of IEDs.

The United Nations Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador underscored that mine action was linked to the sustainable development goals (SDGs). In that regard, to reduce risks and build a better future for mine-affected communities, she suggested two main areas of work. First, by raising awareness at the national and international levels of the role mine action in achieving the SDGs, including by highlighting evidence to engage more voices on the work

¹¹²⁷ Russian Federation and Cuba.

¹¹²⁸ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 19 March 2021 ([S/2021/284](#)).

¹¹²⁹ See [S/2021/346](#). For more information on high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II.

¹¹³⁰ See [S/2021/346](#).

and impact of mine action. Secondly, in light of a downward trend, by financing and new partnerships to accelerate efforts.

In his statement, the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining affirmed that mines and cluster munitions posed a severe threat to security and were an obstacle to lasting peace. He considered the meeting a unique opportunity to discuss mine action within the United Nations organ responsible for peace and security. He noted that the mine action sector was facing new challenges, which were relevant to the Security Council as well. Not only because mine contamination was a threat to peace and security but because mine action had proven significantly to contribute to peace efforts. He further reaffirmed that there could be no mine action without the contribution of all key stakeholders, with the Council being one of them.

The Provincial Programme Manager and Manager of Project RENEW shared with the Council some recommendations which she believed would lead to more effective and efficient implementation of mine action activities. First, national capacity and national ownership should be increased to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of mine action results. Second, all national and international mine action stakeholders should coordinate closely at every level. Third, the international community could benefit from the experience and expertise of countries with long-term impacts from explosive ordnance. Finally, she said that the involvement of women in all aspects of mine action should be promoted and increased.

Following the briefers, Council members discussed the threats and challenges posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices while noting the positive contribution of mine action to sustaining peace. The role of the Council and the support needed for the efforts of the United Nations Mine Action Service was also discussed by Member States. Many speakers underlined the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations for the success of mine action, including the meaningful participation of women in mine action activities.¹¹³¹

On 7 May 2021, at the initiative of China which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹³² Council members held a high-level videoconference focused on the theme “Upholding

¹¹³¹ For further details on the discussion, see part VII, sect. I.

¹¹³² A concept note was circulated by letter dated 29 April 2021 ([S/2021/416](#)).

multilateralism and the UN-centered international system”. At the videoconference, Council members heard a briefing by the President of the General Assembly.¹¹³³

In his opening remarks, the President of the General Assembly stated that strong and effective multilateralism, based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and justice, was the foundation for security, stability, peace and prosperity. He maintained that multilateralism played a crucial role in fostering dialogue and trust and in managing security challenges, such as terrorism and weapons proliferation. Under the Charter of the United Nations, he underscored that the Council was entrusted with a special responsibility in relation to international peace and security and noted that for millions of people around the world, the Council was the face and embodiment of the United Nations and therefore its success or failure to achieve its mandate was seen as the success or failure of the United Nations. On many occasions, he pointed out that the Council had been divided and unable to rise to the challenge due to differences among its members, in particular its permanent members. He therefore urged all States Members of the United Nations, including the members of the Council, to strengthen the implementation of the Charter and formulate rules and processes that expedited justice with regard to human rights abusers and those who violated international humanitarian law. On COVID-19 recovery plans and humanitarian responses, he underscored that they must be centred around human rights and the protection of civilians. Further to that, he stressed on the need to reinforce United Nations reforms, which supported an integrated approach to the current challenges.

Following the briefing, speakers discussed the development of multilateralism and the need for a collective response in tackling global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, terrorism, climate change and other non-traditional threats with the Security Council at its core. Participants elaborated on their country’s initiatives in upholding the United Nations-centred multilateral mechanism, including lessons learned and how to better consolidate the multilateral system and prevent the resurgence of unilateralism. Some Council members reflected on the existing system of global governance as well as on its shortcomings.¹¹³⁴ Council members

¹¹³³ See [S/2021/456](#).

¹¹³⁴ China, Mexico, Niger and Russian Federation.

emphasized the need to uphold the principles and purposes of the Charter and reaffirmed the role of the United Nations in confronting current threats.¹¹³⁵

On 29 June 2021, at the initiative of Estonia which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹³⁶ Council members held a high-level videoconference in connection with the theme “Cybersecurity” at which they were briefed by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.¹¹³⁷ Noting that advances in digital technologies continued to revolutionize human life, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs suggested the need to understand the malicious use of such technologies that could imperil the security of future generations. She reported that on information and communications technologies, a dramatic increase in the frequency of malicious incidents in past years had been observed, noting that efforts were under way to address them. In that regard, she recalled that two United Nations processes, an Open-ended Working Group and a sixth Group of Governmental Experts, both established in 2018, had recently and successfully concluded their respective work, taking important steps forward on the topic through the adoption of concrete, action-oriented recommendations. At the regional level, regional organizations were also undertaking key efforts on those issues. While States carried the primary responsibility for maintaining international security, she underscored that information and communications technology were an integral part of societies and other stakeholders had a key role and interest, as well as responsibility, in securing cyberspace, highlighting a series of private-sector-led cyber initiatives, such as the Cybersecurity Tech Accord led by Microsoft, the Charter of Trust led by Siemens and the Munich Security Conference, and the Global Transparency Initiative of Kaspersky Lab. On the role of the United Nations, she stated that the Organization was ready to support States together with other stakeholders in promoting a peaceful information and communications technology environment and made reference to the Secretary-General’s high-level panel on digital cooperation as well as to the Secretary-General’s launching of an agenda for disarmament which placed emphasis on understanding and addressing new generation technologies posing possible challenges to existing legal, humanitarian and ethical norms; non-proliferation; and peace and security. Given the

¹¹³⁵ For further details on the discussion, see part V, sect. I.

¹¹³⁶ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 8 June 2021 ([S/2021/540](#)).

¹¹³⁷ See [S/2021/621](#).

implications for the maintenance of international peace and security resulting from information and communications technology threats, she said that the engagement by the Council was paramount.

Following the briefing, Council members expressed concern about the consequences of cyber threats and malicious cyber activities on critical infrastructure and underscored the need for the international community to continue to respond to the global threats which would ultimately threaten international peace and security. They emphasized that the fundamental provisions of the Charter of the United Nations should guide all States in their conduct in cyberspace and that States were obliged to adhere to the prohibition of the use of force. With reference to the Group of Governmental Experts and the Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly,¹¹³⁸ speakers emphasized that cyberspace was subject to international law, including the Charter and the principle of state sovereignty. Many speakers welcomed the establishment of a new Open-ended Working Group by the General Assembly.¹¹³⁹ Several speakers called for a secure, stable, and peaceful information and communications technology environment,¹¹⁴⁰ for bridging the digital divide,¹¹⁴¹ and for the participation of women in decision making processes and policies on cyber security.¹¹⁴² Additionally, the important role that regional organizations could exert in the field of cybersecurity was emphasized by Council members.¹¹⁴³

On 9 August 2021, at the initiative of India which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹⁴⁴ Council members held a high-level videoconference focusing on the theme “Maritime Security” and heard briefings by the by Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC).¹¹⁴⁵

¹¹³⁸ For the 2021 report of the Open-ended Working Group, see [A/75/816](#). For further details on the discussion, see part IV, sect. I.

¹¹³⁹ See [A/RES/75/240](#).

¹¹⁴⁰ See [S/2021/621](#), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Norway, Brazil, European Union, Pakistan, and Qatar.

¹¹⁴¹ Estonia, Niger, Ireland, China, Russian Federation, Denmark, European Union, and Pakistan, Peru and South Africa.

¹¹⁴² Ireland, Australia, Canada, European Union, Slovenia and Thailand.

¹¹⁴³ For further details on the discussion, see sect. IV, part VI, and part VII, sect. I.

¹¹⁴⁴ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 26 July 2021 ([S/2021/680](#)).

¹¹⁴⁵ See [S/2021/722](#). For more information on high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II.

The Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General said that maritime security was being undermined at alarming levels and called for an integrated response to the threats posed by maritime insecurity. She noted the existence of an international legal regime for maritime security, underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which was only as strong as countries' commitment to its full and effective implementation. In that regard, she emphasized the need to translate commitment into action. She welcomed the concerted steps taken by the Council and Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation on maritime security in accordance with all related instruments including the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Given the clear links between global security and maritime spaces, she welcomed efforts to further galvanize support for action.

The Executive Director of the UNODC described the work of his office and reported that piracy and armed robbery at sea had continued to be a major threat during the pandemic. He said that the need to tackle piracy and organized crime at sea had been increasingly recognized by the Council and by Member States. He also emphasized the need for greater concerted international efforts to target challenges and reduce vulnerabilities. In that regard, he highlighted four areas of action for consideration by the Council. First, more effective implementation of the international legal framework and Council resolutions promoting maritime security. Second, greater political will and more resources for technical assistance and capacity-building. Third, strengthening international and regional cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, to counter the expansion of maritime crime. Finally, the need to tackle root causes and support all countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals as part of an integrated crime prevention response, especially for affected coastal communities.

During the discussion, speakers underscored the importance of enhancing global maritime security raising, in particular, certain areas such as the Gulf of Guinea and the Persian Gulf. Many speakers highlighted the global threat caused by piracy and armed robbery at sea.¹¹⁴⁶ In that regard, some speakers condemned the attack against the merchant vessel “Mercer Street” off the coast of Oman on 29 July which resulted in the death of two people.¹¹⁴⁷ Citing the United

¹¹⁴⁶ For further details on the discussion, see part VII, sect. I.B.

¹¹⁴⁷ See [S/2021/722](#), United States, France, Norway, United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Brazil, European Union, Romania, Singapore and United Arab Emirates.

Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as the legal framework on oceans and seas, participants expressed support for strengthening regional and international cooperation for maritime security. Some Council members stressed the importance of the role of the Security Council,¹¹⁴⁸ as well as UNODC in enhancing maritime security.¹¹⁴⁹

On 7 September 2021, at the initiative of Ireland which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹⁵⁰ Council members held a meeting at which they heard briefings by the Chair of The Elders, Mrs. Mary Robinson and His Excellency Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, Elder Emeritus.¹¹⁵¹

In her briefing, the Chair of The Elders urged Council members to use the investigative tools at their disposal under Article 34 of the Charter in preventing and responding to violent conflict. She highlighted various priority topics that in her view required urgent attention of the Council, notably, issues faced by women and children in Afghanistan and Ethiopia's Tigray region, the toll of COVID-19 pandemic on human lives, existential dangers posed by nuclear weapons, and the turmoil in Myanmar, Israel and Palestine. She underscored that although internal political divisions had led the Council to fall short of its responsibilities in many instances, Council members should return to the fundamental basis for their mandate and to work tirelessly to find common ground and build consensus wherever possible.

Mr. Brahimi elaborated on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan including on the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) further to the Taliban's regained control of the country. Against the backdrop of the Council's then upcoming renewal of the mandate of Mission, he posited that the Council should limit its action to a technical rollover of a sufficiently long period to provide enough time to prepare the strong mandate UNAMA would need in the coming new phase.

Following the briefings, Council members discussed the need to ensure respect for human rights and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in several countries, especially in Afghanistan.¹¹⁵² Several Council members emphasized the need for a whole-of-system approach

¹¹⁴⁸ Russian Federation, Viet Nam, France and Norway.

¹¹⁴⁹ Mexico, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia. For further details on the discussion, see part VI, sect. IV.

¹¹⁵⁰ A concept note was circulated to Council members only for information and not issued as an official document.

¹¹⁵¹ See [S/PV.8850](#).

¹¹⁵² For further information on the discussion concerning Afghanistan, see part I, sect. 14.

to conflict prevention, calling on the Security Council to lead and coordinate such approach with other United Nations organs.¹¹⁵³ Some speakers also expressed support for the reform of the system,¹¹⁵⁴ including the reform of Council.¹¹⁵⁵ In addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many speakers recalled resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#) and stressed the need for its effective implementation, calling for greater cooperation to bring vaccines to developing countries and conflict areas.¹¹⁵⁶

On 23 September 2021, again at the initiative of Ireland, which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹⁵⁷ the Council held a meeting under the sub-item entitled “Climate and Security”. At the meeting, Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General and Ms. Ilwad Elman, Chief Operating Officer of the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre.¹¹⁵⁸

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General stated that the report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change showed that climate disruption caused by human activities was widespread and intensifying. He therefore called for a much bolder climate action ahead of the twenty-sixth Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26). In his statement, he highlighted three priorities on climate action. First, an unambiguous commitment and credible actions by all countries to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Secondly, to deal with the already dire impacts of climate disruption on the lives and livelihoods of people all over the world and the need for a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience. Thirdly, climate adaptation and peacebuilding could and should reinforce one another.

In her briefing, Ms. Elman said that as climate change and other environmental crises gathered pace, they were touching every aspect of life and world international peace and security was no exception. While acknowledging the Council’s engagement on climate and security, she noted that the process was still too painfully slow for the vulnerable communities at the front lines of those issues. She explained that the Elman Peace Centre was a peacebuilding

¹¹⁵³ See [S/PV.8850](#), United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, and Viet Nam.

¹¹⁵⁴ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and India.

¹¹⁵⁵ Viet Nam, France and Chair of the Elders.

¹¹⁵⁶ For further details on the discussion, see part V, sect. I.

¹¹⁵⁷ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 9 September 2021 ([S/2021/782](#)).

¹¹⁵⁸ See [S/PV.8864](#).

organization founded in Mogadishu in the early 1990s and established in response to the armed conflict in Somalia. She added that peacebuilding goals and mediation efforts could not succeed or be sustained unless the broader environmental issues related to security were addressed, noting that the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation were changing what it took to build peace for local peacebuilders. In that regard, she said that the Council and the wider United Nations system had to be receptive to bottom-up solutions and community-led processes and for policymakers to turn the ambitious agenda of climate and security into coherent policies that would guide the future of peacebuilding.

Following the briefers, speakers discussed the adverse effects as well as the security and humanitarian consequences of climate change and armed conflict. Some Council members underscored the need to integrate climate-related security risks into the work of the Council pertaining to conflict prevention, including mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions.¹¹⁵⁹ Other Council members cautioned against integrating climate security in the Council's agenda, adding that social and economic issues were already under the purview of other United Nations organs, notably the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.¹¹⁶⁰ Several Council members stressed the need for the Secretary-General to include climate-related security risks in his reports to the Council,¹¹⁶¹ while others expressed support to the appointment a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on climate and security.¹¹⁶²

On 9 November 2021, at the initiative of Mexico, which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹⁶³ the Council held a high-level meeting under the sub-item entitled "Exclusion, inequality and conflict".¹¹⁶⁴ At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General and from Ms. Lourdes Tibán Guala, an indigenous affairs expert.¹¹⁶⁵

¹¹⁵⁹ Ireland, Viet Nam, United States, Mexico, Norway and Kenya.

¹¹⁶⁰ India and Russian Federation.

¹¹⁶¹ Ireland, Niger, France, Norway, Tunisia and United Kingdom.

¹¹⁶² Niger, France and Tunisia.

¹¹⁶³ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 15 October 2021 ([S/2021/883](#)).

¹¹⁶⁴ See [S/PV.8900](#). For more information on high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II.

¹¹⁶⁵ See also [S/2021/935](#). While briefers and Council members participated in-person at the meeting, non-Council members submitted written statements. This was agreed in light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

The Secretary-General stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had increased hardship and inequality for the poorest and most vulnerable people.¹¹⁶⁶ He emphasized that rising inequalities were a factor in growing instability, especially in areas where basic services were lacking, such as health care, education, security and justice, and where historical injustices, inequalities and systematic oppression had created endless cycles of poverty and unfavourable conditions for entire generations. Noting that without inclusion, the puzzle of peace remained incomplete, with many gaps to be filled, the Secretary-General outlined a road map for inclusion, built around four key pathways to fill those gaps, mainly, people, prevention, gender and institutions. Firstly, he stressed the need to invest in the development of all people, equally. Secondly, he noted the need to strengthen the prevention agenda on multiple fronts to address different types of exclusion and inequalities. Thirdly, he acknowledged the need to recognize and prioritize the crucial role of women in building peace. Lastly, he affirmed the need to build trust through inclusive national institutions that represented the entire population and whose action was rooted in human rights and the rule of law.

Briefing the Council from the perspective of indigenous people on peace and security. Ms. Tibán Guala outlined some issues that the Council should monitor in the future. Among them, the issue of social inequality, social exclusion, gender exclusion, migration, corruption and criminalization of the social struggle and the prosecution of human rights defenders. She suggested that instead of taking coercive measures or imposing economic sanctions, as it was empowered to do, the Council should provide incentives and acknowledge Member States that were working to reduce inequalities, exclusion and corruption and avoid confrontations among civil society, citizens and the State, which could endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

Following the briefers, speakers addressed a variety of themes and underscored the need for conflict prevention, early warning systems and greater international cooperation to ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Many participants emphasized the importance of addressing factors that had contributed to the drivers of conflict such as exclusion, inequality and poverty. They also stressed the need to ensure the meaningful participation and protection of

¹¹⁶⁶ See [S/PV.8900](#).

women in all aspects of conflict prevention and peace processes. Some speakers expressed concern on the use of unilateral sanctions and economic measures which could result in exclusion of those countries as well as impede their development goals.¹¹⁶⁷ Several Council members also discussed the role of regional organizations in conflict prevention to maintain international peace and security.¹¹⁶⁸ Furthermore, some Member States noted the importance of the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Council.¹¹⁶⁹

On 16 November 2021, again at the initiative of Mexico, which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹⁷⁰ the Council held a meeting under the sub-item entitled “Peace and security through preventive diplomacy: a common objective to all the principal organs of the United Nations”. Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the President of the International Court of Justice.¹¹⁷¹

In his briefing, the Secretary-General noted that prevention did not always receive the attention it deserved, perhaps due to the difficulty in measuring the results of preventing conflict. He stated that prevention was the goal of the work of the Council and its resolutions to help countries build peace and stability, and to resolve their disputes before they escalated into armed conflicts. He added that the role of the International Court of Justice was essential in that regard. Prevention was the very reason for the existence of the United Nations, he underlined and further stated that for 76 years, the United Nations system had given the world a home for dialogue and tools and mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes. In view of that, he had placed the agenda of prevention at the centre of his mandates for his first and second terms as Secretary-General and consistently used his good offices to seek to defuse conflicts and advance peace. He affirmed that prevention was not a political tool but a realistic path to peace. If preventive diplomacy and development were to contribute to the peace, he said that the full support of the Council, and of all Member States was necessary.

¹¹⁶⁷ Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

¹¹⁶⁸ India, Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Viet Nam and Niger. For further details on the discussion, see part VI, sect. IV.

¹¹⁶⁹ Kenya, Viet Nam and Japan. See also [S/2021/935](#), Brazil.

¹¹⁷⁰ A concept note was circulated by letter dated 19 October 2021 ([S/2021/888](#)).

¹¹⁷¹ See [S/PV.8906](#).

The President of the General Assembly noted that for 76 years, the United Nations had represented the pinnacle of what concerted diplomacy could achieve in preventing global conflict. In addition to humanitarian relief, he stressed the need to support preventive measures. He added that preventive diplomacy was being conducted by a broader array of actors and that sustaining peace and peacebuilding was no longer limited to traditional military peacekeeping. He also pointed out that while global security would always be within the proper remit of the Security Council, work done by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to build resilient and prosperous communities facilitated the work of the Security Council. In that context, he noted that revitalizing the General Assembly was one of the key elements of his “Presidency of Hope” wanting not only to make it more inclusive of the views and priorities of the membership, but also to strengthen cooperation between the main United Nations organs to streamline responses to global challenges, including security challenges. In that regard, he called upon the membership to work together to implement General Assembly resolution [75/325](#), on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, which encouraged regular interaction and continued coordination among the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

The President of the Economic and Social Council briefed on the work of the Economic and Social Council including its collaboration with the other organs of the United Nations. He noted that although interactions between the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council had remained sporadic and ad hoc, it was necessary to acknowledge that the current complex challenges required more institutionalized collaboration. In that regard, he shared some practical options for strengthening inter-Council coordination that would be more visible, transparent, complementary and effective. First, he said both Councils could build on their previous collaboration in the early 2000s. Secondly, he suggested drawing on the regular interactions among the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Thirdly, he posited envisioning joint meetings on common themes extended to the entire membership of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. In concluding, he emphasized the need for innovative solutions to the multidimensional crises across the pillars of the Organization.

In her statement, the President of the International Court of Justice touched upon three points addressed in the Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (General Assembly resolution [67/1](#)) on the interplay between the Court and other principal organs in that field. First, she affirmed that the International Court of Justice welcomed efforts by the other principal organs to promote the resort by Member States to the settlement of their disputes before the Court and elaborated on the various ways in which Member States could do so, including through depositing a declaration recognizing the Court's jurisdiction, through so-called Optional Clause declarations or through Article 36, paragraph 3, of the Charter.¹¹⁷² Turning to the second point, she noted that the General Assembly had recalled the ability of the relevant organs of the United Nations to request advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice, which was a matter entirely in the hands of the relevant organ or specialized agency and its members and had to be carefully weighed on the basis of a range of different factors and considerations. Lastly, she stated that the General Assembly had reaffirmed the obligation of all States to comply with the decisions of the International Court of Justice in cases to which they were parties. In reference to Article 94, paragraph 2, of the Charter which set out a specific role for the Security Council in the implementation of the Court's decision, she acknowledged the very limited practice under that provision. She said that it suggested that States had found it more valuable to pursue other avenues to achieve the full implementation of judgments of the International Court of Justice in their favour. In that regard, she provided examples of the Secretary-General's efforts in bringing about the implementation of Court's decisions, adding that those demonstrated that other United Nations organs had opportunities, within their respective purviews, to contribute to the implementation of judgments of the International Court of Justice and to the promotion of peace, security and justice.

In the ensuing discussion, many speakers emphasized the need to strengthen coordination and complementarity among the principal organs of the United Nations, in accordance with their Charter mandates to enable effective preventive diplomacy through mediation in addressing the root causes of conflict. Many speakers also stressed the need for the participation of women in

¹¹⁷² See part VI, sect IV.

conflict prevention processes. Several speakers expressed concern on the use of veto to prevent Council action in cases of mass atrocities and conflict resolution.¹¹⁷³

On 9 December 2021, at the initiative of Niger, which held the Presidency for the month,¹¹⁷⁴ the Council held a high-level meeting under the sub-item entitled “Security in the context of terrorism and climate change”. Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Chair of the African Union Commission, and the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of the Multinational Joint Task Force.¹¹⁷⁵

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General, reiterated that currently the climate emergency was a vital issue, and that the international community had no choice, but to continue efforts to reach the goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C. In the framework of an integrated approach, the Secretary-General elaborated on five areas that needed increased collective action. First, prioritizing prevention and addressing the root causes of insecurity. Secondly, urgently increasing investments in adaptation and resilience. Thirdly, better analysis and early-warning systems. Fourthly, promoting the development of partnerships and initiatives linking local, regional and national approaches. Lastly, fighting terrorism and conflict in the context of climate disruption which he explained required sustained investment. In concluding, the Secretary-General advised that the Council and all Member States work simultaneously on peacebuilding and the effects of climate change.

The Chair of the African Union Commission stated that although experts could not establish a direct causal link proving that conflicts were caused by climate change, he affirmed that there was no doubt that deteriorating climate conditions, a lack of rainfall and subsequent droughts had contributed to exacerbating social and intercommunal tensions owing to the scarcity of life-sustaining resources, particularly, water and pastures. He said that scarcity of resources, water and agrifood resources in particular fueled intercommunal conflicts and created conditions conducive to the proliferation of non-State entities, led by terrorist groups, which influenced, disoriented, indoctrinated, intoxicated, recruited, armed and trained thousands of young people. When correlating those consequences of climate change with aggravating,

¹¹⁷³ Mexico, Estonia, Norway, and Pakistan. For further details on the discussion, see part IV, sects. I-III, part V, sect. I and part VI, sect. IV.

¹¹⁷⁴ A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 30 November 2021 ([S/2021/988](#)).

¹¹⁷⁵ See [S/PV.8923](#).

frustrating factors, such as weak or poor governance, corruption, marginalization and political, social and community exclusion, the promotion of deviant trajectories with far-reaching consequences was understandable. He expressed disappointment at the international community's responses and concern with regard to the fight against climate change and terrorism and the interlinkages of these two devastating phenomena. In that regard, he denounced that while Africa's contribution to global pollution was minimal, its share of the investments to address the adverse effects of climate change was very small. He also complained that while in other parts of the world, international efforts had been mobilized to combat terrorism, efforts on that scale had been mostly denied to Africa. He expressed hope that the open debate would advance the discussion of those double standards and unethical shortfalls, and above all the international community's recognition of its obligations and called on the Council to address that challenge.

The Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of the Multinational Joint Task Force stated that as of the 1960s, the Lake Chad, was one of the biggest freshwater lakes in the world and an exporter of agricultural products before its current predicament. However, the effects of climate variability and change, population pressure and insecurity had resulted in constant threats to food security in the basin. To mitigate the effects of climate change and address the root causes of the insurgency, he elaborated on the initiatives that the Lake Chad Basin Commission and its partners had been executing with regard to humanitarian and development projects aimed at restoring peoples' means of livelihood, building their resilience and restoring the environment. He further described initiatives such as the Multinational Joint Task Force aimed to create a safe and secure environment in the areas affected by terrorist activities. In closing, he requested the support of the United Nations to mobilize the international community to redouble its support for the region, especially to strengthen support for the war against terrorism and other criminal activities with equipment to prosecute the war and to mobilize resources for regional projects and plans.

Following the briefings, Council members highlighted their countries' initiatives in tackling the issues of climate change and terrorism. Speakers discussed the nexus between security and the effects of climate change and terrorism, highlighting the threats posed by these

issues.¹¹⁷⁶ Some Council members encouraged other members to support and co-sponsor the draft resolution put forward by Ireland and Niger on climate and security.¹¹⁷⁷ In that connection, other Council members questioned the call to link the challenges of climate change with terrorism, including the presumption that the Council was the appropriate forum for such discussions.¹¹⁷⁸ Most members advocated for the creation of conducive conditions to enable the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in addressing the challenges associated with climate change and terrorism.¹¹⁷⁹

On 13 December 2021, the Council held a meeting under the sub-item entitled “Climate and Security”. At the meeting, the Council failed to adopt a draft resolution sponsored by 113 Member States due to the negative vote of a permanent member.¹¹⁸⁰ Speaking before and after the vote, Council members expressed differing views about the draft resolution. While some Council members and in particular Ireland and Niger as co-sponsors of the draft resolution considered that there was no doubt as to the appropriateness of the Council considering the topic, the representative of the Russian Federation explained his country’s negative vote saying that positioning climate change as a threat to international security diverted the attention of the Council from genuine, deep-rooted causes of conflict in the countries on the Council’s agenda. He added that the instability of specific countries and regions was due to a range of specific reasons differing from each other in their makeup and scale and that the fight against climate change and adaptation to its negative consequences were a question of sustainable development. He also explained that the Russian Federation was not just rejecting the draft. Instead of a one-sided approach, his country was proposing an alternative, guided by a comprehensive approach that took different countries and regions into account. Explaining his negative vote, the representative of India said that there was no real requirement for the draft resolution except for the purpose of bringing climate change under the ambit of the Security Council. Instead of

¹¹⁷⁶ For further details on the discussion, see part VII, sect. I.

¹¹⁷⁷ See [S/PV.8923](#), Niger, United States, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom, Kenya and Tunisia.

¹¹⁷⁸ Russian Federation, India and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

¹¹⁷⁹ For further details on the discussion, see part V, sect. I.

¹¹⁸⁰ See [S/PV.8926](#). The draft resolution ([S/2021/990](#)) received 12 votes in favour (Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam), two against (India and Russian Federation), and one abstention (China).

addressing developing countries' concerns and holding developed countries responsible for meeting their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, he argued that it sent the wrong message of willing to be divided and side-tracked under the guise of security. He considered the draft resolution a step backwards from the collective resolve to combat climate change. Having abstained at the vote, the representative of China explained that the draft resolution did not address a number of important issues. He added that what the Security Council needed to do was not a political show but to use its unique authority to establish a monitoring mechanism and help developed countries fulfil their obligations and ensure that their commitments were honoured. He mentioned that China, the Russian Federation and India had jointly submitted a draft resolution focusing on security issues in the Sahel region, including climate-change challenges and expressed hope that those present and not present, would co-sponsor it. Of those having voted in favour, many of them expressed regret at the outcome of the vote.¹¹⁸¹ The representative of Kenya said that his country had hoped and advocated for consensus and that while disagreeing with some of the points of the detractors of the draft resolution, there were important arguments that could have been included. He added that Kenya would continue to champion advancing the climate and security nexus, including as co-Chair of the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security in 2022. Similarly, the representatives of Norway, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam said that they would continue to support further action across the United Nations, including in the Security Council, to combat climate change. The representative of Mexico expressed his country's disagreement with "the inappropriately named so-called right of veto", predicting that it could lead to paralysis in the Security Council. He said that it did not promote dialogue or debate — on the contrary, it hindered it. The representative of the United States accused the Russian Federation of stopping the world's most important organ from maintaining international peace and security from taking a small, practical and necessary step to combat the impacts of climate change.

In 2021, the Council adopted three resolutions and issued four presidential statements in connection with this item. The decisions of the Council addressed most of the themes outlined above, having been adopted either at the meetings or in writing further to the holding of the open

¹¹⁸¹ Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, Mexico and Tunisia.

videoconferences as featured above.¹¹⁸² On 26 February 2021, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2565 \(2021\)](#), recognizing efforts and measures proposed by the Secretary-General concerning the response to the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to conflict-affected countries, in particular his appeal for an immediate global ceasefire.¹¹⁸³ It called for the strengthening of national and multilateral approaches and international cooperation, such as the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility created within the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), in order to facilitate equitable and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines in armed conflict situations, post-conflict situations and complex humanitarian emergencies, while stressing the need to develop international partnerships particularly to scale-up manufacturing and distribution capabilities and recognizing the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health.¹¹⁸⁴

On 8 April 2021, the Council issued a presidential statement, recalling its resolution [2365 \(2017\)](#) on mine action, and calling on Member States and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen their efforts to implement that resolution, as well as other relevant resolutions on mine action. In that regard, the Council emphasized the importance of mine action and the need to enhance international efforts in that field, particularly in situations of armed conflict.¹¹⁸⁵

On 9 August 2021, the Council issued a presidential statement noting with concern the ongoing threats to maritime safety and security posed by piracy, armed robbery at sea, terrorists' travel and use of sea to conduct crimes and acts against shipping, offshore installations, critical infrastructure, and other maritime interests, as well as the continuing problem of transnational organized crimes committed at sea, including illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms, including other illicit activities. It also noted the deplorable loss of life and adverse impact on international trade, energy security and the global economy resulting from such activities and, in that regard, emphasized the importance of safeguarding the legitimate uses of

¹¹⁸² While briefers and Council members participated in-person at the meeting, non-Council members submitted written statements. This was agreed in light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

¹¹⁸³ Resolution [2565 \(2021\)](#), ninth preambular paragraph

¹¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 1.

¹¹⁸⁵ See [S/PRST/2021/8](#), second and third paragraphs.

the oceans and the lives of people at sea, as well as the livelihoods and security of coastal communities.¹¹⁸⁶

On 29 September 2021, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2598\(2021\)](#), welcoming the Secretary-General's report of 2 September 2021,¹¹⁸⁷ including its observations on the plight of migrants and refugees in Libya and condemning all acts of migrant smuggling and human trafficking into, through and from the Libyan territory and off the coast of Libya.¹¹⁸⁸ The Council also renewed the authorizations regarding acts of migrant smuggling and human trafficking in Libya's territorial sea as set out in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution [2240\(2015\)](#), for a period of twelve months.¹¹⁸⁹

On 9 November 2021, the Council issued a presidential statement by which it reaffirmed its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and its readiness to strive for sustainable peace in all situations under its consideration.¹¹⁹⁰ In noting that exclusion and inequality might have an impact as aggravating factors in situations under its consideration, the Council reiterated its commitment to the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the inclusion of youth in all stages of peace, security, development and decision making processes, while urging Governments in conflict or post-conflict situations, to engage with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, women, youth, and the private sector, to deliver durable solutions to immediate and long-term challenges.¹¹⁹¹

On 16 November 2021, the Council issued a presidential statement recognizing that the principal organs of the United Nations had the responsibility, within their own mandates, to contribute to the realization of the purposes established in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations.¹¹⁹² The Council also expressed its continued commitment to foster interaction on a regular basis with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat in accordance with their respective mandates under the

¹¹⁸⁶ See [S/PRST/2021/15](#), third paragraph.

¹¹⁸⁷ See [S/2021/767](#).

¹¹⁸⁸ See resolution [2598\(2021\)](#), third preambular paragraph and para. 1.

¹¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 2 and 3. For more information on the situation in Libya, see part I, sect. 10.

¹¹⁹⁰ See [S/PRST/2021/22](#), first paragraph.

¹¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*, third, eighth and tenth paragraphs.

¹¹⁹² See [S/PRST/2021/23](#), third paragraph.

Charter of the United Nations, in particular on matters relating to preventive diplomacy tools and mechanisms.¹¹⁹³

On 22 December 2021, the Council adopted, not unanimously, resolution [2616 \(2021\)](#),¹¹⁹⁴ by which it expressed concern that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world continued to pose threats to international peace and security.¹¹⁹⁵ Resolving to consider, when appropriate, during the renewal of mandates of peace operations whether and how the peace operations could support relevant national authorities in combating the illicit transfer and diversion of arms in violation of the arms embargoes in their respective areas of operation, the Council encouraged its peace operations and relevant United Nations entities to assist in reinforcing capacities of host nation authorities and requested the Secretary-General to include further information on general trends of illicit trafficking and diversion in contravention of Council-mandated arms embargoes, as well as further recommendations on the matter, in the biennial reports pursuant to resolution [2220 \(2015\)](#).¹¹⁹⁶

Table 1
Meetings: Maintenance of international peace and security

<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.8850 7 September 2021				Chair of the Elders; Lakhdar Brahimi, Elder Emeritus; Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, member of the Elders and former President of Liberia; Ernesto Zedillo, member of the Elders and former President of Mexico	All Council members, two invitees ^a	
S/PV.8864	Climate and security			Secretary-General, Chief Operating Officer, Elman	All Council members ^b , all invitees ^c	

¹¹⁹³ Ibid., eighth paragraph.

¹¹⁹⁴ The draft resolution ([S/2021/1075](#)) received 12 votes in favour (Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam) and three abstentions (China, India, Russian Federation).

¹¹⁹⁵ See resolution [2616 \(2021\)](#), second preambular paragraph.

¹¹⁹⁶ Ibid., paras. 1, 2 and 14. For more information on the Council's discussion on small arms and light weapons, see part I sect. 26 and *Repertoire, Supplement 2014–2015*, part I, sect. 29. See also art VII, sect. I.B.

<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>
23 September 2021				Peace and Human Rights Centre		
S/PV.8868 29 September 2021		Draft resolution submitted by 34 Member States ^d (S2021/825)	30 Member States ^e			Resolution 2598 (2021) 15-0-0 Chapter VII
S/PV.8900 9 November 2021	Exclusion, inequality and conflict Letter dated 15 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2021/883)	Letter dated 17 November 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary- General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (S/2021/935)	27 Member States ^f	Secretary-General, Ms. Lourdes Tiban Guala, Expert on indigenous affairs	All Council members ^g , all invitees	S/PRST/2021/22
S/PV.8906 16 November 2021	Peace and security through preventive diplomacy: a common objective to all the principal organs of the United Nations Letter dated 19 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2021/888)		35 Member States ^h	Secretary-General, President of the General Assembly, President of the Economic and Social Council, President of the International Court of Justice	All Council members, all invitees ⁱ	S/PRST/2021/23
S/PV.8923 9 December 2021	Security in the context of terrorism and climate change Letter dated 30 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2021/988)		39 Member States ^j	Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of the Multinational Joint Task Force	Secretary- General; all Council members ^k , all invitee ^l	

<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.8926 13 December 2021	Climate and security	Draft resolution submitted by 113 Member States ^m (S/2021/990)	104 Member States ⁿ		13 Council members ^o	Not adopted 12-2-1 ^p
S/PV.8942 22 December 2021		Draft resolution submitted by 74 Member States ^q (S/2021/1075)	63 Member States ^r		6 Council members ^s	Resolution 2616 (2021) 12-0-3 ^t

^a Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, member of the Elders and former President of Liberia, and Ernesto Zedillo, member of the Elders and former President of Mexico did not make a statement.

^b Estonia and Viet Nam were represented by their President. France was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs. India was represented by its Vice Minister, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs. Kenya was represented by its Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Mexico and Norway were represented by their Minister for Foreign Affairs. Niger was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Tunisia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad. United Kingdom was represented by its Minister of State for the Commonwealth, the United Nations and South Asia; and United States was represented by its Secretary of State.

^c The Chief Operating Officer of the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre participated in the meeting via videoconference.

^d Albania, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine.

^e Albania, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Ukraine.

^f Albania, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of).

^g Estonia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. India was represented by its Minister of State for External Affairs. Mexico was represented by its President and United States was represented by its Permanent Representative and Member of President's Cabinet.

^h Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine and Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of).

ⁱ President of the International Court of Justice participated in the meeting via videoconference.

^j Albania, Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of).

^k Estonia and Niger were represented by their President; United States was represented by its its Permanent Representative and Member of President's Cabinet.

^l Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of the Multinational Joint Task Force participated in the meeting via videoconference. Germany spoke on behalf of the Groups of Friends on Climate and Security. The Deputy Head of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, the candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, the country of the stabilisation and association process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia. Sweden spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway.

^m Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland,

Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

ⁿ Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

^o China, Estonia, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

^p For: Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, the Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Viet Nam, Against: India and the Russian Federation; Abstaining: China.

^q Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

^r Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

^s China, India, Mexico, Niger, Russian Federation, and Viet Nam.

^t For: Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, the Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam, Against: none; Abstaining: India, Russian Federation and China.

Table 2
Videoconferences: Maintenance of international peace and security

<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 January 2021	S/2021/24	Letter dated 8 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	
25 January 2021	S/2021/90	Letter dated 27 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	

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
17 February 2021	S/2021/157	Letter dated 19 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	
23 February 2021	S/2021/198	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	
26 February 2021	S/2021/204	Letter dated 26 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 2565 (2021) 15-0-0 S/2021/195 (Record of written procedure)
11 March 2021	S/2021/250	Letter dated 16 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	
8 April 2021	S/2021/346	Letter dated 12 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	S/PRST/2021/8
7 May 2021	S/2021/456	Letter dated 11 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	
29 June 2021	S/2021/621	Letter dated 1 July 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
9 August 2021	S/2021/722	Letter dated 12 August 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	S/PRST/2021/15