

22. The situation concerning Iraq

During the period under review, the Security Council held five meetings in relation to the item entitled “The situation concerning Iraq”. On 26 May 2022, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) until 31 May 2023, through the unanimous adoption of resolution [2631 \(2022\)](#).⁸⁹⁴ All other meetings under this item during the period under review took the form of briefings.⁸⁹⁵ More information on these meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition to the meetings, Council members held closed informal consultations to discuss this item.⁸⁹⁶

In 2022, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI on the situation concerning Iraq. In addition, on 26 July, at the request of the representative of Iraq,⁸⁹⁷ the Council held an emergency meeting to discuss the attack on 20 July on a tourist resort in the Dohuk governorate of Iraq’s Kurdistan region. In addition to the Special Representative, in 2022, the Council heard once a briefing by a civil society representative, a human rights defender and civil society activist and the co-Founder and Chairperson of the Iraqi Al-Amal Association.⁸⁹⁸ In addition to Iraq, in 2022, the representative of Türkiye also participated in one of the meetings held under this item.

Further to the reports of the Secretary-General,⁸⁹⁹ the Special Representative provided briefings in February, May and October focusing on the political developments in the country, including the parliamentary elections held in October 2021, its aftermath, and the participation of women in the political process. She also reported on the relations between Baghdad and Erbil and within the Kurdistan region and on the status of the implementation of economic reforms by the federal Government, the adoption of a federal budget and the fight against corruption. During her briefings, she informed about the security situation in Iraq, including the attacks committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da’esh) as well as the Iranian and Turkish

⁸⁹⁴ For more information on the mandate of UNAMI, part X, sect. II.

⁸⁹⁵ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁸⁹⁶ See [A/77/2](#), part II, chap. 28.

⁸⁹⁷ See [S/2022/574](#).

⁸⁹⁸ See [S/PV.8975](#).

⁸⁹⁹ See [S/2022/100](#), [S/2022/366](#), [S/2022/696](#). See also [S/2022/103](#), [S/2022/368](#), [S/2022/714](#).

shelling in the north. Additionally, during her briefings, the Special Representative described the environmental challenges facing Iraq, including water scarcity and desertification. She also reported throughout the period on the camps and prisons along the border of north-eastern Syrian Arab Republic, warning that children were at risk of exploitation and forced recruitment by terrorist groups. Lastly, she discussed progress on the repatriation and return of Kuwaiti property as well as third-country nationals and their remains.

Aside from the regular briefings by the Special Representative in February, May and October, on 26 July, the Council held an emergency meeting to discuss the attack on 20 July on a tourist resort in the Dohuk governorate of Iraq's Kurdistan region, following a request from the representative of Iraq.⁹⁰⁰ At the meeting, the Special Representative provided an update on the shelling that took place in the Zakho district of the Dohuk governorate on 20 July, which had resulted in the loss of nine civilian lives and the injuring of 33 others.⁹⁰¹ She informed that, following the attack, Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi had established a committee, which had visited the site of the attack, collected evidence and engaged with witnesses and local authorities. Based on its assessment of the evidence collected, the Government of Iraq had attributed the tragic events to Turkish armed forces. In the meantime, the Turkish Foreign Ministry had issued a press statement condemning the attack and denying involvement, and the following day the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad had stated on social media that the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) had been responsible for the attack. On 20 July, the PKK had issued a statement denying presence in the area, and in turn blaming Türkiye for the attack. Iraq's National Security Council had held an emergency session the same day, strongly condemning the attack and rejecting the use of Iraqi territory as a base to attack neighbouring countries and settle accounts. During a meeting of the Council of Representatives which had been convened on 23 July to discuss the incident, the parliamentary Security and Defence Committee had recommended the expulsion of PKK elements from Iraq, the withdrawal of all Turkish forces, the redeployment of federal forces along the border with Türkiye, the abolition of any security agreements with Türkiye and a review of the defence budget to enhance its military capabilities. The Special Representative clarified that Iraq was demanding that Türkiye withdraw its military

⁹⁰⁰ See [S/2022/574](#).

⁹⁰¹ See [S/PV.9100](#).

forces from all Iraqi lands and was calling for an investigation. She emphasized that it was of the greatest importance that all attacks on Iraqi territory ceased, as such aggression not only recklessly heightened national and regional tensions but also caused grave human tragedies.

Following the briefing, the representative of Iraq welcomed the press statement issued by the Security Council on 25 July condemning the attack and affirmed that on 20 July the Turkish army had committed an act of aggression against the territory and sovereignty of Iraq and the lives of its citizens in Dohuk governorate. He condemned in the strongest terms the aggression against innocent civilians, underscoring that the attack constituted an act of military aggression against the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Iraq and a threat to regional and international peace and security. The representative of Iraq demanded that Türkiye withdraw its military forces from Iraqi territories and recalled the matter was a recurring issue as documented in numerous letters from the representative of Iraq to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council over the years. He further condemned the illegal presence of Turkish military forces on Iraqi territories, and, invoking Article 35 of the Charter, called on the Council to adopt a resolution compelling Türkiye to withdraw its occupying military forces from Iraqi territory under the Council's supervision.⁹⁰² The representative of Iraq further called on the Council to include an item on its agenda entitled "The situation concerning Iraq and Türkiye".⁹⁰³ He further accused Türkiye of failing to uphold Article 51 and reaffirmed that there was no security agreement between Iraq and Türkiye that allowed for an incursion into Iraq by Turkish forces to chase the PKK. He also called on the Council to establish an international independent panel of inquiry to investigate the attack on Dohuk governorate and asserted that the people of Iraq hoped that the Council would play a decisive and effective role in finding solutions to prevent any future repercussions of the crisis.

The representative of Türkiye expressed his condolences to the people and Government of Iraq and informed the Council that immediately after the attack, Türkiye had been in touch with the Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government making clear that Türkiye was ready to take all steps to unveil the truth. He added that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq were breached by terrorist organizations, not by Türkiye and stated that the Iraqi

⁹⁰² For further information on the referral of disputes and situations pursuant to Article 35, see part VI, sect. I.

⁹⁰³ For further information on the inclusion of new items on the agenda of the Council, see part II, sect. II.

Government could not exercise effective sovereignty over certain parts of its territory in the north, like in the case of Sinjar, where he claimed that the presence of the PKK was still being tolerated. He further emphasized that it was the obligation of the Iraqi authorities to stop the PKK from using the territory of Iraq and underscored that a State could not castigate its neighbour for using its right to self-defence. He said that, in the absence of the ability and willingness of Iraq to deal with the presence of terrorist organizations in its country, Türkiye was obliged to take the appropriate measures and would continue to exercise its inherent right to self-defence as outlined in article 51.⁹⁰⁴

During the period under review, deliberations in the Council focused on the evolving political situation in the country, the security situation inside Iraq and at its borders, as well as the remaining questions deriving from the invasion of Kuwait in 1990, namely, the compensations for the invasion and the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property.

In 2022, Council members expressed concern about the post-electoral political impasse,⁹⁰⁵ and called on Iraqi leaders to form an inclusive Government that reflected the will and met the needs and aspirations of the Iraqi people.⁹⁰⁶ Several Council Members welcomed the National Dialogue facilitated by the Iraqi Prime Minister to overcome the deadlock.⁹⁰⁷ Some Council Members also endorsed the implementation of the Sinjar Agreement by the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan regional government.⁹⁰⁸ Some Council members emphasized the importance of the full and meaningful participation and representation of women in the process of Government formation.⁹⁰⁹ Several Council members additionally expressed concern about the

⁹⁰⁴ For further information on the discussion, see part VII, sect. X.

⁹⁰⁵ See [S/PV.8975](#), Albania, Gabon (on behalf also of Ghana and Kenya), France and India; [S/PV.9034](#), United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Mexico, Russian Federation, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya) and Norway, Brazil; and [S/PV.9145](#), India, United Kingdom, Ireland, Albania, Brazil, Mexico, Norway and France.

⁹⁰⁶ See [S/PV.8975](#), United States, Albania, Gabon (on behalf also of Ghana and Kenya), Brazil, Norway, Ireland, France, United Kingdom, India, Mexico, United Arab Emirates and Russian Federation; and [S/PV.9034](#), United Arab Emirates, China, United Kingdom, Mexico, Russian Federation, Ireland, India, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), Norway, Brazil, Albania and United States; and [S/PV.9145](#), United States, Ireland, Albania, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, Norway, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya).

⁹⁰⁷ [S/PV.9145](#), India, Ireland, Brazil, Mexico, Russian Federation and France.

⁹⁰⁸ See [S/PV.8975](#), Mexico; [S/PV.9034](#), France; [S/PV.9145](#), United States and Mexico.

⁹⁰⁹ See [S/PV.8975](#), Albania, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), Norway, Ireland, France, United Kingdom, Mexico and United Arab Emirates; and [S/PV.9034](#), Mexico, Ireland, India, France, Gabon (also on behalf

incidence of political violence in the country,⁹¹⁰ in particular, with regards to the escalation of tensions and clashes in Sinjar.⁹¹¹ Regarding the security situation in Iraq and the region, Council members expressed concern regarding the threat of terrorist groups and the continued attacks perpetrated by ISIL/Da'esh in Iraqi territory.⁹¹² Several Council members also condemned Iran's ballistic missile attacks on Erbil on 13 March,⁹¹³ as well as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps attacks accounted for air strikes claimed by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Kurdistan region on 28 September.⁹¹⁴ Council members condemned the attack on 20 July in Iraq's Dohuk governorate and expressed support for the investigation to ensure accountability.⁹¹⁵ Several Council members expressed concern that the attack could exacerbate the political and security crisis in the country,⁹¹⁶ and called for the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.⁹¹⁷

Several Council members commended Iraq for fulfilling its obligations regarding the compensation for the unlawful invasion of Kuwait in 1990, through the United Nations Compensation Commission.⁹¹⁸ In addressing the issue of civilians stranded in detention facilities, some Council members emphasized the importance of treating children primarily as victims.⁹¹⁹ On the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, many Council members welcomed progress and cooperation between the two

of Ghana and Kenya), Norway and Albania; and [S/PV.9145](#), Ireland, Albania, Mexico, Norway, France and Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya).

⁹¹⁰ See [S/PV.8975](#), Albania and United Kingdom.

⁹¹¹ See [S/PV.9034](#), Mexico, Ireland, France and Norway.

⁹¹² See [S/PV.8975](#), United States, Gabon (on behalf also of Ghana and Kenya), Norway, Ireland, France, United Kingdom, China, India, Mexico, United Arab Emirates and Russian Federation; and [S/PV.9034](#), United Arab Emirates, China, Mexico, Russian Federation, Ireland, India, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya and Albania); and [S/PV.9145](#), India, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, Russian Federation, China, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya).

⁹¹³ See [S/PV.9034](#), United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Mexico, Ireland and France.

⁹¹⁴ See [S/PV.9145](#), United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Albania, Brazil, Mexico, France, Gabon (on behalf also of Ghana and Kenya).

⁹¹⁵ See [S/PV.9100](#).

⁹¹⁶ United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Russian Federation and United Kingdom.

⁹¹⁷ United States, United Arab Emirates, Ireland), India, Norway, Ghana, France, Kenya, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, China, Albania and Brazil.

⁹¹⁸ See [S/PV.8975](#), Gabon (on behalf also of Ghana and Kenya), Brazil, Ireland, France, United Arab Emirates and Russian Federation. For more information on the United Nations Compensation Commission, see part I, sect. 23.

⁹¹⁹ See [S/PV.8975](#), Norway and Ireland; and [S/PV.9145](#), Norway.

countries.⁹²⁰ Most Council members discussed the impact of climate change on Iraq,⁹²¹ while some of them supported the work of the United Nations in assisting Iraq to address it.⁹²² The representative of Brazil questioned specifically the conceptual and scientific evidence linking sandstorms with climate change, as opposed to the former being merely localized climatological events.⁹²³

During his interventions in Council meetings in 2022, among other matters, the representative of Iraq reiterated his call for the territories of Iraq not to be used as an arena for settling scores or for advancing political interests on the pretext of combating terrorism and called on the Council to give serious consideration to the respect for the principles of the Charter, in particular for the sovereignty of Member States, good-neighbourly relations and the promotion of cooperation.⁹²⁴

In 2022, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2631 \(2022\)](#) extending the mandate of UNAMI until 31 May 2023.⁹²⁵ In the resolution, the Council commended the Government of Iraq and the Independent High Electoral Commission for executing a technically well-managed and generally peaceful election on 10 October 2021 and called for the swift and peaceful formation of a new government to deliver on national priorities for the Iraqi people, including through economic reform, regional cooperation, stabilization, development and the promotion and protection of human rights⁹²⁶ By the resolution the Council also recognized the threat of explosive ordinance and its impact on civilians, including children,⁹²⁷ and condemned in the strongest terms the 7 November 2021 assassination attempt against Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al Kadhimi.⁹²⁸ By the resolution the Council noted the importance of the Government of Iraq to

⁹²⁰ See [S/PV.8975](#), Gabon (on behalf also of Ghana and Kenya), Ireland, France, United Kingdom, China, India and United Arab Emirates; [S/PV.9034](#), United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Mexico, India, France and Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya); and [S/PV.9145](#) India, United Kingdom, Ireland, Albania, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, China, France and Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya).

⁹²¹ See [S/PV.9034](#), China, United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), Norway, Brazil, Albania and United States; [S/PV.9145](#) United States, United Kingdom, Albania, Norway, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya).

⁹²² See [S/PV.9034](#), China, United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway, Albania and United States.

⁹²³ See [S/PV.9034](#).

⁹²⁴ See [S/PV.8975](#), [S/PV.9034](#), and [S/PV.9145](#).

⁹²⁵ Resolution [2631 \(2022\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of UNAMI, see part X, sect. II.

⁹²⁶ Resolution [2631 \(2022\)](#), sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs.

⁹²⁷ *Ibid.*, third preambular paragraph.

⁹²⁸ *Ibid.*, fourth preambular paragraph.

urgently deliver meaningful reform, recognized the Government of Iraq's efforts to that effect, and called for State institutions to redouble efforts to pursue accountability for those responsible for crimes involving the killing, serious injury, abduction or disappearance of demonstrators and journalists, and to safeguard and respect the right of freedom of expression.⁹²⁹ In connection with climate change, the Council recognized that the adverse effects of climate change, ecological changes, and natural disasters, among other factors, could contribute to desertification and drought, adversely impact the humanitarian situation, and aggravate any existing instability and acknowledged the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.⁹³⁰ The Council further reiterated the tasks of UNAMI with several additions and modified the reporting requirement for the Secretary-General to the Council on the progress made towards the fulfilment of all UNAMI's responsibilities from every three months to every four months.⁹³¹ Following the vote, the representative of India, expressed appreciation for the work of UNAMI and its close cooperation with the Government of Iraq.⁹³² He also emphasized, however, the need to ensure that the focus of UNAMI not be distracted by additional responsibilities that either duplicated or could otherwise be efficiently executed by the competent agencies in Iraq. He also reiterated that issues of climate change had to be addressed holistically through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in accordance with its provisions and principles and the Paris Agreement, and that no artificial link should be drawn between climate change and security-related issues without any firm scientific basis.

In addition, developments in 2022 relating to the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh /Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant established pursuant to resolution [2379 \(2017\)](#) were dealt with under the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security"⁹³³ and relating to the United Nations Compensation Commission under the item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait".⁹³⁴

Meetings: The situation concerning Iraq

⁹²⁹ Ibid, eighth preambular paragraph.

⁹³⁰ Ibid, eleventh preambular paragraph.

⁹³¹ Ibid, para. 5.

⁹³² See [S/PV.9043](#).

⁹³³ For further information, see part I, sect. 34 and part IX, sect. III.

⁹³⁴ For further information, see part I, sect. 22.

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8780 27 May 2021	Thirtieth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2021/395) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2522 (2020) (S/2021/426)	Draft resolution submitted by the United States (S/2021/503)				Resolution 2576 (2021) 15-0-0
S/PV.8842 25 August 2021	Thirty-first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2021/689) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2576 (2021) (S/2021/700)		Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8910 23 November 2021	Thirty-second report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2021/930) Report of the Secretary-General on electoral process in Iraq (S/2021/932) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2576 (2021) (S/2021/946)		Iraq	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMI; Coordinator of the Iraqi Women's Network ^b	All Council members ^a , all invitees	

^a Albania, Brazil, China, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

^b Iraq was represented by its Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs.

^c Albania, Brazil, China, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States. Special Representative participated in the meeting via videoconference.