

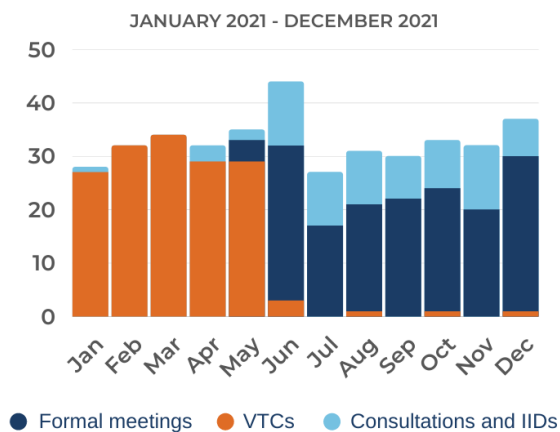
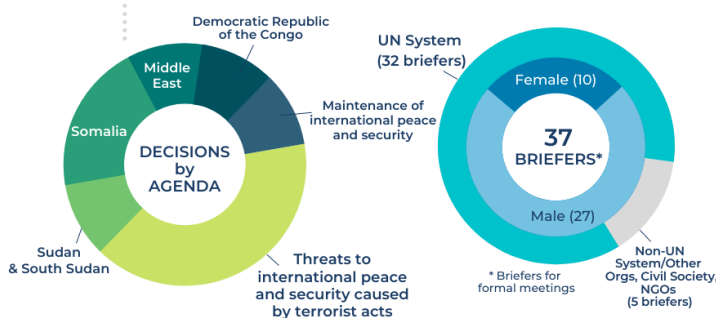
UN Security Council in Review

December 2021



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December 2021 at a Glance



Under the **Presidency of Niger**, the Security Council held **one signature event**:

- An open debate on **maintenance of international peace and security**, focused on **security in the context of terrorism and climate change** (9 December). The **President of Niger** presided over the meeting.

Key Topics

The **Middle East** was the most frequently considered country- or region-specific item in open and closed discussions (7, 8, 14, 20 and 21 December), including a private meeting with troop-contributing countries to **UNDOF**, followed by **Sudan and South Sudan** (10 and 15 December). The **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, including a private meeting with troop-contributing countries to **MONUSCO**, and **Somalia** were also discussed more than once.

Other country or region-specific items considered by the Council included: the **Middle East**, including the **Palestinian Question**, **Mali** and **Central African region**. Council members also discussed the human rights situation in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** and **Ethiopia** under other matters (AOB).

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts was the most frequently considered thematic item (17, 22 and 30 December), followed by **maintenance of international peace and security** (9, 13 and 22 December).

Other thematic items considered by the Council included: **Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies**, **briefing by UNHCR**, **threats to international peace and security**, **International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals**, **implementation of resolutions 2532 (2020) and 2565 (2021)** and **non-proliferation**.

Procedural notes

On 13 December, the **only veto of the year** was cast on a draft resolution (S/2021/990) on climate and security co-sponsored by 113 Member States (see S/PV.8926).

On 17 December, the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions held its last meeting of the year chaired by Ambassador Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. On 22 December, **presidential note S/2021/1074** was issued, whereby the Council committed to maintaining its state of readiness under all circumstances to ensure that it can function continuously in accordance with Article 28 of the Charter of the United Nations.

On 31 December, at the initiative of Viet Nam and for the first time in the history of the Council, a national flag lowering ceremony took place as **Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Viet Nam completed their two-year term** on the Council.

Decisions and press statements

In December 2021, the Council adopted **ten resolutions**, nine of which were adopted unanimously and seven under Chapter VII. The Council did not issue any **presidential statements** this month.

The Council adopted resolution 2608 (2021), on 3 December, renewing for three months the authorizations for the **fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia**. On 15 December, the Council adopted resolution 2609 (2021), extending the mandate of **UNISFA** until 15 May 2022. On 17 December, the Council adopted resolution 2610 (2021), reaffirming **sanctions with respect to ISIL/Da'esh, Al-Qaida** and extending for 30 months the mandates of the **Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team** and the **Office of the Ombudsperson** established by resolution 1904 (2009). On the same day, by resolution 2611 (2021), the Council decided that the **Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team** would continue to support the 1988 Committee for an additional year. By resolution 2612 (2021), adopted on 20 December, the Council extended the mandate of **MONUSCO** until 20 December 2022. On 21 December, the Council adopted resolution 2613 (2021), renewing the mandate of **UNDOF** until 30 June 2022, as well as resolution 2614 (2021), providing for a technical rollover of the mandate of **AMISOM** until 31 March 2022. On 22 December, the Council adopted resolution 2615 (2021), deciding that humanitarian assistance and other activities that support basic human needs in **Afghanistan** were not a violation of resolution 2255 (2015). On the same day, the Council adopted, with three abstentions, resolution 2616 (2021) concerning the illicit transfer and diversion of small arms and light weapons. On 30 December, the Council adopted resolution 2617 (2021), renewing the mandate of the **Counterterrorism Committee Executive Directorate** until 31 December 2025.

The Council issued **five press statements** on the following topics: the killing of civilians in **Mali** (SC/14720), the sentencing of state officials in **Myanmar** (SC/14723), terrorist attacks in **Iraq** (SC/14725), attacks against **MINUSMA** (SC/14727) and the killing of civilians in **Myanmar** (SC/14754).

Other activities

Council members held **four Arria-formula meetings on the following topics**: “**Addressing challenges of children without parental care in conflict settings**” (on 3 Dec, via UN Webcast, co-organized by Viet Nam, Niger, Norway, Russia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the United States and Malta), “**Protection of education in conflict**” (on 6 Dec, in-person, co-organized by Niger and Norway); “**Preventing civilian impact of malicious cyber activities**” (on 20 Dec, via closed VTC, co-organized by Estonia and the United Kingdom); and “**Situation of national minorities and glorification of nazism in the Baltic and Black sea region**” (on 22 Dec, via UN Webcast, organized by the Russian Federation).

On 17 December, the **15th annual joint consultative meeting between the AU Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council** took place virtually.

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Dashboards pertaining to Field Missions, Women and Peace and Security, Children and Armed Conflict, Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Women at the Security Council, the Security Council Membership and the Subsidiary Organs Chairs and Vice-Chairs are updated with the latest data for 2021. For more information about the Council's working methods during the COVID-19 pandemic, see 23rd Supplement (2020) [Part II](#) on procedural developments.