

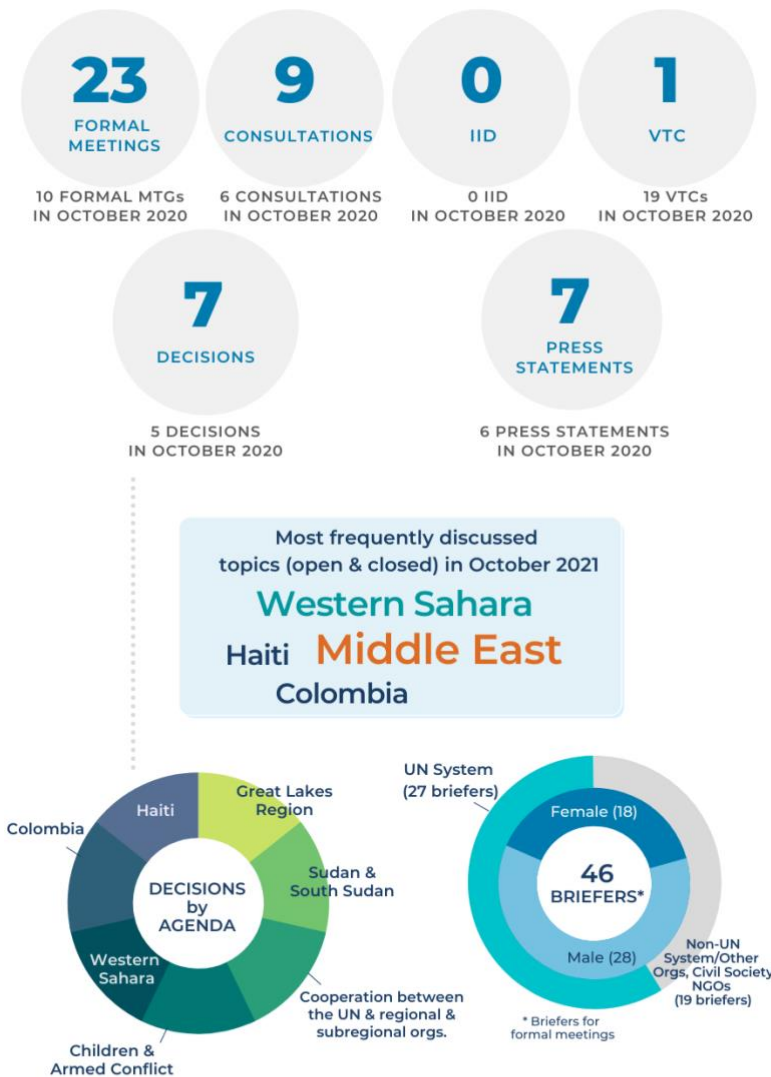
UN Security Council in Review

October 2021



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October 2021 at a Glance



In October, under the **Presidency of Kenya**, the Security Council held **three signature events**:

- A briefing on **Small arms** specifically focused on the biennial report of the Secretary-General (S/2021/839) (6 October).
- An open debate on **Peacebuilding and sustaining peace**, focused on **diversity, state-building and the search for peace** (12 October). The **President of Kenya** presided over the meeting.
- An open videoconference in connection with **Cooperation between the UN and regional and subregional organizations**, focused on the **African Union** (28 October). The **President of Kenya** presided over the meeting.

Key Topics

The **Middle East** was the most frequently considered country- or region-specific item in open and closed discussions (4, 14 and 27 October) together with **Western Sahara** (11, 13 and 29 October) including a private meeting with troop-contributing countries to **MINURSO**. **Haiti** and **Colombia** were also discussed more than once during the month.

Other country or region-specific discussions considered by the Council in October included: the **Central African Republic**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the **Great Lakes region**, **Kosovo**, **Lebanon**, **Mali**, the **Middle East** including the **Palestinian Question**, **Peace and Security in Africa**, **Somalia**, **Sudan** and **South Sudan** and **UNDOF**. Council members discussed under other matters (AOB) the following topics: the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, **Ethiopia**, and **UNISFA**.

Other thematic items discussed in the Council included: **Children and armed conflict** (29 October). A briefing was held on the **Security Council mission to Mali and Niger** (29 October).

Procedural notes

At the annual open debate on **Women and peace and security** focused on **investing in women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding** (21 October), the Council invited 36 non-Council members to deliver statements in-person in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, the highest number since the resumption of in-person meetings on 25 May 2021. 24 Member States and other delegations also submitted written statements. The annual open debate was presided by the **Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya**.

The Council members undertook their first **mission** since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, visiting **Mali** and **Niger** (23–25 October). France, Kenya and Niger, as co-leads of the mission, subsequently briefed the Council on the visit (29 October).

The Security Council **Informal Working Group on Documentation and other Procedural Questions** held its fifth meeting of the year (8 October).

Decisions and press statements

In October 2021, the Council adopted **4 resolutions** (3 of which were adopted unanimously) and issued **3 presidential statements**.

The Council unanimously adopted resolution [2600 \(2021\)](#) on 15 October extending the mandate of **BINUH** until 15 July 2022 and requesting an assessment of its mandate; resolution [2603 \(2021\)](#) on 29 October extending the mandate of the **UN Verification Mission in Colombia** until 31 October 2022; and resolution [2601 \(2021\)](#) also on 29 October on the **protection of education in conflict**, co-sponsored by 99 Member States. The Council also adopted, with two abstentions (Russian Federation and Tunisia), resolution [2602 \(2021\)](#) on 29 October, extending the mandate of **MINURSO** until 31 October 2022.

The Council issued 3 presidential statement on the situation in the **Great Lakes region** ([S/PRST/2021/19](#) of 20 October); on the elections in **South Sudan** ([S/PRST/2021/20](#) of 27 October); and on **Cooperation between the UN and the African Union** ([S/PRST/2021/21](#) of 28 October).

The Council issued **7 press statements** on the following topics: attack against **MINUSMA** ([SC/14654](#)), terrorist attacks in **Kunduz** ([SC/14658](#)) and **Kandahar** ([SC/14665](#)) in **Afghanistan**, the deterioration of the situation regarding **UNISFA** ([SC/14666](#)), the situation in **Yemen** ([SC/14671](#)), the elections in **Iraq** ([SC/14673](#)) and the military takeover in **Sudan** ([SC/14678](#)).

Other activities

During the month of October, Council members held **4 Arria-formula meetings**: three were held virtually on the situation in **Belarus** (8 October), on the situation in **Haiti** (15 October) and on the topic of “**Addressing and Countering Hate Speech and Preventing Incitement to Discrimination, Hostility, and Violence on social media**” (28 October) whereas one was held in-person on the **Sea-level rise and implications for international peace and security** (18 October).

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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, please consult the newly launched 23rd Supplement (2020) [Part II](#) on procedural developments.