

Table 2  
**Videoconferences: maintenance of international peace and security**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
6 January 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/24</a>	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	<a href="#">S/2021/90</a>	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	
17 February 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/157</a>	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	<a href="#">S/2021/198</a>	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	<a href="#">S/2021/204</a>	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 <a href="#">2565 (2021)</a> 15-0-0 <a href="#">S/2021/195</a>
11 March 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/250</a>	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	<a href="#">S/2021/346</a>	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	<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/8</a>
7 May 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/456</a>	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	<a href="#">S/2021/621</a>	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	<a href="#">S/2021/722</a>	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	<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/15</a>

### **35. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security**

During the period under review, the Council held one meeting in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international

peace and security” which took the form of a briefing.<sup>1202</sup> More information on the meeting, including on

<sup>1202</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, including high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II, sect. II.

participants and speakers, is given in table 1 below. Council members also held four open videoconferences, including high-level videoconferences, in connection with the item.<sup>1203</sup> More information on the videoconferences is given in table 2 below. In addition, the Council adopted three presidential statements in connection with the item.

On 18 January, at the initiative of Tunisia, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,<sup>1204</sup> Council members held an open videoconference focused on the cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. At the videoconference, Council members heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.<sup>1205</sup> The Under-Secretary-General stated that the cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States had been crucial in augmenting efforts to address various situations in the Arab world, such as in relation to Libya, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the Persian Gulf. Noting that such cooperation had increased in recent years, she highlighted the holding of staff exchanges and workshops on mediation and peacebuilding and of capacity-building exercises on inclusive peacemaking. The Under-Secretary-General underscored that the United Nations liaison office to the League of Arab States, established in 2019, had facilitated regular contact with United Nations special envoys. She also commended the Arab Women Mediators Network, which had been established under the auspices of the League of Arab States in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in order to enable the region to increase the participation of women in resolving conflicts and sustaining peace. The Under-Secretary-General stressed the critical role of the Council in amplifying the collective efforts of the United Nations and the League of Arab States in the Arab region. As a principal steward of Chapter VIII of the Charter, she looked to the Council to continue to support the collaborative work of the two organizations to promote peace and prosperity in the Arab region.

In his remarks, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States emphasized the commitment of the League to fully developing the relationship with the

United Nations, in conjunction with both the Council and the other bodies of the United Nations system. Since his last briefing in 2019, the Arab region had witnessed several developments that had affected its security and stability, some of which had been positive and had helped to resolve crises on the common agendas of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, while others had diminished and complicated the joint efforts of both organizations to resolve those crises and address their root causes. With conflicts continuing on a number of fronts, the pandemic had created a dangerous mix and exacted a terrible humanitarian price from the population. In addition, the Arab region continued to suffer from serious interventions in its domestic affairs by regional powers which had increased instability and prolonged and further complicated existing conflicts. In that context, the Secretary-General gave as an example the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, in which five countries were engaged in blatant military interventions, undermining the chances of a political settlement and affecting the humanitarian situation. The humanitarian, political and security consequences of the unresolved Syrian crisis would have profound implications for the region and its interactions for many years to come. He also described the engagement of the League of Arab States in other countries of the region, including Yemen and Libya, and said he looked forward to optimizing the mechanisms of consultation and coordination with the Council and with the United Nations system as a whole in relation to other issues such as the situations in the Sudan, Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

Following the briefings, speakers expressed support for the presidential statement adopted on 13 June 2019,<sup>1206</sup> in which, inter alia, the Council called for further cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States.<sup>1207</sup> Speakers<sup>1208</sup> also expressed support for stronger cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States under Chapter VIII of the Charter, as well as between their special envoys, in relation to, inter alia, counter-terrorism, conflict resolution and prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In that

<sup>1203</sup> See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 36. See also [S/2021/1014](#). For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II, sect. I, and *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. I.

<sup>1204</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 30 December 2020 ([S/2020/1316](#)).

<sup>1205</sup> See [S/2021/66](#).

<sup>1206</sup> [S/PRST/2019/5](#).

<sup>1207</sup> See [S/2021/66](#) (Tunisia, Estonia, Mexico, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the Group of Arab States)).

<sup>1208</sup> Tunisia, China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United States, Viet Nam and United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the Group of Arab States).

regard, speakers<sup>1209</sup> welcomed the opening of the United Nations liaison office at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo, with some<sup>1210</sup> underscoring that it could serve as a catalyst for the development of cooperation between the two organizations, as well as enhance cooperation on regional security. Speakers<sup>1211</sup> welcomed the practice of the annual briefings by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to the Council, with the representative of Mexico noting that it was valuable to identify opportunities and contribute in a balanced way to addressing the situations in the Middle East and North Africa. Speakers<sup>1212</sup> also welcomed the Ula Declaration adopted on 5 January 2021 by the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Egypt, which resulted in the reopening of borders and airspace with Qatar, with some<sup>1213</sup> recognizing its contribution to strengthening regional stability. Lastly, speakers<sup>1214</sup> noted the normalization agreements between Israel and several States members of the League of Arab States, namely, Bahrain, Morocco, the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, with some<sup>1215</sup> also noting that such normalization could help to promote greater regional peace and security.<sup>1216</sup>

On 29 January, in connection with the item, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it welcomed the strong cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States and reiterated its intention to consider further steps to promote closer cooperation between the two organizations.<sup>1217</sup> In that regard, the Council supported the holding of an annual briefing by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to further promote cooperation with the Council on matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security.<sup>1218</sup> It also welcomed the opening of the United Nations liaison office to the League of Arab States and encouraged the secretariats of both

organizations to promote the role of the liaison office in strengthening cooperation between them.<sup>1219</sup> The Council also encouraged the holding of an annual informal meeting between its members and the members of the Council of the League of Arab States and, whenever possible, an informal meeting between its members and representatives of the Arab Summit troika and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, on the margins of the General Assembly high-level segment.<sup>1220</sup>

On 19 April, at the initiative of Viet Nam, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,<sup>1221</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference in connection with the item, focused on the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in enhancing confidence-building and dialogue in conflict prevention and resolution.<sup>1222</sup> Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General and the former Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. In his briefing, the Secretary-General noted that cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations had grown exponentially since 1945 and that, as at the time of the briefing, it encompassed preventive diplomacy, mediation, counter-terrorism, the prevention of violent extremism, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the promotion of human rights, advancing the women and peace and security agenda, combating climate change and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also underscored that the investment by the United Nations and regional organizations in institutionalizing partnerships had translated into more effective engagements before, during and after crises, and concrete operational results. He gave examples of such engagement in a variety of countries and stated that they showed that the ability to cooperate and build on complementarities allowed the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to support Member States more effectively in managing complex political transitions and in finding sustainable solutions to political challenges. The Secretary-General further underscored that strengthening United Nations partnerships with regional and subregional organizations was an integral part of his vision for a networked multilateralism. In reference to the biennial high-level interactive dialogue with heads of regional organizations held virtually in November 2020 and attended by representatives of 23 organizations, he

<sup>1209</sup> Tunisia, China, France, India, Ireland, Mexico, Niger, Russian Federation, Viet Nam and United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the Group of Arab States).

<sup>1210</sup> China and France.

<sup>1211</sup> France, India, Mexico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the Group of Arab States).

<sup>1212</sup> Estonia, France, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and United States.

<sup>1213</sup> Ireland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and United States.

<sup>1214</sup> Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Norway, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>1215</sup> *Ibid.*, Estonia, France, India and United States.

<sup>1216</sup> For further details on the briefings and discussion during the videoconference, see part VIII, sect. I.

<sup>1217</sup> [S/PRST/2021/2](#), fifth paragraph.

<sup>1218</sup> *Ibid.*, eleventh paragraph.

<sup>1219</sup> *Ibid.*, fifteenth paragraph.

<sup>1220</sup> *Ibid.*, twelfth paragraph.

<sup>1221</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 25 March ([S/2021/297](#)).

<sup>1222</sup> See [S/2021/394](#).

noted that it had helped to institutionalize collaboration and improve cooperation in crisis contexts. He expressed his commitment to pursuing even closer engagement to promote confidence-building and dialogue in conflict prevention, management and resolution.

In his remarks, the former Secretary-General underscored that, at the time, the international community was collectively facing a plethora of monumental challenges, which included an ongoing and deadly global pandemic, both long-standing and emerging conflict and security crises and a deepening climate emergency. Noting that some countries had prioritized nationalism and isolationism over cooperation and partnership, he underlined that the role of cooperative partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, as envisioned under Chapter VIII of the Charter, was all the more critical to helping to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security. The former Secretary-General specifically recognized that regional and subregional organizations had unique and prominent roles to play in enhancing dialogue and confidence-building in conflict prevention and resolution, as well in providing early warning assessments of atrocity crimes. He urged all Council members to scale up their support for the Secretary-General's efforts in addressing the root causes of conflict. In relation to Myanmar, the former Secretary-General said that the worsening situation in the country represented a pivotal moment to showcase the utility of cooperation between the United Nations and its regional partners in maintaining peace and security and emphasized that the task ahead would require the collective and coordinated efforts of the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the wider region to avert catastrophe.

Following the briefings, speakers recognized the role and contribution of regional and subregional organizations, under Chapter VIII of the Charter, to maintaining international peace and security, such as through the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict resolution and prevention, peacebuilding, dialogue and mediation, with several speakers also highlighting the comparative advantages, such as geographical proximity and better understanding of local dynamics. They also emphasized the need to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations, including the Council, with regional and subregional organizations in areas such as climate, peacekeeping and conflict prevention and resolution. This notwithstanding, the observer for the African Union asserted that the continued lack of clarity around the principles of

non-interference and subsidiarity had posed a critical challenge to coordination among the United Nations, the African Union and regional mechanisms. Furthermore, several delegations<sup>1223</sup> emphasized that global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for more international cooperation, including between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. In that regard, some participants<sup>1224</sup> expressed support for the call by the Secretary-General for a global ceasefire in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and welcomed the support of regional organizations for that call. Specifically, some delegations<sup>1225</sup> recognized the contributions of ASEAN to maintaining peace and security, with the representative of Viet Nam citing work carried out by ASEAN with China to negotiate the establishment of a code of conduct in the South China Sea, and many<sup>1226</sup> citing the Association's role and efforts in addressing the crisis in Myanmar. Speakers<sup>1227</sup> also mentioned the contribution of the African Union to finding a solution to the situation in Tigray, with the representative of Mexico citing the easing of tensions related to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the representative of Norway the situation on the border between Ethiopia and the Sudan, while the representative of the Russian Federation made reference to mediation efforts by the African Union, together with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, to stabilize the domestic political situation in South Sudan. Delegations<sup>1228</sup> also recognized the role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in promoting the political transition in Mali. In addition, the representative of France cited the role of the League of Arab States in facilitating various political processes, especially in Libya, Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Middle East, overall. In the same vein, the representative of Lebanon recalled the decisive role of

<sup>1223</sup> Viet Nam, Estonia, China, Mexico, Tunisia, Niger, Brunei Darussalam (both in its national capacity and as Chair of ASEAN), League of Arab States, African Union, Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malta, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, South Korea, Romania and Rwanda.

<sup>1224</sup> Estonia and Japan.

<sup>1225</sup> Viet Nam, Ireland, United States, Russian Federation, Brunei Darussalam (both in its national capacity and as Chair of ASEAN), Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and Poland.

<sup>1226</sup> Viet Nam, Estonia, China, Ireland, Mexico, United States, Norway, United Kingdom, France, Brunei Darussalam (both in its national capacity and as Chair of ASEAN), European Union, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Liechtenstein, Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

<sup>1227</sup> Mexico, Norway and France.

<sup>1228</sup> Mexico, Norway, France, Ghana and Japan.

the League of Arab States in concluding the Taif Accords in 1989, which ended the civil war in the country, and in the aftermath of the explosion in the Port of Beirut. Sweden and Liechtenstein underscored the role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in promoting thematic priorities such as women and peace and security, and the United States the Organization's work in ensuring the meaningful participation of women in all political processes, while others<sup>1229</sup> cited its role in ensuring the efforts of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, with Malta pointing to the leading role taken by OSCE in mediation efforts, such as those associated with the Trilateral Contact Group, the Minsk Group, the Geneva International Discussions and the 5 plus 2 agenda. The representative of the United States noted the role of the Organization of American States in brokering agreements to resolve territorial disputes between Belize and Guatemala, between Honduras and Nicaragua and between Costa Rica and El Salvador, as well as its participation in disarmament and demobilization in Colombia. The representative of France expressed recognition for the work of the International Organization of la Francophonie, particularly in terms of electoral observation and political dialogue, as was the case for Haiti, and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations expressed recognition for the role played by the European Union in facilitating dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo. Other participants<sup>1230</sup> recognized various regional women's mediator and peacebuilding initiatives, such as the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa), the African Women Leaders Network, the Arab Women Mediators Network and the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry.<sup>1231</sup>

At the same meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement in connection with the item.<sup>1232</sup> In the presidential statement, the Council recalled its previous relevant resolutions and presidential statements in which it had underscored the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.<sup>1233</sup> Council members recognized that regional and subregional organizations were well positioned to understand the root causes of armed conflicts, owing to

their knowledge of the region,<sup>1234</sup> and that they were well positioned to promote confidence, trust and dialogue among concerned parties within their respective regions and could play a role in post-conflict reconstruction and sustainable development.<sup>1235</sup> In that regard, the Council emphasized the role of States, regional and subregional organizations, the United Nations and relevant stakeholders in promoting confidence-building measures and dialogue at various levels, while ensuring synergy, coherence and complementarity of such efforts, and requested that the Secretary-General, while presenting regular written reports on matters seized by the Council, make recommendations for further enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in promoting confidence-building and dialogue.<sup>1236</sup>

On 10 June, the Council held a meeting focused on the cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union.<sup>1237</sup> At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. In his remarks, the High Representative reported that the European Union was defining its next set of joint European Union-United Nations priorities on peace operations and crisis management to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations and maximize their impact. He recalled that the world was into its second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had served to underscore the fragility of a hyperglobalized and interdependent world. In that regard, he noted that the European Union was a staunch promoter of vaccine multilateralism and called on all players to lift export restrictions on vaccines and their components. Beyond the pandemic, the High Representative affirmed that climate change and biodiversity losses had reached existential levels and emphasized that the Council had an important role to play on climate and health and their links to peace and security. In the light of two major United Nations summits to be held later in the year, one in Kunming, China, and one in Glasgow, United Kingdom, and to give impetus to their success, he expressed the hope that the Council would adopt a resolution on the link between climate change and security, which was increasingly evident. He also highlighted a few concrete areas where the European Union was deeply engaged and where urgent results were needed, including in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Syrian Arab Republic, Libya, the Islamic

<sup>1229</sup> Ireland, United States, Norway, France, Sweden, European Union, Malta and Ukraine.

<sup>1230</sup> Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom, Peru and Portugal.

<sup>1231</sup> For further details on the briefings and discussion during the videoconference, see part VIII, sect. I.

<sup>1232</sup> [S/PRST/2021/9](#).

<sup>1233</sup> *Ibid.*, first paragraph.

<sup>1234</sup> *Ibid.*, third paragraph.

<sup>1235</sup> *Ibid.*, sixth paragraph.

<sup>1236</sup> *Ibid.*, seventh and last paragraphs.

<sup>1237</sup> See [S/PV.8792](#).

Republic of Iran, Belarus, Ukraine and the Western Balkans.

Following the briefing, Council members recognized the European Union as an important partner to the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security, including regarding its contributions to solving issues on the Council's agenda, with some<sup>1238</sup> citing its role in the Middle East peace process as a member of the Quartet, others<sup>1239</sup> its role in revitalizing and restoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and still others<sup>1240</sup> its contribution to enforcing the United Nations arms embargo on Libya through the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean operation IRINI (Operation IRINI). Cautioning that the efforts of the European Union should not go beyond the frameworks set forth in Council mandates, the representative of the Russian Federation underscored that his delegation still had questions about Operation IRINI, as one of its objectives was to assist in the fulfilment of the United Nations arms embargo on Libya. Council members<sup>1241</sup> recognized the efforts made by the European Union towards peace and security and peacebuilding on the African continent, with some<sup>1242</sup> citing its support for peace processes led by African subregional organizations, including for African-led regional peacekeeping efforts, notably, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel. With regard to the European continent, Council members<sup>1243</sup> also discussed the human rights situation in Belarus and the situation in Ukraine. Specifically, some Council members<sup>1244</sup> addressed the occupation and annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, some<sup>1245</sup> cited the intervention of the Russian Federation in eastern Ukraine and some<sup>1246</sup> mentioned the military build-up near the border of Ukraine.<sup>1247</sup>

<sup>1238</sup> India, Ireland, Tunisia, Mexico, China, France and Estonia.

<sup>1239</sup> United Kingdom, Russian Federation, India, Ireland, Tunisia, China and France.

<sup>1240</sup> United Kingdom, Tunisia, United States, Mexico, Norway, France, Niger and Estonia.

<sup>1241</sup> Kenya, United Kingdom, India, Tunisia, United States, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Mexico, China, Norway and Niger.

<sup>1242</sup> Kenya, United Kingdom, India, United States, China, Norway, France, Niger and Estonia.

<sup>1243</sup> United Kingdom, United States, Norway, France and Estonia.

<sup>1244</sup> United States, Norway and Estonia.

<sup>1245</sup> United States and Estonia.

<sup>1246</sup> France and Estonia.

<sup>1247</sup> For further details on the discussions in relation to Ukraine, see part I, sect. 18.

On 28 October, at the initiative of Kenya, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,<sup>1248</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference in connection with this item, focused on the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union.<sup>1249</sup> During the videoconference, Council members heard a briefing by the Deputy Secretary-General. In her remarks, the Deputy Secretary-General noted that the annual report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union<sup>1250</sup> contained a number of hopeful developments, including, specifically, the growing cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and subregional organizations on sustainable development, elections and peace processes.<sup>1251</sup> In connection with the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda",<sup>1252</sup> the Deputy Secretary-General underlined three urgent actions that required global solidarity and support, namely, to prioritize the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa through accelerated vaccine distribution, more robust national health systems and much-needed investments in preparedness; to reaffirm the focus on sustainable development, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union at the heart of those common efforts; and to continue securing adequate, predictable and sustainable resources that would bring to life development, peace and security mandates across Africa.<sup>1253</sup>

Council members also heard a statement by the President of Ghana, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS.<sup>1254</sup> In reference to the security challenges affecting the African continent, the President of Ghana stated that, as acknowledged by the Secretary-General in his report entitled "Our Common Agenda",<sup>1255</sup> there was a need to re-emphasize global solidarity and find new ways of working together for the common good.<sup>1256</sup> He expressed the hope that solidarity would be renewed

<sup>1248</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 18 October (S/2021/887).

<sup>1249</sup> See S/2021/941.

<sup>1250</sup> S/2021/763.

<sup>1251</sup> See S/2021/941.

<sup>1252</sup> A/75/982.

<sup>1253</sup> See S/2021/941.

<sup>1254</sup> In addition to hearing a briefing by the President of Ghana, Council members heard a briefing by the High Representative for the Peace Fund of the African Union. The High Representative's statement was, however, not included in the letter of the President of the Council compiling all statements.

<sup>1255</sup> A/75/982.

<sup>1256</sup> See S/2021/941.

within the Council with regard to addressing the gaps in cooperation between the United Nations and the continental and regional arrangements of Africa. In that regard, he offered a few points for the Council's consideration. First, regular consultations between the United Nations and the African Union and the organs of the latter, such as the Peace and Security Council, as well as with regional economic communities such as ECOWAS. Second, the United Nations needed to enhance the wealth of experience it had in preventive diplomacy in its engagement with Africa. Third, cooperation between the United Nations and Africa needed to be a steady effort towards resolving the root causes of conflicts, within the context of sustaining peace, encompassing programmes aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflicts. Lastly, he posited that the linkage between peace and development could not be ignored.

Following the briefings, Council members<sup>1257</sup> noted the various threats and challenges faced by the African continent, including terrorism, armed conflicts and instability, as well as structural challenges such as exclusion, marginalization, absence of state authority and weak governance. Speakers also highlighted the additional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>1258</sup> and climate change,<sup>1259</sup> with Kenya and China pointing especially to the socioeconomic and security challenges affecting the continent. In that regard, speakers<sup>1260</sup> emphasized the need for cooperation between the United Nations, on the one hand, and the African Union and African subregional organizations, on the other, to address challenges to peace and security on the continent, including in implementing the Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative of the African Union, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. Specifically, Council members<sup>1261</sup> emphasized the need to help Africa gain access to COVID-19 vaccines. Council members<sup>1262</sup> also called for increased cooperation between the Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. The representative of India underlined that, given

that nearly 70 per cent of the mandates of resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter concerned Africa, a strong and effective partnership between the United Nations and the African Union needed to be the foundational edifice. Council members also acknowledged the contributions of African-led peacekeeping operations to international peace and security, such as AMISOM, the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the Multinational Joint Task Force, with some<sup>1263</sup> emphasizing the need for adequate, predictable and sustainable support, and some<sup>1264</sup> specifically citing United Nations assessed contributions.<sup>1265</sup>

On 28 October, Council members adopted a presidential statement.<sup>1266</sup> In the presidential statement, the Council commended the progress made in the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union and stressed that it should further develop into a systematic, operational and strategic partnership rooted in shared values and a strong commitment to international cooperation, adapted to the complex security challenges facing Africa.<sup>1267</sup> The Council also underscored the importance of further consolidation of United Nations-African Union cooperation through partnership in the different components of the African Peace and Security Architecture.<sup>1268</sup> Furthermore, the Council recognized that ad hoc and unpredictable financing arrangements for African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Council and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter could affect the effectiveness of those peace support operations and encouraged further dialogue on options for addressing the issue.<sup>1269</sup> Lastly, the Council recognized the negative impact and unprecedented extent of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had led to severe socioeconomic, humanitarian, political and security repercussions, including in Africa, and, inter alia, called upon vaccine-producing countries and the private sector to translate their commitments into actions in order to facilitate expedited access by Africa to vaccines.<sup>1270</sup>

<sup>1257</sup> Kenya, Tunisia, Viet Nam, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, India, China, Mexico and Russian Federation.

<sup>1258</sup> Kenya, Tunisia, Viet Nam, Norway, Ireland, United Kingdom, China, Mexico and Russian Federation.

<sup>1259</sup> Kenya, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Norway, Ireland, United Kingdom, Estonia and France.

<sup>1260</sup> Kenya, Tunisia, Viet Nam, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Norway, India, Ireland, United Kingdom, Estonia, China, France, Mexico and Russian Federation.

<sup>1261</sup> Viet Nam, Norway, Ireland, China, France and Mexico.

<sup>1262</sup> Tunisia, Viet Nam, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Norway, India, Ireland, Mexico and Russian Federation.

<sup>1263</sup> Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, India, Ireland, China and France.

<sup>1264</sup> Kenya, Tunisia, India, China, France and Russian Federation.

<sup>1265</sup> For further details on the briefings and discussion during the videoconference, see part VIII, sect. I.

<sup>1266</sup> [S/PRST/2021/21](#).

<sup>1267</sup> *Ibid.*, fourth paragraph.

<sup>1268</sup> *Ibid.*, tenth paragraph.

<sup>1269</sup> *Ibid.*, twenty-fourth paragraph.

<sup>1270</sup> *Ibid.*, ninth paragraph.

Table 1

**Meeting: cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations**

<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>
<a href="#">S/PV.8792</a> 10 June 2021	European Union			High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy	All Council members, invitee	

Table 2

**Videoconferences: cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
18 January 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/66</a>	Letter dated 20 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	
29 January 2021	No record (see <a href="#">A/76/2</a> , part II, chap. 36)		<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/2</a>
19 April 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/394</a>	Letter dated 21 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	<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/9</a>
28 October 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/941</a>	Letter dated 10 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	<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/21</a>