

Table 2  
**Videoconference: threats to international peace and security**

<i>Videoconference data</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
10 May 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/460</a>	Letter dated 12 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	

### 34. Maintenance of international peace and security

During the period under review, the 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 adopted four presidential statements. More information on the meetings, including on the participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below. In addition, Council members held 10 videoconferences in connection with the item.<sup>1107</sup> 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 the item.<sup>1108</sup>

As in previous periods, a broad range of new and existing sub-items and themes were discussed in connection with the item.<sup>1109</sup> The sub-items and themes addressed in 2021 were the following: (a) challenges of maintaining peace and security in fragile contexts; (b) implementation of resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#);<sup>1110</sup>

(c) climate and security; (d) conflict and food security; (e) mine action and sustaining peace – stronger partnerships for better delivery; (f) upholding multilateralism and the United Nations-centred international system; (g) cybersecurity; (h) maritime security; (i) exclusion, inequality and conflict; (j) peace and security through preventive diplomacy: a common objective to all the principal organs of the United Nations; and (k) security in the context of terrorism and climate change.

On 6 January, at the initiative of Tunisia, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1111</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference focused on the theme “Challenges of maintaining peace and security in fragile contexts”.<sup>1112</sup> At the videoconference, Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the former President of Liberia.

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 fragility and conflict were among the greatest obstacles to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Referring to the World Bank 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. Noting that the climate emergency was a further driver of insecurity, he emphasized that, to break the cycle of poverty and conflict, there was a need for a more ambitious approach based on the principles of interdependence and inclusion enshrined in the Sustainable

<sup>1107</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, including high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II, sect. II. 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>1108</sup> See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 34.

<sup>1109</sup> As explained in *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. I, videoconferences, whether open or closed, were not considered formal meetings of the 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.

<sup>1110</sup> 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 a single topic.

<sup>1111</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 28 December 2020 ([S/2020/1296](#)).

<sup>1112</sup> See [S/2021/24](#).

Development Goals. Underscoring that the linkages between conflict and fragility had been particularly visible on the African continent, the Secretary-General advocated increased financing for prevention and peacebuilding and ensuring predictable, flexible and sustained financing for the deployment of African peace enforcement operations authorized by the 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 were 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 the Council's effort in adopting resolution [2457 \(2019\)](#), but acknowledged that 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 Union to effectively carry out its mandate. Noting that exclusion was one of the key drivers of crises and tensions, he stated 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 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 of 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, in particular in Africa, including the role of women and young people. Many speakers urged the Council to foster closer cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the African Union and subregional organizations, in tackling those challenges. Many Council members expressed concern that the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated existing drivers of fragility and conflict, such as climate change, terrorism and transnational organized crime.

On 25 January, Council members held a videoconference focused on the theme "Follow-up on the implementation of resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#)".<sup>1113</sup> 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.

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 2 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, as well as 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 for, and in some instances added new momentum to, faltering peace processes, offering examples in the situations in Afghanistan, Libya, Mozambique and eastern Ukraine. Despite those positive developments, she noted that, in several other contexts, the ceasefire call had had more mixed results, such as in the situation in the South Caucasus, where large-scale hostilities in and around

<sup>1113</sup> See [S/2021/90](#).

Nagorno-Karabakh had broken 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 the Central African Republic, Cyprus, Lebanon and South Sudan. Second, he noted that peacekeeping missions had continued to deliver on their mandated tasks. With the collaboration of Member States, troop- and police-contributing countries and host States, missions had demonstrated adaptability, resilience and innovation. Third, peacekeeping operations had put a constant and steadfast emphasis on ensuring the safety and health of their personnel, be they military, police or civilian. Fourth, peacekeeping operations had consistently endeavoured to support host country authorities to contain the spread of COVID-19, at both the 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 response and a road map for the 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 the implementation of proactive measures to provide the field with supplies, equipment and personal protective equipment, the upgrading of medical facilities, virtual walk-throughs of duty stations, the

provision of simple but effective solutions to reduce the risk of spread, reliance on innovation to minimize exposure and contact, medical evacuations conducted by the United Nations System-Wide Task Force on Medical Evacuations in Response to COVID-19 as part of an inter-agency and system-wide effort and the establishment of regional hubs. He also reported that the Department had been tasked by the Secretary-General to coordinate a system-wide vaccination effort for all United Nations personnel and dependants 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 because of the lack of vaccines and the steep increase in food insecurity, resulting in multiple famines on the horizon. In terms of the response of the humanitarian system to COVID-19, he elaborated on various initiatives by humanitarian agencies to provide life-saving assistance to almost 100 million people. While the humanitarian community had managed to sustain and scale up assistance to an unprecedented level, those efforts had been outpaced by the growing scale of the crisis. The Under-Secretary-General 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 take urgent action to ensure that vaccines reached the most vulnerable people in the world. He also called for ensuring 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 for 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, in particular in conflict areas. They called for engagement in preventive diplomacy, notably in places 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, at the initiative of the United Kingdom, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1114</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference focused on the theme “Implementation of resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#)”.<sup>1115</sup> 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 Gavi 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 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. He underscored the necessity of fully funding the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and urged the Group of 20 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. As UNICEF prepared for that historic roll-out, she noted that the support of the Council was necessary. She asked the Council to join the call to ensure that everyone was included in the national vaccination plans of Member States, to ensure a global ceasefire by helping to extend the call made in resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#) for a humanitarian pause for the duration of vaccine delivery and to help to restart stalled immunization campaigns for other diseases, such as measles, diphtheria and polio.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Gavi 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 that vaccines – where they existed – were a critical tool in preventing them and protecting everyone 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 COVAX Facility and its goal of 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 that the first resort for covering all high-risk groups was their inclusion in national vaccine plans. He asked the Council to reinforce that message so that available doses were distributed to ensure truly equitable access. He also said that it was fundamentally important for the Council to play its political role in enabling supplies to move into conflict-affected settings through neutral humanitarian actors, in accordance with international law. In closing, he asked the Council to advocate and invest in that 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 had done during the Ebola virus disease crisis, citing examples of such instances occurring in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea. 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 the strong involvement of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other local impartial organizations in vaccination activities could help to 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 – were not left behind. In that context, he drew attention to the efforts of the national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies aimed at maintaining routine immunizations

<sup>1114</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 12 February ([S/2021/138](#)).

<sup>1115</sup> See [S/2021/157](#).

in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and Pakistan, which had saved countless lives.

Following the briefings, participants underscored the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the role of the Council, Member States and the United Nations in ensuring the equitable distribution of vaccines, in particular to people living in conflict and fragile settings. The representative of Turkey stressed that no country could overcome the COVID-19 threat on its own. The pandemic was referred to as a threat or a risk to international peace and security by a number of delegations,<sup>1116</sup> and a threat to the sustainable development of peoples by the representative of Cuba. Participants also stressed the need to tackle misinformation leading to vaccine hesitancy. Many pointed to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and children, advocating that they should be placed at the centre of the response. Some participants 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<sup>1117</sup> emphasized the need to support peacekeeping operations, to ensure the vaccination of peacekeeping personnel and to utilize peacekeeping operations in the delivery and distribution of vaccines, in particular in conflict areas.<sup>1118</sup>

On 23 February, again at the initiative of the United Kingdom, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1119</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference focused on the theme “Climate and security”.<sup>1120</sup> At the videoconference, the members of the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General and a youth civil society representative and Chair of the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change of the United Nations, Nisreen Elsam.

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 Afghanistan, West Africa and the Sahel and Darfur. 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, he highlighted 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. Second, he stressed the need for immediate actions to protect countries, communities and people from the increasingly frequent and severe climate impacts through a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience, which meant dramatically raising the level of investment. Third, the Secretary-General underscored 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 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 the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to mobilize others, including international financial institutions and the private sector, to do their part, stating that 2021 was a make-or-break year for collective action against the climate emergency.

The youth civil society representative and Chair of the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change 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 item on climate security was still valid and being discussed at the Council, she added that, for a young Sudanese person like her, not everything regarding climate change could be affiliated

<sup>1116</sup> Kenya, Niger, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries) and Ukraine.

<sup>1117</sup> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, France, Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Belgium, European Union, Germany and Peru.

<sup>1118</sup> For further details on the discussion, see part VII, sect. I.

<sup>1119</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 17 February (S/2021/155).

<sup>1120</sup> See S/2021/198.

with security. She recounted living in continuous insecurity owing 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, in which the Council had recognized the adverse effects of climate change, ecological changes and natural disasters.<sup>1121</sup> Collecting data about conflict and climate change, consulting local communities and trusting in science were her key recommendations.<sup>1122</sup> In closing, she asked Member States to give more space to 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, participants 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 crises. Many delegations 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 the issue, others<sup>1123</sup> signalled that there were already established mechanisms to deal with climate change, primarily, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. 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 participants expressed strong support for the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in addressing climate security risks.<sup>1124</sup>

On 11 March, at the initiative of the United States, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1125</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference focused on the theme “Conflict and food security”.<sup>1126</sup> 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 Afghanistan, South Sudan and Yemen. He informed the Council of his decision to establish the 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 of the United Nations and would bring coordinated, high-level attention to famine prevention and mobilize support for the most affected countries. He added that the Task Force would draw on the support of other members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and cooperate with non-governmental organizations, 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 using every means so that those responsible for those atrocious acts were held accountable and 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 do everything in their power 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 from acute hunger in countries where conflict and insecurity 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. Second, the Council must urgently take genuine action to support the Secretary-General’s call for a global ceasefire, while ensuring humanitarian access and the inclusion of women from the beginning of the process. Third, the Council should apply the principles it had endorsed in the abstract to the specific situations on its agenda. Fourth, 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, especially in the light of COVID-19, and lastly, it

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<sup>1121</sup> Resolution [2429 \(2018\)](#), twenty-first preambular paragraph.

<sup>1122</sup> See [S/2021/198](#).

<sup>1123</sup> India, China, Russian Federation, Brazil and South Africa.

<sup>1124</sup> For further details on the discussion, see part V, sect. I.

<sup>1125</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 3 March ([S/2021/217](#)).

<sup>1126</sup> See [S/2021/250](#).

should endorse a people's vaccine for COVID-19 that was free and accessible to all.

Describing the initiatives of and the 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 situations in such countries as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic and in the region of the Sahel. Noting that the Council had a moral obligation to do everything in its power to end those wars, he urged Council members to provide immediate funding to avoid multiple famines around the world and to fund the development programmes that could transform the lives of people in fragile, conflict-scarred nations and help to lay new pathways to peace.

In their statements, participants discussed the worsening food security environment, relevant obligations under international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, and challenges to mobilizing adequate and timely resources for humanitarian assistance. Many Council members recalled resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#), in which the Council drew attention to the link between armed conflict and violence and conflict-induced food insecurity and the threat of famine.<sup>1127</sup> Council members echoed the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire in response to the pandemic.<sup>1128</sup> Some Member States<sup>1129</sup> 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.

On 8 April, at the initiative of Viet Nam, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1130</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference focused on the theme "Mine action and sustaining peace – stronger partnerships for better delivery".<sup>1131</sup> At the videoconference, Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the United Nations Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador, the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Provincial Programme Manager and Manager of Project Renew.

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<sup>1127</sup> Resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#), para. 1.

<sup>1128</sup> See [S/2021/250](#).

<sup>1129</sup> Russian Federation and Cuba.

<sup>1130</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 19 March ([S/2021/284](#)).

<sup>1131</sup> See [S/2021/346](#).

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General noted that landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices maimed and killed indiscriminately. He noted that, while progress had been made, challenges had intensified. Conflict had become more urbanized, armed groups were proliferating and the use of improvised explosive devices 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 improvised explosive devices.

The United Nations Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador underscored that mine action was linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, to reduce risks and build a better future for mine-affected communities, she suggested two main areas of work. First, she highlighted the need to raise awareness at the national and international levels of the role of mine action in achieving the Goals, including by highlighting evidence to engage more voices on the work and impact of mine action. Second, noting that there had been a downward trend in the financing of mine action, she stated that there was a need for 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 Council as well, not only because mine contamination was a threat to peace and security but also because mine action had proved to contribute significantly to peace efforts. He further reaffirmed that there could be no mine action without the contribution of all key stakeholders, including the Council.

The Provincial Programme Manager and Manager of Project Renew shared with the Council some recommendations, which, she believed, would lead to a

more effective and efficient implementation of mine action. 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 that experienced 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 Mine Action Service were also discussed by Member States. Many 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 activities relating to mine action.

On 7 May, at the initiative of China, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1132</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference focused on the theme “Upholding multilateralism and the United Nations-centred international system”.<sup>1133</sup> At the videoconference, Council members heard a briefing by the President of the General Assembly.

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. He underscored that, under the Charter, 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, the Council had been divided and unable to rise to the challenge, owing to differences among its members, in particular its

permanent members. He therefore urged all Member States, 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. Regarding COVID-19 recovery plans and humanitarian responses, he underscored that they must be centred around human rights and the protection of civilians. Furthermore, he stressed 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 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<sup>1134</sup> reflected on the existing system of global governance and its shortcomings. Council members emphasized the need to uphold the principles and purposes of the Charter and reaffirmed the role of the United Nations in confronting current threats.<sup>1135</sup>

On 29 June, at the initiative of Estonia, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1136</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference in connection with the theme “Cybersecurity”, at which they heard a briefing by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.<sup>1137</sup> Noting that advances in digital technologies continued to revolutionize human life, the High Representative pointed to the need to remain vigilant regarding the understanding of the malicious use of such technologies that could imperil the security of future generations. She reported that, regarding information and communications technology (ICT), a dramatic increase in the frequency of malicious incidents in past years had been observed, noting that efforts were underway 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.

<sup>1132</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 29 April (S/2021/416).

<sup>1133</sup> See S/2021/456.

<sup>1134</sup> China, Mexico, Niger and Russian Federation.

<sup>1135</sup> For further details on the discussion, see part V, sect. I.

<sup>1136</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 8 June (S/2021/540).

<sup>1137</sup> See S/2021/621.



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 ICT was an integral part of societies and that other stakeholders had a key role and interest, as well as a responsibility, in securing cyberspace, highlighting a series of cyberinitiatives led by the private sector, such as the Cybersecurity Tech Accord, led by Microsoft, the Charter of Trust, founded at the Munich Security Conference and initiated by Siemens, and the Global Transparency Initiative of Kaspersky Lab. Regarding the role of the United Nations, she stated that the Organization was ready to support States, together with other stakeholders, in promoting a peaceful ICT environment and made reference to the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation and the Secretary-General's launch of an agenda for disarmament, which placed emphasis on understanding and addressing new-generation technologies that posed possible challenges to existing legal, humanitarian and ethical norms, non-proliferation, and peace and security. Given the implications for the maintenance of international peace and security resulting from ICT threats, she said that engagement by the Council on the issue was paramount.

Following the briefing, Council members expressed concern about the consequences of cyberthreats and malicious cyberactivities 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 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,<sup>1138</sup> participants emphasized that cyberspace was subject to international law, including the provisions of the Charter and the principle of State sovereignty.<sup>1139</sup> Many participants welcomed the establishment of a new open-ended working group by the General Assembly.<sup>1140</sup> Several<sup>1141</sup> called for a secure, stable and peaceful ICT environment, others<sup>1142</sup>

for bridging the digital divide and some<sup>1143</sup> for the participation of women in decision-making processes and policies on cybersecurity.<sup>1144</sup> In addition, the important role that regional organizations could exert in the field of cybersecurity was emphasized by Council members.<sup>1145</sup>

On 9 August, at the initiative of India, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1146</sup> Council members held a high-level open videoconference focused on the theme "Maritime security" and heard briefings by the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC).<sup>1147</sup>

The Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General said that maritime security was being undermined at alarming levels and called for a global and 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 United Nations 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 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: (a) more effective implementation of the international legal framework and Council resolutions promoting maritime security; (b) greater political will and more resources for technical assistance and capacity-

<sup>1138</sup> For the 2021 report of the working group, see [A/75/816](#).

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

<sup>1139</sup> See [S/2021/621](#).

<sup>1140</sup> See General Assembly resolution [75/240](#), para. 1.

<sup>1141</sup> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Norway, Brazil, European Union, Pakistan and Qatar.

<sup>1142</sup> Estonia, Niger, Ireland, China, Russian Federation, Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries), European Union, Pakistan, Peru and South Africa.

<sup>1143</sup> Ireland, Australia, Canada, European Union, Slovenia and Thailand.

<sup>1144</sup> See [S/2021/621](#).

<sup>1145</sup> For further details on the discussion, see part VI, sect. IV, and part VII, sect. I.

<sup>1146</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 26 July ([S/2021/680](#)).

<sup>1147</sup> See [S/2021/722](#).

building; (c) the strengthening of international and regional cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, to counter the expansion of maritime crime; and (d) the need to tackle root causes and support all countries, especially affected coastal communities, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as part of an integrated crime prevention response.

During the discussion, participants underscored the importance of enhancing global maritime security, in particular in the context of certain areas, such as the Gulf of Guinea and the Persian Gulf. Many delegations highlighted the global threat caused by piracy and armed robbery at sea. In that regard, some<sup>1148</sup> expressed condemnation for the attack against the merchant vessel *Mercer Street* off the coast of Oman on 29 July, which had resulted in the death of two people. Citing the United 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 Council<sup>1149</sup> and UNODC<sup>1150</sup> in enhancing maritime security.<sup>1151</sup>

On 7 September, at the initiative of Ireland, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1152</sup> Council members held a meeting at which they heard briefings by the Chair of The Elders and an Elder Emeritus.<sup>1153</sup>

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 by the Council, notably, issues faced by women and children in Afghanistan and the Tigray region in Ethiopia, the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on human lives, existential dangers posed by nuclear weapons, and the turmoil in Myanmar and in Israel and the State of 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. In response to questions and comments raised during the discussion, she took the floor a second time to express support for Council reform.<sup>1154</sup>

The Elder Emeritus 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 stated 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 that 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, in particular in Afghanistan.<sup>1155</sup> Several Council members<sup>1156</sup> emphasized the need for a whole-of-system approach to conflict prevention, calling on the Council to lead and coordinate such an approach with other United Nations organs. Some speakers<sup>1157</sup> expressed support for the reform of the system, while others<sup>1158</sup> made specific reference to the reform of the Council. 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.<sup>1159</sup>

On 23 September, again at the initiative of Ireland, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1160</sup> the Council held a high-level meeting under the sub-item entitled "Climate and security".<sup>1161</sup> At the meeting, Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General and the Chief Operating Officer of the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre.

<sup>1148</sup> United States, France, Norway, United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Brazil, European Union, Romania, Singapore and United Arab Emirates.

<sup>1149</sup> Russian Federation, Viet Nam, France and Norway.

<sup>1150</sup> Mexico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia.

<sup>1151</sup> For further details on the discussion, see part VII, sect. I.B.

<sup>1152</sup> A concept note was circulated to Council members for information only and was not issued as a document of the Council.

<sup>1153</sup> See [S/PV.8850](#).

<sup>1154</sup> For more information about invitees under rule 39 and their interventions, see part II, sect. VIII.B.

<sup>1155</sup> For more information on the discussion concerning the situation in Afghanistan, see sect. 14 above.

<sup>1156</sup> United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

<sup>1157</sup> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and India.

<sup>1158</sup> Viet Nam and France.

<sup>1159</sup> For further details on the discussion, see part V, sect. I.

<sup>1160</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 9 September ([S/2021/782](#)).

<sup>1161</sup> See [S/PV.8864](#). See also [S/2021/815](#). While briefers and Council members participated in person at the meeting, non-Council members submitted written statements. This was agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General stated that the report of 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 session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In his statement, he highlighted three priorities on climate action. First, there was a need for an unambiguous commitment and credible actions by all countries to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Second, to deal with the already dire impacts of climate disruption on the lives and livelihoods of people all over the world, there was a need for a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience. Third, climate adaptation and peacebuilding could and should reinforce one another.

In her briefing, the Chief Operating Officer of the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre said that, as climate change and other environmental crises gathered pace, they were touching every aspect of life and that 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 and Human Rights Centre was a peacebuilding 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 must be receptive to bottom-up solutions and community-led processes and that it was time 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 and the security and humanitarian consequences of climate change and armed conflict. Some Council members<sup>1162</sup> underscored the need to integrate climate-related security risks into the work of the Council pertaining to conflict prevention, including the mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions. Other Council members<sup>1163</sup> cautioned against

integrating climate security into the Council's agenda, adding that social and economic issues were already under the purview of other United Nations organs and mechanisms, notably, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Several Council members<sup>1164</sup> stressed the need for the Secretary-General to include climate-related security risks in his reports to the Council, and some<sup>1165</sup> expressed support for the appointment a special envoy of the Secretary-General on climate and security.

On 9 November, at the initiative of Mexico, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1166</sup> the Council held a high-level meeting under the sub-item entitled "Exclusion, inequality and conflict".<sup>1167</sup> At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General and an indigenous affairs expert, Lourdes Tibán Guala.<sup>1168</sup>

The Secretary-General stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had increased hardship and inequality for the poorest and most vulnerable people. 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: people, prevention, gender and institutions. First, he stressed the need to invest in the development of all people, equally. Second, he noted the need to strengthen the prevention agenda on multiple fronts to address different types of exclusion and inequalities. Third, 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, the expert on indigenous affairs outlined some issues that the Council should monitor in the future, including social

<sup>1162</sup> Ireland, Viet Nam, United States, Mexico, Norway and Kenya.

<sup>1163</sup> India and Russian Federation.

<sup>1164</sup> Ireland, Niger, France, Norway, Tunisia and United Kingdom.

<sup>1165</sup> Niger, France and Tunisia.

<sup>1166</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 15 October (S/2021/883).

<sup>1167</sup> See S/PV.8900 and S/PV.8900 (Resumption 1). See also S/2021/935.

<sup>1168</sup> See S/PV.8900.

inequality, social exclusion, gender exclusion, migration, corruption and the criminalization of 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, participants addressed a variety of themes and underscored the need for conflict prevention, early warning systems and greater international cooperation to ensure the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Many participants emphasized the importance of addressing factors that 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 women in all aspects of conflict prevention and peace processes. Some speakers<sup>1169</sup> expressed concern about the use of unilateral sanctions and economic measures, which could result in the exclusion of the countries and impede their development goals. Several Council members<sup>1170</sup> also discussed the role of regional organizations in conflict prevention to maintain international peace and security. Furthermore, some Member States noted the importance of the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Council.<sup>1171</sup>

On 16 November, again at the initiative of Mexico, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1172</sup> 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”.<sup>1173</sup> 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.<sup>1174</sup>

In his briefing, the Secretary-General noted that prevention did not always receive the attention it deserved, perhaps because of the difficulty in measuring the results of preventing conflict. He stated that prevention was the ultimate goal of the work of the Council and its resolutions to help countries to 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. He underlined that prevention was the very reason for the existence of the United Nations 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. He noted that, if preventive diplomacy and development were to contribute to peace, the full support of the Council and of all Member States was necessary.

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 supporting 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, the 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”, expressing the desire to not only make the Assembly 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 Assembly resolution [75/325](#), on the revitalization of the work of the Assembly, which encouraged regular interaction and continued coordination among the Presidents of the Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>1169</sup> Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Islamic Republic of Iran.

<sup>1170</sup> India, Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Viet Nam and Niger.

<sup>1171</sup> See [S/PV.8900](#) (Kenya, Viet Nam and Japan); and [S/2021/935](#) (Brazil). For further details on the discussion, see part VI, sect. IV.

<sup>1172</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 19 October ([S/2021/888](#)).

<sup>1173</sup> See [S/PV.8906](#) and [S/PV.8906 \(Resumption 1\)](#). See also [S/2021/952](#).

<sup>1174</sup> See [S/PV.8906](#).

The President of the Economic and Social Council gave a briefing 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 that both Councils could build on their previous collaboration in the early 2000s. Second, he suggested drawing on the experience of the regular interactions among the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Third, he suggested 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 (Assembly resolution 67/1) regarding the interplay between the Court and other principal organs in that field. First, she affirmed that the Court 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 so-called optional clause declaration recognizing the Court's jurisdiction or through Article 36 (3) of the Charter.<sup>1175</sup> Turning to the second point, she noted that the Assembly had recalled the ability of the relevant organs of the United Nations to request advisory opinions from the Court, which was a matter entirely in the hands of the relevant organ or specialized agency and its members and must be carefully weighed on the basis of a range of different factors and considerations. Lastly, she stated that the Assembly had reaffirmed the obligation of all States to comply with the decisions of the Court in cases to which they were parties. In reference to Article 94 (2) of the Charter, which set out a specific role for the Council in the implementation of the Court's decisions,

<sup>1175</sup> For more information on the referral of legal disputes to the Court under Article 36 (3), see part VI, sect. IV.

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 the judgments of the Court in their favour. In that regard, she provided examples of the Secretary-General's efforts in bringing about the implementation of the Court's decisions, adding that those demonstrated that other United Nations organs had opportunities, within their respective purviews, to contribute to the implementation of the judgments of the Court and to the promotion of peace, security and justice.

In the ensuing discussion, many delegations 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 also stressed the need for the participation of women in conflict prevention processes. Several speakers<sup>1176</sup> expressed concern about the use of veto to prevent Council action in cases of mass atrocities and conflict resolution.<sup>1177</sup>

On 9 December, at the initiative of the Niger, which held the presidency for the month,<sup>1178</sup> the Council held a high-level meeting under the sub-item entitled "Security in the context of terrorism and climate change".<sup>1179</sup> Council members heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of the Multinational Joint Task Force.<sup>1180</sup>

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General reiterated that the climate emergency was the vital issue of the time 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, he pointed to the need to prioritize prevention and address the root causes of insecurity. Second, he said that there was an urgent need to increase investments in adaptation and resilience. Third, there was a need for better analysis and early warning systems. Fourth, the international

<sup>1176</sup> Mexico, Estonia, Norway and Pakistan.

<sup>1177</sup> For further details on the discussion, see part IV, sects. I–III, part V, sect. I, and part VI, sect. IV.

<sup>1178</sup> A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 30 November (S/2021/988).

<sup>1179</sup> See S/PV.8923 and S/PV.8923 (Resumption 1). See also S/2021/1026.

<sup>1180</sup> See S/PV.8923.

community needed to promote the development of partnerships and initiatives linking local, regional and national approaches. Lastly, he noted that fighting terrorism and conflict in the context of climate disruption 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 Chairperson of the African Union Commission stated that, although experts could not establish a direct causal link proving that conflicts were caused by climate change, there was no doubt that deteriorating climate conditions and a lack of rainfall and subsequent droughts contributed to exacerbating social and intercommunal tensions owing to the scarcity of life-sustaining resources, in particular water and pastures. He said that the scarcity of resources, water and agrifood resources in particular fuelled 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. He said that, when correlating those consequences of climate change with aggravating, frustrating factors, such as weak or poor governance, corruption, marginalization and political, social and community exclusion, it could be understood how the promotion of deviant trajectories had far-reaching consequences. 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 those two devastating phenomena. In that regard, he stated 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 expressed the complaint 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, Lake Chad had been 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 conducting in the context of humanitarian and development projects aimed at restoring peoples' means of livelihood, building their resilience and restoring the environment. He described other initiatives, such as the Multinational Joint Task Force, which had been established 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, in particular to strengthen support for the war against terrorism and other criminal activities by providing the equipment necessary to enable troops to effectively 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. Participants discussed the nexus between security, on the one hand, and the effects of climate change and terrorism, on the other, highlighting the threats posed by those issues.<sup>1181</sup> Some Council members<sup>1182</sup> encouraged other members to support and co-sponsor the draft resolution put forward by Ireland and the Niger on climate and security. In that connection, other speakers<sup>1183</sup> 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. Most Member States advocated 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.<sup>1184</sup>

On 13 December, the Council held a meeting under the sub-item entitled "Climate and security".<sup>1185</sup> At the meeting, the Council failed to adopt a draft resolution sponsored by 113 Member States,<sup>1186</sup> owing to the negative vote of a permanent member.<sup>1187</sup> Speaking before and after the vote, Council members expressed differing views about the draft resolution. While some Council members, in particular Ireland and

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<sup>1181</sup> For further details on the discussion, see part VII, sect. I.

<sup>1182</sup> Niger, United States, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom, Kenya and Tunisia.

<sup>1183</sup> Russian Federation, India and Islamic Republic of Iran.

<sup>1184</sup> For further details on the discussion, see part V, sect. I.

<sup>1185</sup> See [S/PV.8926](#).

<sup>1186</sup> [S/2021/990](#).

<sup>1187</sup> See [S/PV.8926](#).

the Niger as co-penholders 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 by stating 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 that differed from each other in their makeup and scale and that the fight against climate change and the adaptation to its negative consequences were a question of sustainable development. He also explained that the Russian Federation was not just rejecting the draft. He explained that his country was proposing an alternative to the one-sided approach, 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 Council. Instead of 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, namely, that the international community was willing to be divided and sidetracked under the guise of security. He considered the draft resolution to be a step backwards from the collective resolve to combat climate change. Having abstained from the vote, the representative of China explained that the draft resolution did not address a number of important issues. He added that the Council did not need to do a political show but rather to use its unique authority to establish a monitoring mechanism and help developed countries to fulfil their obligations and ensure that their commitments were honoured. He mentioned that China, India and the Russian Federation had jointly submitted a draft resolution focusing on security issues in the Sahel region, including challenges related to climate change, and expressed hope that those present and not present would co-sponsor it. Many of the members who had voted in favour of the draft resolution expressed regret at the outcome of the vote.<sup>1188</sup> The representative of Kenya said that his country had hoped for and advocated consensus and that, while Kenya disagreed with some of the points of the detractors of the draft resolution, they had made some important arguments that could have been included. He added that Kenya would

<sup>1188</sup> Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, Mexico and Tunisia.

continue to champion efforts to advance 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 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 Council. He said that it did not promote dialogue or debate and that, 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 and from taking a small, practical and necessary step to combat the impacts of climate change.

In 2021, the Council adopted three resolutions and four presidential statements in connection with the item. The decisions of the Council addressed most of the themes outlined above, having been adopted either at the meetings or in writing pursuant to the holding of the open videoconferences, as set out above. On 26 February, 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.<sup>1189</sup> In the resolution, the Council called for the strengthening of national and multilateral approaches and international cooperation, such as the COVAX Facility created within the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, 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.<sup>1190</sup>

On 8 April, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it recalled its resolution [2365 \(2017\)](#) on mine action and called on Member States and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen their efforts to implement that resolution and other relevant resolutions on mine action. In that regard, the Council emphasized the importance of mine action and the need

<sup>1189</sup> Resolution [2565 \(2021\)](#), ninth preambular paragraph.

<sup>1190</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 1.

to enhance international efforts in that field, in particular in situations of armed conflict.<sup>1191</sup>

On 9 August, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it noted with concern the ongoing threats to maritime safety and security posed by piracy, armed robbery at sea and 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 and other illicit activities. It also noted the deplorable loss of life and the 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 the oceans and the lives of people at sea, as well as the livelihoods and security of coastal communities.<sup>1192</sup>

On 29 September, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2598 \(2021\)](#), in which it welcomed the report of the Secretary-General of 2 September,<sup>1193</sup> including his observations on the plight of migrants and refugees in Libya, and condemned all acts of migrant smuggling and human trafficking into, through and from the Libyan territory and off the coast of Libya.<sup>1194</sup> The Council also renewed the authorizations regarding acts of migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the territorial sea of Libya as set out in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution [2240 \(2015\)](#), for a period of 12 months.<sup>1195</sup>

On 9 November, the Council adopted 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.<sup>1196</sup> 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.<sup>1197</sup>

On 16 November, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it recognized 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.<sup>1198</sup> 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 Charter, in particular on matters relating to preventive diplomacy tools and mechanisms.<sup>1199</sup>

On 22 December, the Council adopted, not unanimously, resolution [2616 \(2021\)](#), by which it expressed grave 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.<sup>1200</sup> 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 \(2015\)](#).<sup>1201</sup>

<sup>1191</sup> [S/PRST/2021/8](#), second and third paragraphs.

<sup>1192</sup> [S/PRST/2021/15](#), third paragraph.

<sup>1193</sup> [S/2021/767](#).

<sup>1194</sup> Resolution [2598 \(2021\)](#), third preambular paragraph and para. 1.

<sup>1195</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 2 and 3. For more information on the situation in Libya, see sect. 10 above.

<sup>1196</sup> [S/PRST/2021/22](#), first paragraph.

<sup>1197</sup> *Ibid.*, third, eighth and tenth paragraphs.

<sup>1198</sup> [S/PRST/2021/23](#), third paragraph.

<sup>1199</sup> *Ibid.*, eighth paragraph.

<sup>1200</sup> Resolution [2616 \(2021\)](#), second preambular paragraph.

<sup>1201</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 1, 2 and 14. For more information on the Council's discussion on small arms and light weapons, see sect. 26 above and *Repertoire, Supplement 2014–2015*, part I, sect. 29. See also part VII, sect. I.B.



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>
<a href="#">S/PV.8850</a> 7 September 2021				Chair of The Elders; Elder Emeritus; member of The Elders and former President of Liberia; member of The Elders and former President of Mexico	All Council members, two invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8864</a> and <a href="#">S/2021/815</a> 23 September 2021	Climate and security Letter dated 9 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2021/782</a> )			Chief Operating Officer of the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre	Secretary-General, all Council members, <sup>b</sup> invitee <sup>c</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8868</a> 29 September 2021		Draft resolution submitted by 34 Member States <sup>d</sup> ( <a href="#">S/2021/825</a> )	30 Member States <sup>e</sup>			Resolution <a href="#">2598 (2021)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8900</a> , <a href="#">S/PV.8900 (Resumption 1)</a> and <a href="#">S/2021/935</a> 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 ( <a href="#">S/2021/883</a> )		27 Member States <sup>f</sup>	Expert on indigenous affairs (Lourdes Tibán Guala)	Secretary-General, all Council members, <sup>g</sup> all invitees <sup>h</sup>	<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/22</a>
<a href="#">S/PV.8906</a> , <a href="#">S/PV.8906 (Resumption 1)</a> and <a href="#">S/2021/952</a> 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		35 Member States <sup>i</sup>	President of the General Assembly, President of the Economic and Social Council, President of the International Court of Justice	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees <sup>j</sup>	<a href="#">S/PRST/2021/23</a>

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of  
the Security Council for the 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>
	Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2021/888)					
<a href="#">S/PV.8923</a> , <a href="#">S/PV.8923</a> (Resumption 1) and <a href="#">S/2021/1026</a> 9 December 2021	Security in the context of terrorism and climate change  Letter dated 30 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2021/988)		39 Member States <sup>k</sup>	Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of the Multinational Joint Task Force, Head of the Delegation of the European Union	Secretary-General, all Council members, <sup>l</sup> all invitees <sup>m</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8926</a> 13 December 2021	Climate and security	Draft resolution submitted by 113 Member States <sup>n</sup> (S/2021/990)	104 Member States <sup>o</sup>		13 Council members <sup>p</sup>	Not adopted 12-2-1 <sup>q</sup>
<a href="#">S/PV.8942</a> 22 December 2021		Draft resolution submitted by 74 Member States <sup>r</sup> (S/2021/1075)	63 Member States <sup>s</sup>		Six Council members <sup>t</sup>	Resolution <a href="#">2616 (2021)</a> 12-0-3 <sup>u</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The former President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and the former President of Mexico, Ernesto Zedillo, did not make statements.

<sup>b</sup> Estonia and Viet Nam were represented by their Presidents. Ireland (President of the Council) was represented by its Taoiseach. France was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; India was represented by its Vice Minister, Secretary (West), in the Ministry of External Affairs; Kenya was represented by its Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs; Mexico and Norway were represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs; the Niger was represented by its Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Tunisia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad; the United Kingdom was represented by its Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and United Nations at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; and the United States was represented by its Secretary of State.

<sup>c</sup> The Chief Operating Officer of the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre participated in the meeting by videoconference.

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

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

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

<sup>g</sup> Mexico (President of the Council) was represented by its President. Estonia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; India was represented by its Minister of State for External Affairs; and the United States was represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet.

- <sup>h</sup> The representative of Denmark spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; and the representative of the Netherlands spoke on behalf of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.
- <sup>i</sup> Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
- <sup>j</sup> The President of the International Court of Justice participated in the meeting by videoconference. The representative of Azerbaijan spoke on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries; the representative of Finland spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; and the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations.
- <sup>k</sup> Albania, Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
- <sup>l</sup> Estonia and the Niger (President of the Council) were represented by their Presidents. The United States was represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet.
- <sup>m</sup> The Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of the Multinational Joint Task Force participated in the meeting by videoconference. The representative of Germany spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security; the representative of Sweden spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union was represented by his Deputy, who spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.
- <sup>n</sup> 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, Czechia, 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, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, 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, 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.
- <sup>o</sup> 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, Czechia, 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, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Vanuatu.
- <sup>p</sup> China, Estonia, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.
- <sup>q</sup> *For*: Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam; *against*: India, Russian Federation; *abstaining*: China.
- <sup>r</sup> Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, 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, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, 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.
- <sup>s</sup> Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, 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, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Uruguay and Vanuatu.
- <sup>t</sup> China, India, Mexico, Niger, Russian Federation and Viet Nam.
- <sup>u</sup> *For*: Estonia, France, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam; *against*: none; *abstaining*: China, India, Russian Federation.

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.