

20. The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

During the period under review, the Council held eight meetings in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. No decisions were adopted during the period under review. In 2021, during the meetings held under the item, the Council continued its practice of holding monthly briefings and quarterly open debates.⁷⁴⁰ More information on the meetings, including on the participants and speakers, is given in table 1 below. Council members also held a total of five open videoconferences in connection with the item. More information on the open videoconferences is provided in table 2 below. In addition to the meetings and videoconferences, Council members held closed videoconferences and informal consultations of the whole.⁷⁴¹ Under the item, whether in the context of meetings or videoconferences, Council members also considered developments in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the Middle East region.⁷⁴²

In 2021, in most meetings and videoconferences, Council members heard briefings by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority or his Deputy. In addition, Council members heard one briefing by the Secretary-General, one by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, one by the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and one by the Acting Director of the Coordination Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Once, Council members heard briefings by two youth representatives, one from the State of Palestine and one from Israel, at the same videoconference.⁷⁴³ The Council also heard briefings by other civil society representatives, namely, the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Amal-

Tikva, the Planning Manager of the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center, the Executive Director of Ir Amim, an Israeli non-profit organization, and a Palestinian political and civil society leader, Hanan Ashrawi. The Council also heard briefings by a Professor of Arab Studies at Columbia University, the President of the US/Middle East Project and the Interim Vice-President and Programme Director of the International Crisis Group.

During the period under review, the Special Coordinator provided regular briefings to the Council either in person or by videoconference. In the context of his monthly briefings held in February, May, August and November, the Special Coordinator reported to Council members on the escalation of violence and hostilities in Gaza and the situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in cities across Israel, as well as on the ensuing consequences on the political situation and the status of the negotiations, including engagements between Israeli and Palestinian officials.⁷⁴⁴ In that regard, the Special Coordinator addressed the meetings of the Middle East Quartet and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians. The Special Coordinator also reported on the continued settlement activity, the violence throughout the occupied Palestinian territory and the severe financial and economic crisis threatening the stability of Palestinian institutions. He expressed concern at the lack of funding for UNRWA to sustain essential services and reiterated the Secretary-General’s appeal to the international community to work with the United Nations to provide robust support for a swift recovery and sustainable rebuilding aimed at supporting the Palestinian people and strengthened institutions. In his monthly briefings, the Special Coordinator also covered developments in the Golan and Lebanon. During discussions, Council members urged all parties to observe relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and condemned violations thereof, including the increased hostilities between the two parties and the continued occupation of the Palestinian territory. They called for the resumption of negotiations based on a two-State solution and for international and unified support, as well as for increased humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population, especially in Gaza. Questioning the Council’s almost exclusive focus on Israel during its monthly meetings on the situation in

⁷⁴⁰ For more information on the format of meetings, including high-level meetings and videoconferences, see part II, sect. II.

⁷⁴¹ See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 2.A. See also [S/2021/683](#), [S/2021/938](#), [S/2021/1032](#) and [S/2022/174](#). In 2021, some informal consultations of the Council were held in the form of closed videoconferences. 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.

⁷⁴² See also sect. 19 above.

⁷⁴³ The Council heard briefings by an Israeli student, Oren Gian, and a Palestinian student, Malak AbuSoud, on 26 February (see [S/2021/218](#)).

⁷⁴⁴ See [S/2021/218](#), [S/PV.8782](#), [S/PV.8847](#) and [S/PV.8913](#).

the Middle East, the representative of the United States suggested that the Council's attention under the item reflect all areas that threatened international peace and security and proposed to hold meetings on the Islamic Republic of Iran and Lebanon more regularly, adding that Israel did not define the Middle East.⁷⁴⁵

On 16 May, Council members held a high-level open videoconference⁷⁴⁶ to discuss the escalation of violence in Israel, Gaza and East Jerusalem. The Secretary-General delivered opening remarks, followed by a briefing by the Special Coordinator. This was the third time in six days that Council members met to discuss the issue further to the briefings in closed videoconferences by the Special Coordinator on 10 and 12 May.⁷⁴⁷ The Secretary-General and the Special Coordinator called for an immediate de-escalation and a return to negotiations and urged the parties to observe and respect international law and international humanitarian law and end all violence against civilians.⁷⁴⁸ On 27 May,⁷⁴⁹ the Special Coordinator welcomed the cessation of hostilities between Palestinian militants in Gaza and Israel and commended Member States for supporting the ceasefire and urged them to focus on political solutions to the crisis and address the humanitarian needs of the people in Gaza. Council members welcomed the then-week-old ceasefire and commended Member States' efforts to end the hostilities. Council members also acknowledged the efforts of China, France, Norway and Tunisia that had led to the Council's 22 May statement to the press on the ceasefire. The representative of France explained that the ceasefire was the result of collective efforts and international pressure. He further noted that France had played its part in calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities, coordinating closely with its Jordanian, Egyptian, United States and European partners and being in contact with the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian Authority. The representative of the Russian Federation noted that active discussions on the Palestinian question over the previous two weeks in the Council and in the General Assembly had shown that the international community as a whole was unanimous in its understanding of the goal of a settlement and its legal framework, underscoring that it was important to preserve such unity and translate it into action. In that regard, he urged the Council to consider the proposal to hold a ministerial meeting of the Quartet, as well as one in an expanded format, with the participation of

regional States and the Palestinians and Israelis themselves. While welcoming the fact that the Council had been finally able to adopt a press statement, the representative of Ireland said that there was no cause for self-congratulation. The inability of the Council to utter a single agreed word as the conflict raged for 11 days marked a sobering failure of collective diplomacy.

At a meeting held on 30 August,⁷⁵⁰ the Special Coordinator reported on the tensions along the Gaza perimeter that had reached a peak on 21 August, when hundreds of Palestinians had attended a rally and thrown rocks and, allegedly, improvised explosive devices. Israeli forces had fired on Palestinian protesters. On the same day, Palestinian security forces had arrested participants in a planned demonstration in Ramallah, including well-known human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists and political activists. In that regard, several Council members⁷⁵¹ called on the Palestinian Authority to uphold its human rights obligations, including respect for the freedom of expression and the freedom of assembly. Encouraging further dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, several Council members⁷⁵² also encouraged the parties concerned to maintain the momentum and secure progress across a wide variety of outstanding issues. Expressing his delegation's support for intra-Palestinian unity and reconciliation and encouraging Palestine and Israel to resume peace talks based on the two-State solution, the representative of China also called for the holding of a United Nations-led international peace conference to bring together the permanent members of the Council and all stakeholders in the Middle East peace process.

During a meeting held on 30 November,⁷⁵³ the Special Coordinator noted that the Ministry of Defence of Israel had announced the designation of six Palestinian non-governmental organizations as terrorist organizations on 22 October, cautioning about the potentially wide-ranging legal implications, which added to increasing pressures on civil society organizations across the occupied Palestinian territory. In her briefing, the Interim Vice-President and Programme Director of the International Crisis Group provided a series of recommendations, including a rescission of the order banning the six Palestinian civil society organizations. Several Council members⁷⁵⁴ expressed concern about the listing of the six Palestinian non-governmental organizations as terrorist

⁷⁴⁵ See [S/PV.8913](#).

⁷⁴⁶ See [S/2021/480](#).

⁷⁴⁷ See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 2.A.

⁷⁴⁸ See [S/2021/480](#).

⁷⁴⁹ See [S/PV.8782](#).

⁷⁵⁰ See [S/PV.8847](#).

⁷⁵¹ United Kingdom, Norway, Mexico, Estonia and Ireland.

⁷⁵² United Kingdom, Norway, Viet Nam and France.

⁷⁵³ See [S/PV.8913](#).

⁷⁵⁴ France, Ireland, Tunisia and Mexico.

organizations by the Israeli authorities. The representative of the United Kingdom noted that, while her country maintained its own criteria for designation and continued to engage with a number of those organizations on human rights issues, the decision was ultimately a matter for the Government of Israel. In view of the resumption of the peace process, Council members⁷⁵⁵ encouraged all efforts to create favourable conditions, including strengthening the Quartet's role and taking the thirtieth anniversary of the Madrid Peace Conference as an opportunity.

On a quarterly basis, monthly briefings, whether in the form of a meeting or a videoconference, were also used to report on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016). Consistent with prior practice, in 2021, the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016) were twice submitted in writing: the eighteenth report in June and the twentieth report in December.⁷⁵⁶ During the briefings that were given in March, June, September and December,⁷⁵⁷ the Special Coordinator continued to report on the lack of progress in the implementation of the main provisions of the resolution, namely, those relating to: Israeli settlement activities; violence against civilians, including acts of terror, incitement, provocation and inflammatory rhetoric; steps and efforts to advance the peace process; and actions by all States to distinguish in their relevant dealings between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967. At the videoconference held on 25 March,⁷⁵⁸ the Special Coordinator reported that, on 5 February, the Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court had decided that the Court's jurisdiction extended to the occupied Palestinian territory and that the Court's Prosecutor had subsequently confirmed that her Office had initiated an investigation with respect to the situation in Palestine covering crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court alleged to have been committed since 13 June 2014. During the discussion, the representative of the Niger welcomed the decision taken by the Court to launch investigations into the allegations of crimes committed in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem since June 2014, stating that accountability was essential in order to fight impunity and pave the way for true reconciliation between the parties to the conflict. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also affirmed her country's support for the Court. During the meeting held on 24 June,⁷⁵⁹ the

Special Coordinator provided a briefing on the eighteenth report of the Secretary-General.⁷⁶⁰ He also acknowledged the formation of the new coalition Government of Israel and noted with regret the postponement of the Palestinian elections.⁷⁶¹ While several Council members⁷⁶² congratulated the new coalition Government in Israel, a few members⁷⁶³ urged the new Government to take steps to end the expansion of illegal settlements, demolitions and the threat of forced evictions and allow for legal construction for Palestinians. During the meeting held on 29 September,⁷⁶⁴ the Special Coordinator devoted his briefing to presenting the nineteenth report on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016). He encouraged both Governments to take urgent steps to stabilize the Palestinian economy and strengthen Palestinian institutions and encouraged specifically the Palestinian Authority to resume the election process as soon as possible. Council members⁷⁶⁵ condemned all acts of violence and other breaches of resolution 2334 (2016) and reiterated their call for the full implementation of the resolution, including an end to Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory and to any actions that limited the Palestinian population's access to safe drinking water. The representative of the United Kingdom urged Israel to allow for more legal avenues for Palestinian construction. Several Council members⁷⁶⁶ also stressed that it was incumbent on the Council and the international community, in particular the Quartet and partners in the region, to make efforts, including de-escalation and a resumption of negotiations, to resolve the conflict.

During the meeting held on 21 December,⁷⁶⁷ the Special Coordinator expressed continued concern that, if left unchecked, the dynamics of the unilateral actions and the severe economic crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory could also have an impact on the security situation in Gaza and undermine the cessation of hostilities in place since 21 May. On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 2334 (2016), Council members⁷⁶⁸ expressed concern at the

⁷⁵⁵ Estonia, Kenya, Viet Nam, China, France, Niger, Ireland, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and India.

⁷⁵⁶ S/2021/584 and S/2021/1047.

⁷⁵⁷ See S/2021/302, S/PV.8804, S/PV.8869 and S/PV.8940.

⁷⁵⁸ See S/2021/302.

⁷⁵⁹ See S/PV.8804.

⁷⁶⁰ S/2021/584.

⁷⁶¹ See S/PV.8804.

⁷⁶² United States, Kenya, Ireland and Mexico.

⁷⁶³ Kenya and Ireland.

⁷⁶⁴ See S/PV.8869.

⁷⁶⁵ Tunisia, India, Mexico, China, Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Niger and Ireland.

⁷⁶⁶ Tunisia, India, Niger and Ireland.

⁷⁶⁷ See S/PV.8940.

⁷⁶⁸ Kenya, France, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Viet Nam, Ireland, Tunisia, Norway, India, China, Mexico and Niger.

lack of implementation. In that regard, the representative of Kenya said that it was necessary to have updates on the actual efforts and operationalization mechanisms, or lack thereof, to address all violations of the provisions of resolution 2334 (2016). Moreover, in view of paragraph 11 of the resolution, he also urged a deeper analysis that was also focused on the correlation and contextualization of incidents and their short- and long-term implications for the implementation of the Middle East peace process normative framework. In addition, the representative of the Niger recalled that the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016) continued to be a true test of the Council's authority and its capacity to enforce its own resolutions on Israel.

In 2021, the practice of holding quarterly open debates continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to hold them in the Security Council Chamber. As a result, open videoconferences were held on 26 January and 22 April. Later in the year, quarterly open debates resumed and were held in person on 28 July and 19 October. In the context of the quarterly open debates and open videoconferences, Council members delivered statements, as did the representatives of Israel and the State of Palestine.⁷⁶⁹ In addition, in accordance with the understanding reached among Council members on the working methods during the pandemic, written statements were also submitted by Member States and other entities, later compiled in letters by the President of the Council.⁷⁷⁰ In his briefings during the quarterly open debates and videoconferences, the Special Coordinator focused on the efforts to advance the Middle East peace process, the prospect of annexation by Israel of parts of the occupied Palestinian territory, the preparations for the Palestinian elections, the continued violence between Israelis and Palestinians, the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the dynamics created on the ground by the pandemic.⁷⁷¹ During his briefings, he also touched upon the situations in Lebanon, the Golan and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). In addition to the Special Coordinator, other briefers addressed Council members in the context of videoconferences and meetings. In January 2021, during the first open videoconference in connection with the item,⁷⁷² the Secretary-General of the League

of Arab States provided a briefing to Council members, in which he expressed hope that the new Administration of the United States would correct the measures and policies of the former Administration and work, with the support of the international community and regional actors, to get the political process back on track. At the videoconference held on 22 April,⁷⁷³ the Acting Director of the Coordination Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs provided a briefing on the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. During the open debate held on 28 July,⁷⁷⁴ the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory noted that the economic impact of the escalation in May had further exacerbated the existing humanitarian crisis and severely weakened Gaza's economy. Concerning the wider region, she also addressed the role of UNDOF in monitoring the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic in the occupied Golan,⁷⁷⁵ and the situation in Lebanon at the first anniversary of the Beirut port explosion on 4 August 2020 and the tense situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).⁷⁷⁶ During the open debate held on 19 October,⁷⁷⁷ the President of the US/Middle East Project focused on three core concepts, namely, a legitimacy deficit in Palestinian politics, an accountability deficit concerning the actions of Israel and a symmetry deficit given the fundamental asymmetry between an occupying State and an occupied people. He noted that those concepts should help to guide actions and create the building blocks for new thinking and peace. He underscored that the Council must also be open to the possibility that there might be no off-the-shelf solution and that, at some stage, it might be forced to revisit its partition vote of 1947 and its historic endorsement of the two States.

During the open debates and videoconferences, Council members condemned the violence and escalation between Israel and the State of Palestine and called on them both to protect civilians, including children. Council members also called on Israel to cease the new construction plans and continued

⁷⁶⁹ See S/2021/91, S/2021/404, S/PV.8826 and S/PV.8883.

⁷⁷⁰ See S/2021/685 (in relation to S/PV.8826) and S/2021/884 (in relation to S/PV.8883). 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.

⁷⁷¹ See S/2021/91, S/2021/404, S/PV.8826 and S/PV.8883.

⁷⁷² See S/2021/91.

⁷⁷³ See S/2021/404.

⁷⁷⁴ See S/PV.8826.

⁷⁷⁵ For more information on the situation in the Middle East, see sect. 19 above; for more information on UNDOF, see part X, sect. I.

⁷⁷⁶ For more information on UNIFIL, see part X, sect. I.

⁷⁷⁷ See S/PV.8883.

demolition and eviction. Council members reiterated their call to the international community to increase financial support for UNRWA to provide necessary humanitarian assistance, highlighting such factors as the need to address the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some Council members underscored the need to enhance building and reconstruction efforts and the economic recovery in Gaza, including to secure unimpeded humanitarian access throughout the Gaza Strip.⁷⁷⁸ Many Council members welcomed the positive signals for dialogue, including the resumption of direct contact between Israeli and Palestinian leaders in July 2021, and expressed support for meaningful negotiations. Some Council members supported the call of the President of

⁷⁷⁸ See [S/PV.8826](#) (India, Mexico, Viet Nam, Niger, Estonia, Ireland, United Kingdom and France); and [S/PV.8883](#) (France, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ireland, Estonia, Mexico, China, United Kingdom, Tunisia, India and Viet Nam).

the Palestinian Authority to convene an international peace conference.⁷⁷⁹ Welcoming the decree of the President of the Palestinian Authority to hold legislative, presidential and Palestinian National Council elections in 2021, some Council members called on the international community and the United Nations to assist in the elections.⁷⁸⁰ Several Council members addressed Israel, urging the country to facilitate the elections and the deployment of a European mission to support the elections.⁷⁸¹

⁷⁷⁹ See [S/2021/91](#) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ireland, Russian Federation, Tunisia, China, India and Niger); and [S/2021/404](#) (Russian Federation and Viet Nam).

⁷⁸⁰ See [S/2021/91](#) (Mexico, Estonia, France, Niger and Viet Nam); and [S/2021/404](#) (China, France, Ireland, Niger, Tunisia and Viet Nam).

⁷⁸¹ See [S/2021/91](#) (Estonia, France and Viet Nam); and [S/2021/404](#) (France, Ireland, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom and Viet Nam).

Table 1
Meetings: the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

| <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> |
|---|---|------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| S/PV.8782 27 May 2021 | | | Israel | Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, Professor of Arab Studies at Columbia University | All Council members, all invitees ^a | |
| S/PV.8804 24 June 2021 | Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) (S/2021/584) | | | Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process | 11 Council members, ^b invitee ^c | |

**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> |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| S/PV.8826 and S/2021/685 28 July 2021 | | | Israel | Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Executive Director of Ir Amim | All Council members, all invitees ^d | |
| S/PV.8847 30 August 2021 | | | | Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process | All Council members, ^e invitee ^c | |
| S/PV.8869 29 September 2021 | | | | Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Planning Manager of the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Amal-Tikva | All Council members, all invitees ^f | |
| S/PV.8883 and S/2021/884 19 October 2021 | | | Israel | Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, President of the US/Middle East Project, political and civil society leader (Hanan Ashrawi) | All Council members, ^g all invitees ^h | |
| S/PV.8913 30 November 2021 | | | | Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Interim Vice-President and Programme Director of the International Crisis Group | All Council members, all invitees | |
| S/PV.8940 21 December 2021 | | | | Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process | All Council members, invitee ^c | |

^a The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA and the Professor of Arab Studies participated in the meeting by videoconference.

^b China, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United States and Viet Nam.

^c The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process participated in the meeting by videoconference.

^d The Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and the Executive Director of Ir Amim participated in the meeting by videoconference.

^e India (President of the Council) was represented by its Foreign Secretary.

^f The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the Planning Manager of the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center and the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Amal-Tikva participated in the meeting by videoconference.

^g Kenya was represented by its Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary.

^h The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the President of the US/Middle East Project and Ms. Ashrawi participated in the meeting by videoconference.

Table 2
Videoconferences: the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

| <i>Videoconference date</i> | <i>Videoconference record</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 26 January 2021 | S/2021/91 | Letter dated 28 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 | |
| 26 February 2021 | S/2021/218 | Letter dated 2 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 | |
| 25 March 2021 | S/2021/302 | Letter dated 29 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 | |
| 22 April 2021 | S/2021/404 | Letter dated 26 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 | |
| 16 May 2021 | S/2021/480 | Letter dated 18 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 | |

21. The situation concerning Iraq

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings in relation to the item entitled “The situation concerning Iraq”. On 27 May, through the unanimous adoption of resolution [2576 \(2021\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) until 27 May 2022.⁷⁸² All other meetings held under the item during the period under review took the form of a briefing.⁷⁸³ More information on the meetings, including on the participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below. Council members also held a total of two open videoconferences in connection with the item.⁷⁸⁴ More information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below. In addition to the meetings and open videoconferences, Council members held closed videoconferences and informal consultations of the whole to discuss the item.⁷⁸⁵

In 2021, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI on the situation concerning Iraq. In her briefings in connection with the quarterly reports of the Secretary-General,⁷⁸⁶ she provided updates to Council members on the preparation for parliamentary elections scheduled for 10 October 2021, including on the increased electoral support provided by UNAMI, pursuant to resolution [2576 \(2021\)](#). The Special Representative also continued to inform the Council regarding the relations between Baghdad and Erbil and the status of negotiations between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the federal Government. The Special Representative also reported to Council members on the status of the implementation of economic reforms by the federal Government and on the continued threat of terrorism posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da’esh). Regarding the situation of human rights, she spoke about the persecution of protesters, the need for accountability and justice and the closure of camps for internally displaced Iraqis. The Special Representative also provided progress reports regarding the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-

⁷⁸² For more information on the mandate of UNAMI, see part X, sect. II.

⁷⁸³ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁷⁸⁴ 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.

⁷⁸⁵ See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 28. See also [S/2021/1060](#) and [S/2021/683](#).

⁷⁸⁶ [S/2021/120](#), [S/2021/426](#), [S/2021/700](#) and [S/2021/946](#). See also [S/2021/93](#), [S/2021/395](#), [S/2021/689](#), [S/2021/930](#) and [S/2021/932](#).