

## **B. Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)**

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings under this item. Both meetings took the form of a briefing.<sup>610</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below. The Council did not adopt any decisions under this item in 2023.<sup>611</sup>

At the two meetings, which were held on 27 April and 23 October respectively, Council members heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), further to the reports of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).<sup>612</sup> At both meetings and following established practice, the representative of Serbia was invited in accordance with rule 37 and the representative of Kosovo in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.<sup>613</sup>

On 27 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Council on the challenges and efforts to bring stability and normalization in the relations between Belgrade and Pristina.<sup>614</sup> The Special Representative called for efforts from both sides to realize the potential for a positive change in relations, explaining that without increased commitment to the mechanism for renewed negotiation, failure of confidence could worsen within Kosovo, with direct consequences for regional stability. She stressed that sustained focus of attention on the principles and declarations, jointly affirmed in the Agreement on the path to normalization between Kosovo and Serbia on 27 February in Brussels and its Implementation Annex on 18 March in Ohrid, should be matched by leadership action from the parties and from the stewards and supporters of the negotiations. In that context, the Special Representative underscored that leaders should have taken steps to reduce the likelihood of further standoffs on issues that had eroded public confidence in recent months, including matters that had precipitated the

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<sup>610</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>611</sup> See also [A/73/2](#), chap. 6.B.

<sup>612</sup> See [S/2023/247](#) and [S/2023/735](#).

<sup>613</sup> For further information on participation, see part II, sect. VII.

<sup>614</sup> See [S/PV.9312](#).

withdrawal of Kosovo Serbs from Kosovo institutions and those that had continued to polarize public opinion during the local elections. She also noted that steps should be taken to demonstrate that police and judicial bodies are fully insulated from political agendas and political interference. Notwithstanding the fact that the extraordinary municipal elections held on 23 April were peaceful and calm, she emphasized that questions of representation had to be addressed as part of the broader political process. Furthermore, while drawing attention to the expected endorsement by both parties of the joint declaration on missing persons and the presentation by the management team of a draft statute for the association/community of Serb-majority municipalities, she urged leaders to prove their commitment to a full-implementation path during their next high-level meeting. She further reported that leaders from the region had expressed their support for the process and that opportunities for reducing barriers to economic development and cooperation were being pursued through the promotion of important initiatives, with continued dedicated efforts of UNMIK.

Following the briefing by the Special Representative and the statements by the representatives of Serbia and Kosovo,<sup>615</sup> Council members exchanged views on the status of relations between Belgrade and Pristina. In that regard, most delegations welcomed the signing of the Brussels-Ohrid agreement and called on both sides to fully implement their obligations thereunder. The representatives of Ghana and the United Arab Emirates further noted the establishment of the Joint Monitoring Committee as measures towards the implementation of the agreement reached in Brussels and Ohrid. Some Council members also welcomed the establishment of an association of Serb-majority municipalities.<sup>616</sup> The representative of the United States stated that the European Union-facilitated dialogue, re-energized through the most recent agreement, continued to be the principal mechanism for reconciling issues between the two neighbors. The representative of France recalled that all the provisions of the agreement and its implementation annex were an integral part of the commitments of both parties with respect to their European prospects. While recognizing the efforts of the European Union in promoting dialogue, the representative of China hoped that the organization would remain neutral and

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<sup>615</sup> For more details on the discussion, including on the question of speeches made in a language other than the languages of the Security Council, see part II, sect. IX.

<sup>616</sup> See [S.PV.9312](#) (France, United Kingdom, Ghana, Brazil, China and United States).

impartial in the mediation process and refrain from rushing to achieve quick results, acting hastily and exercising pressure. Council members also expressed regret about the low voter turnout and the lack of participation of the Kosovo Serb community in the municipal elections.<sup>617</sup> The representatives of China and the Russian Federation criticized what they described as the unilateral actions of the Kosovo authorities to move forward with the elections. Others emphasized the need for dialogue and ensuring the return of Kosovo Serbs to administrative institutions.<sup>618</sup> Concerning the mandate of UNMIK, while the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia called for the undiminished presence and action of the Mission in an unchanged capacity, full scope and mandate, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo underlined that UNMIK had become a destabilizing factor and does not serve stability or peace in the region. Some Council members recognized that the situation in Kosovo was very different from when UNMIK was established and called for the review of the Mission's mandate.<sup>619</sup> The representative of the United States added that it was time for the United Nations to find a more relevant role in Kosovo that did not require a Chapter VII mandate. According to the representative of China, however, recent developments had shown that the Kosovo issue was still a security concern for the Balkans and Europe and that UNMIK remained indispensable in that regard.

On 23 October, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General drew attention to a serious security incident on 24 September in Banjska and Zvečan municipality in northern Kosovo in which one Kosovo police officer and four armed elements were killed and another two police officers were injured.<sup>620</sup> She noted that these events had exacerbated an already deteriorating security environment, with political and security tensions in northern Kosovo steadily rising in the absence of tangible progress in the dialogue. She explained that in the days, weeks and months leading up to 24 September, political and security tensions in northern Kosovo steadily rose in the absence of tangible progress in the dialogue facilitated by the European Union, and she reported that the high-level meeting held in Brussels on 14 September had not produced any consensus. The Special Representative added that setbacks like the boycott

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<sup>617</sup> Ibid. (France, Switzerland and Albania).

<sup>618</sup> Ibid. (France and Ghana).

<sup>619</sup> Ibid. (Japan, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Albania and United States).

<sup>620</sup> See [S/PV.9450](#).

of the local elections in April and the violence on 29 May that led to serious injuries for 93 Kosovo Force (KFOR) personnel represented grave dangers to achieving long-term peace and stability. Moreover, while noting that UNMIK was marking the fifth anniversary of its trust-building agenda, she updated Council members on the launching of the Barabar Centre, which aimed to foster communication among all communities in the Pristina municipality, along with the mission's work on advancing the women and peace and security and youth, peace and security agendas, as well as equal access to justice.

Following the remarks by the representatives of Serbia and the representative of Kosovo, most Council members voiced concern about the deteriorating security situation, calling on both sides to de-escalate, and to have the perpetrators of the attacks on Kosovo police on 24 September held accountable. Several members also condemned the attack against Kosovo Force personnel during the unrest in northern Kosovo in May.<sup>621</sup> The representative of the United States welcomed the increased numbers and greater visibility of KFOR in the north of Kosovo, adding that the presence should be sustained as long as needed. The representative of Brazil was of the view that the current situation posed serious risks to regional stability, threatening important achievements in the course of the dialogue mediated by the European Union. With regard to the way forward, most Council members reiterated the call on the two parties to resume dialogue and ensure the full implementation of their obligations under the Brussels-Ohrid agreements. Several speakers also called on the two sides to avoid inflammatory rhetoric and refrain from unilateral actions that could increase tensions.<sup>622</sup>

Council members also commended the trust-building efforts and exchanged views on the mandate of UNMIK. Several delegations called on the mission to continue promoting dialogue between the communities in Kosovo,<sup>623</sup> while others called for a reassessment of its mandate.<sup>624</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation underscored that the September incident proved that a regular discussion of the situation in Kosovo should remain on the Council's agenda and the work of UNMIK was essential. The representative of China further added that UNMIK played an important role in stabilizing the situation in Kosovo and promoting national

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<sup>621</sup> Ibid. (Switzerland, Ecuador, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom).

<sup>622</sup> Ibid. (Switzerland, Ecuador, Malta, United Arab Emirates, Ghana and United Kingdom).

<sup>623</sup> Ibid. (Malta, Ghana, Brazil, Gabon and Mozambique).

<sup>624</sup> Ibid. (United Kingdom, Switzerland, United States and Japan).

reconciliation. On the other hand, the representative of the United States underscored, that UNMIK was not involved in the response to or investigation of the 24 September attack. He underlined that UNMIK no longer had a role in the governance of Kosovo or in its security and asked again to sunset the Mission.

**Meetings: Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)**

<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.9312</a> 27 April 2023	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo ( <a href="#">S/2023/247</a> )		Serbia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Ms. Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.9450</a> 23 October 2023	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo ( <a href="#">S/2023/735</a> )		Serbia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of UNMIK, Ms. Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu	All Council members, all invitees <sup>b</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Serbia was represented by its First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

<sup>b</sup> Serbia was represented by its Prime Minister.