

## 31. Briefings

As with previous supplements, briefings by various speakers not explicitly connected to a specific item on the agenda of the Council are featured in this section. In 2023, the Council held five such meetings, four of which were public.<sup>976</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is provided in the tables below.

In 2023, the Council held one meeting under the item “Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe”. On 4 May, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, in his capacity as Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), provided a briefing to the Council focusing on the political vision, priorities and undertakings of the 2023 OSCE chairpersonship.<sup>977</sup> Calling upon the synergy between the United Nations and the OSCE for achieving peace, he noted that as security challenges continued to evolve, the nature of OSCE cooperation with the United Nations had to evolve as well, including through a more pragmatic and action-oriented approach. With regard to Ukraine, the Chairperson-in-Office called for immediate action for peace and urged the Russian Federation to end the war and withdraw its troops from the sovereign territory of Ukraine. He also provided updates relating to the OSCE efforts in relation to several protracted conflicts, including with respect to the Transnistria settlement process in the Republic of Moldova, the situation in South Caucasus with a focus on relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the situation in Georgia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the discussion, Council members reflected on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Framework for Cooperation and Coordination between the United Nations and the OSCE and the involvement of the OSCE in the maintenance of international peace and security, in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter, particularly in several regions of Europe and Central Asia. In that context, the representative of Ghana held the view that the OSCE should extend its engagements with other regional bodies, especially in Africa, given the interlinkages between security issues across regions. Council members also touched upon the principles of the

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<sup>976</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>977</sup> See [S/PV.9316](#).

prohibition of the use or threat of the use of force,<sup>978</sup> the peaceful settlement of disputes<sup>979</sup> and the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity,<sup>980</sup> in the context of the work of the OSCE.

In accordance with previously established practice, the Council heard one briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice at a private (closed) meeting held on 27 October.<sup>981</sup>

In addition, on 31 October, the Council heard the annual briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.<sup>982</sup> During his briefing, the High Commissioner reported about the 114 million refugees and displaced people around the world, noting that forced displacement was a consequence of the failure to uphold peace and security, and that brutal conflict continued to be its main driver. With regard to the conflict in Gaza, the High Commissioner stated that disregarding the basic rules of war was increasingly becoming the norm and not the exception, with innocent civilians killed in unprecedented numbers: in the Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians and in the killing of Palestinian civilians and the massive destruction of infrastructure caused by the ongoing Israeli military operation. He added that a humanitarian ceasefire — coupled with a substantial delivery of humanitarian aid inside Gaza — could at least stop the spiral of death and expressed hope that the Council would overcome its divisions and exercise its authority in demanding one.<sup>983</sup> In addition, the High Commissioner also reflected on the issue of displacement of people as a result of conflict surrounding a number of countries and regions, including the Sudan, Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Armenia, Ukraine, Syria, Burundi, Myanmar, Afghanistan, the Sahel and Central America. In that context, he called on the Council to speak with a strong, united voice carrying the authority that the Charter vested in it.

Following the briefing, Council members discussed about the root causes of displacement and ways to tackle them, with many speakers referring to climate change as a contributing factor

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<sup>978</sup> For more information about the prohibition of the threat or the use of force, see part III.

<sup>979</sup> For more information about the peaceful settlement of disputes, see part VI.

<sup>980</sup> For more information about the respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, see part III.

<sup>981</sup> See [S/PV.9456](#). For further information on the relations with the International Court of Justice, see part IV, sect. III.

<sup>982</sup> See [S/PV.9465](#). The previous briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Council was held on 2 November 2022, see [S/PV.9178](#). See also *Repertoire, Supplement 2022*, part I, sect. 31.

<sup>983</sup> For more information, see part I, sect. 22 on “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”.

to the increasing number of displaced persons and refugees.<sup>984</sup> In response to some of the questions raised by Council members, the High Commissioner took the floor for a second time and provided clarifications.<sup>985</sup>

In 2023, the Council held two meetings under the item entitled “Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council”. On 15 November, the Council heard a joint briefing by the Chairs of the three committees related to counterterrorism and non-proliferation, namely, the Committee established pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#), the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).<sup>986</sup> At the meeting, the Chairs provided an overview of the work of the three committees, noting that the three subsidiary bodies had continued to coordinate their work to strengthen approaches to counter-terrorism and to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by non-State actors.

In their discussion, Council members reflected on the cooperation between the three Committees, including on information-sharing and conduct of visits. Additionally, the representative of the Russian Federation held the view that attempts to find synergy and overlapping of competences among the three committees were unnecessary and counterproductive and noted that resolution [2663 \(2022\)](#) underscored the difference in the mandates of the three Committees and reaffirmed the maintenance of the previous frameworks for potential cooperation, information sharing and coordination on visits to States. Most Council members also raised the question of the need to swiftly fill the vacancies in the Group of Experts supporting the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

Following established practice, on 14 December, the Council heard the end-of-year briefing by the outgoing Chairs of the various subsidiary bodies who were concluding their terms at the end of 2023.<sup>987</sup> At the briefing, the Chairs presented the key activities undertaken during their tenure, with several underscoring the importance of visits to the countries under the purview of their Committees as valuable tools for raising awareness about the objectives and the

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<sup>984</sup> See [S/PV.9465](#), Malta, Ghana, Switzerland, France, United States, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Ecuador and Gabon.

<sup>985</sup> For more information about invitees under rule 39 and their interventions, see part II.

<sup>986</sup> See [S/PV.9478](#).

<sup>987</sup> See [S/PV.9508](#). For more information on the subsidiary organs, see part IX.

scope of sanctions measures and enhancing cooperation with Member States.<sup>988</sup> In their briefings, the Chairs of several Committees expressed regret about the lack of consensus among their members concerning the convening of briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.<sup>989</sup>

Speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and other Procedural Questions, the representative of Albania reflected on the accomplishments and challenges related to working methods, including the introduction of the practice of adopting an annual report of the Group which had incorporated select indicators to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the note by the President ([S/2017/507](#)) and the subsequent presidential notes.<sup>990</sup> Continuing with the practice established under the chairpersonship of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Group also continued hearing briefings by the presidencies of the Council on their efforts to ensure the implementation of the note by the President ([S/2017/507](#)) and the subsequent presidential notes. Among the novel practices, the representative of Albania noted the question of penholdership which had been a standing item for the Group over the past two years and in which connection the Council had issued a note by the President in 2023.<sup>991</sup> During the same period, two additional notes by the President concerning the working methods of the Council were issued concerning the observance of minutes of silence in the Council and the appointment of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of subsidiary bodies.<sup>992</sup> In conclusion, the representative of Albania underscored that while the working methods, as a critical tool for the functioning of the Council and the successful implementation of its mandate, did not provide solutions to conflicts on its agenda, they could open up paths towards finding those solutions by facilitating the efficient, effective, transparent and inclusive functioning of the Council.

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<sup>988</sup> See [S/PV.9508](#), the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2023\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic; and the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2653 \(2022\)](#) concerning Haiti.

<sup>989</sup> The Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) concerning Yemen; the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2023\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic; and the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan.

<sup>990</sup> See [S/PV.9508](#).

<sup>991</sup> See [S/2023/945](#).

<sup>992</sup> See [S/2023/612](#) and [S/2023/615](#).

As Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic, the representative of Ghana expressed regret about the hold that had been placed on the proposed slate of five experts to serve on the Panel of Experts, which had also made it impossible for the Panel to provide the midterm and final reports as requested by the Council in a timely manner.<sup>993</sup>

Speaking on behalf of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism, the representative of the United Arab Emirates reported about the nine visits to Member States by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, conducted on behalf of the Committee, as well as on the Committee's continued engagement with the private sector, academia and civil society. He further noted that the Committee had marked a significant achievement by agreeing on guiding principles on threats posed by the use of unmanned aircraft system for terrorist purposes, which had addressed a major gap in Member States' response to the threats posed by new and emerging technologies.

As Chair of three Council Committees and the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals, the representative of Gabon stressed, inter alia, the importance of the work carried out by the Groups and Panels of Experts, which were crucial to the Committees receiving objective and reliable information.

**Table 1**  
**Meetings: briefings by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, 2023**

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.9316</a> 4 May 2023				Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Minister for Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia	All Council members, <sup>a</sup> invitee	

<sup>a</sup> Switzerland was represented by the Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

**Table 2**  
**Meetings: briefings by the President of the International Court of Justice, 2023**

<sup>993</sup> See [S/PV.9508](#).

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.9456</a> 27 October 2023 (closed)				President of the International Council Court of Justice	Council members, invitee	

**Table 3**  
**Meetings: briefings by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2023**

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.9465</a> 31 October 2023				United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	All Council members, invitee	

**Table 4**  
**Meetings: briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, 2023**

<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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.9478</a> 15 November 2023					Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions <a href="#">1267 (1999)</a> , <a href="#">1989 (2011)</a> and <a href="#">2253 (2015)</a> concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1373 (2001)</a> , and Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <a href="#">1540 (2004)</a> , <sup>a</sup> all other Council members	
<a href="#">S/PV.9508</a> 14 December 2023					Chairs of 10 Committees and four Working Groups <sup>b</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Before his briefing as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#), the representative of the United Arab Emirates delivered a joint statement on behalf of that Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolutions

[1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

<sup>b</sup> The Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1518 \(2003\)](#), the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1636 \(2005\)](#), the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) and the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions; the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic; the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan, the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2653 \(2022\)](#) concerning Haiti and the Informal Working Group on International Tribunals; and the representative of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2048 \(2012\)](#) concerning Guinea-Bissau.