
Africa

1. The situation concerning Western Sahara

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings and adopted two resolutions regarding the situation concerning Western Sahara. The Council also met twice, once in 2016 and once in 2017, with countries contributing troops to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).² More information on meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

By resolutions [2285 \(2016\)](#) and [2351 \(2017\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of MINURSO for two periods of one year each, until 30 April 2017 and 30 April 2018, respectively.³ At a meeting held on 29 April 2016, the Council considered the most recent report of the Secretary-General, in which he reported, *inter alia*, the decision by Morocco to request civilian staff of MINURSO to leave the area of operation.⁴ At the meeting, the Council adopted resolution [2285 \(2016\)](#),⁵ in which it emphasized the urgent need for MINURSO to return to full functionality, and called upon all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of MINURSO, including its free interaction with all interlocutors, and to take the steps necessary to ensure the security of as well as unhindered movement and immediate access for the United Nations and associated personnel in carrying out their mandate, in conformity with existing agreements.⁶ Against the

backdrop of increased tensions in the buffer strip in Guerguerat,⁷ the Council adopted resolution [2351 \(2017\)](#) in April 2017, in which it encouraged the Secretary-General to explore ways to resolve the fundamental questions raised by the crisis. The Council requested the Secretary-General to brief it on a regular basis, and at least twice a year, on the status and progress of the relaunching of negotiations, on the implementation of resolution [2351 \(2017\)](#), and on challenges to the Mission's operations and steps taken to address them.⁸

In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to update it within six months of the appointment of the new Personal Envoy on the ways in which the Personal Envoy, working with the parties, was progressing towards a mutually acceptable political solution, which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara; how the Mission's performance measures were being developed and implemented; how the Mission's structures and staffing could be reorganized to achieve mission goals efficiently; and how new technologies were to be considered to reduce risk, improve force protection and better implement the mandate of MINURSO.⁹

In a letter dated 30 May 2017, the Council took note of the intention of the Secretary-General to appoint his new Personal Envoy for Western Sahara.¹⁰

² Held on 26 April 2016 and 19 April 2017 under the item entitled "Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B"; see [S/PV.7679](#) and [S/PV.7928](#).

³ For more information on the mandate of MINURSO, see part X, sect. I, "Peacekeeping operations".

⁴ See [S/2016/355](#), in particular paras. 3–5, with reference to the decision of Morocco.

⁵ The resolution was adopted by 10 votes in favour, two against and three abstentions (see table).

⁶ Resolution [2285 \(2016\)](#), paras. 2, 5 and 35.

⁷ For more information on the developments in Guerguerat, see report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara ([S/2017/307](#)); note verbale dated 27 April 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Namibia addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/367](#)); and letter dated 28 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/369](#)).

⁸ Resolution [2351 \(2017\)](#), paras. 3 and 10.

⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 11.

¹⁰ [S/2017/463](#).

Meetings: the situation concerning Western Sahara

<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.7684 29 April 2016	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2016/355)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2016/401)			All Council members	Resolution 2285 (2016) 10-2-3 ^a
S/PV.7933 28 April 2017	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2017/307)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2017/362)			13 Council members ^b	Resolution 2351 (2017) 15-0-0

^a For: China, Egypt, France, Japan, Malaysia, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States; against: Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); abstaining: Angola, New Zealand, Russian Federation.

^b Bolivia (Plurinational State of); China, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

2. The situation in Liberia

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings in connection with the situation in Liberia, adopted three resolutions, all under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued one presidential statement. In 2016, the Council held two meetings with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001).¹¹ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During the period under review, the Council considered the improving situation in the country. It heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIL, the Chair of the Liberia country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The Council was also briefed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the

National Coordinator for the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding.

On 25 May 2016, by resolution 2288 (2016), the Council decided to terminate the sanctions measures imposed by resolution 1521 (2003), and further decided to dissolve the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia as well as the Panel of Experts established by the same resolution.¹² Following the unanimous adoption of the resolution, Council members welcomed the decision and commended Liberia for its commitment to peace and stability.¹³ Some Council members pointed out the dedicated effort and the key role that the Council had played in restoring peace in Liberia.¹⁴

On 14 September 2016, by resolution 2308 (2016), the Council, extended the mandate of UNMIL for three months, affirmed its readiness to consider the withdrawal of the Mission, and recalled its request to the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment mission.¹⁵ On 23 December 2016, the Council adopted resolution 2333 (2016), extending the mandate of UNMIL for a final period of 15 months, until 30 March

¹¹ Held on 24 August and 2 December 2016 under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B”; see S/PV.7759 and S/PV.7823. For more information on the mandate of UNMIL, see part X, sect. I, “Peacekeeping operations”.

¹² Resolution 2288 (2016), paras. 1 and 2.

¹³ S/PV.7695, p. 3 (United States); p. 3 (Japan); p. 4 (Ukraine); and p. 4 (China).

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 3 (United States); and p. 4 (Ukraine).

¹⁵ Resolution 2308 (2016), paras. 1 and 3.