

<sup>e</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

<sup>f</sup> The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was represented by its Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Suriname spoke also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

<sup>g</sup> Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States. Germany was represented by its State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office.

<sup>h</sup> *For*: Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: China, Russian Federation, South Africa; *abstaining*: Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia.

<sup>i</sup> *For*: China, Equatorial Guinea, Russian Federation, South Africa; *against*: Belgium, France, Germany, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; *abstaining*: Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Kuwait.

<sup>j</sup> The United States was represented by its Vice-President.

<sup>k</sup> The Joint Special Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference from Panama City.

<sup>l</sup> The Secretary-General attended the meeting but did not brief the Council.

## Asia

### 17. The situation in Afghanistan

During the period under review, the Council held seven meetings and adopted two resolutions concerning the situation in Afghanistan. The Council held three meetings in the form of briefings, two as debates and two were convened to adopt decisions of the Council.<sup>312</sup> In 2019, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) twice, the first time for 6 months, until 17 September 2019 and subsequently for 12 months, until 17 September 2020.<sup>313</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2019, as in previous periods, the Council heard quarterly briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.<sup>314</sup> Two of those briefings were conducted during Council debates with the participation of interested Member States. In addition, the Council heard briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Afghan youth representative to the United Nations. The Council also

heard briefings by two civil society representatives in two separate meetings.

In his briefings, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General discussed the developments in the peace process, the conduct of presidential elections, and the security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

With respect to the peace process, the Special Representative emphasized that the best way to secure a sustainable peace agreement was an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process that allowed for the meaningful participation of all those affected by the conflict, including women, young people, victims and business and religious leaders.<sup>315</sup> He also said that it was imperative that the Taliban talk directly with the Government of Afghanistan and that the dialogues in Moscow needed to be directed towards the start of formal negotiations between the two parties.<sup>316</sup> He noted that peace in Afghanistan would have wide-ranging implications on both regional stability and international efforts to counter terrorist groups, including Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant – Khorasan Province, and would create opportunities for accelerated development and enhanced connectivity of the region.<sup>317</sup>

On the presidential elections scheduled for 28 September 2019, the Special Representative reported on the preparations undertaken and the challenges faced by the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and international partners, for the conduct of transparent, inclusive, credible and timely

<sup>312</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>313</sup> Resolutions 2460 (2019), para. 4, and 2489 (2019), para. 4.

<sup>314</sup> S/2019/193, S/2019/493, S/2019/703 and S/2019/935.

<sup>315</sup> See S/PV.8481, S/PV.8555 and S/PV.8687.

<sup>316</sup> See S/PV.8481 and S/PV.8555.

<sup>317</sup> See S/PV.8687.

elections.<sup>318</sup> At his briefing to the Council on 16 December, he reported that, while the presidential elections held on 28 September had improved considerably on prior elections, voter turnout had been dampened by security threats and the results had been delayed to ensure that the electoral process was as transparent and credible as possible, adding that the results had to be accepted by all stakeholders in order for Afghanistan to move forward.<sup>319</sup>

On the security situation, the Special Representative said that the impact of conflict on children was alarming owing to the high number of child deaths and injuries and their vulnerability to recruitment and use by parties to the conflict.<sup>320</sup> He noted that violence had intensified following attacks by insurgents in Kunduz, Baghlan and Farah, as well as multiple attacks in Kabul,<sup>321</sup> and reported that the third quarter of 2019 had seen the highest number of civilian casualties since UNAMA had begun systematic recording in 2009.<sup>322</sup>

On the humanitarian front, the Special Representative reminded the Council that the majority of the Afghan population lived below the poverty line, with millions of people struggling with food insecurity needing the support of external donors, both for its immediate humanitarian needs and to support longer-term economic development.<sup>323</sup> In that regard, he expressed the hope that the Security Council would call on the international community to boost funding for the United Nations humanitarian response plan.<sup>324</sup>

At its meeting on 19 June 2019,<sup>325</sup> the Council heard a briefing by the Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, who reported on the results of the national inquiry on women and peace and security conducted by the Commission, as well as on the situation of justice, accountability, the rule of law and anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan. She called on the Council to step up efforts to safeguard peace and human rights norms in the country by engaging women, young people and victims in the planning, negotiation and implementation of a peace plan for Afghanistan.

At its meeting on 26 July 2019,<sup>326</sup> the Council heard briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General and

the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on their visit to Afghanistan from 20 to 21 July, together with the Executive Directors of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, to assess and build on progress made since the Secretary-General's visit in 2017 and to explore United Nations support for the women and peace and security agenda. The Deputy Secretary-General reported, *inter alia*, on the progress made to improve access for Afghan women to education, economic empowerment and political representation, as well as the ongoing work to address conflict-related and gender-based violence. The Under-Secretary-General updated the Council on developments in the country's peace process and electoral preparations. Both briefers stressed the importance of an inclusive peace process and the conduct of credible elections. In briefings delivered in March and July,<sup>327</sup> civil society representatives focused on the importance of the participation of women in peace negotiations and conflict resolution efforts and the inclusion of gender-awareness provisions in any final peace accord. They also discussed the human rights situation in Afghanistan, including sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls and acts of violence against, *inter alia*, women's rights activists, women human rights defenders and journalists.

In his briefing delivered on 10 September 2019,<sup>328</sup> the Executive Director of UNODC focused on the work done by the Office to support Afghanistan in promoting peace, security, the rule of law and sustainable development, including the support provided to the Government of Afghanistan for countering money laundering and disrupting the financing networks of terrorists and organized crime groups. In his briefing to the Council at the same meeting, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) covered the work and mandate of both the Committee and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team,<sup>329</sup> including the facilitation of conditions to promote dialogue between the Taliban and the Afghan Government.

At the meeting in December 2019,<sup>330</sup> the Afghan youth representative to the United Nations noted that the conflict in her country had greatly affected Afghan children and young people, who made up a majority of the population, and added that the key to ensuring

<sup>318</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#), [S/PV.8555](#) and [S/PV.8613](#).

<sup>319</sup> See [S/PV.8687](#).

<sup>320</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#).

<sup>321</sup> See [S/PV.8613](#).

<sup>322</sup> See [S/PV.8687](#).

<sup>323</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) and [S/PV.8555](#).

<sup>324</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) and [S/PV.8687](#).

<sup>325</sup> See [S/PV.8555](#).

<sup>326</sup> See [S/PV.8587](#).

<sup>327</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) and [S/PV.8587](#).

<sup>328</sup> See [S/PV.8613](#).

<sup>329</sup> For more information on the mandate of the Monitoring Team, see part IX, sect. I.

<sup>330</sup> See [S/PV.8687](#).

sustainable reconciliation was to ensure that the voices of Afghan youth from both sides of the conflict were considered in the peace process. To that end, she called on the Council to guarantee the rights and achievements of the young people of Afghanistan in any future peace agreement.

The Council discussions in 2019 were focused primarily on the peace process, the presidential elections and the challenges presented by the security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. Council members emphasized the need for an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process<sup>331</sup> and stressed that any agreement reached should preserve and protect the achievements made in the area of human rights, in particular women's rights.<sup>332</sup> They called on the Taliban to engage in direct talks with the Government of Afghanistan<sup>333</sup> and noted the role of the international community<sup>334</sup> and UNAMA<sup>335</sup> in facilitating regional and intra-Afghan dialogue, the activities undertaken by UNAMA to support the conduct of presidential elections<sup>336</sup> and the importance of the increased and meaningful participation of Afghan women in the electoral and political spheres.<sup>337</sup> Council members expressed concerns about the high number of civilian casualties, especially women and children, and about the attacks against humanitarian actors, and urged parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law.<sup>338</sup> Some Council members also expressed concern about the ongoing security threat posed by Islamic State in

Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh)<sup>339</sup> and about the linkages between drug production and trafficking in Afghanistan and the financing of terrorist groups.<sup>340</sup>

The issues outlined above were also addressed in the two Council resolutions adopted in 2019, by which it extended the mandate of UNAMA. On 15 March 2019, by its resolution [2460 \(2019\)](#), the Council proceeded to a technical rollover, extending the mandate of UNAMA for 6 months instead of 12, until 17 September 2019.<sup>341</sup> Although the resolution was adopted unanimously, in its discussion following the vote at the same meeting,<sup>342</sup> Council members expressed differing views over its content. The representative of Germany explained that resolution [2460 \(2019\)](#) was not the kind of resolution that his delegation had worked towards as co-penholder, and it was not the kind of UNAMA resolution that had been passed for the past 17 years. He expressed regret that such topics as the upcoming elections, the participation of women in the Afghan peace process, the situation of children in armed conflict and the nexus between climate change and security were no longer reflected in the resolution and noted that the text did not satisfy any of the members. The representative of Indonesia, as co-penholder, emphasized that, with regard to the text of the resolution, unity had been the priority. He affirmed that there would be an opportunity to further develop the resolution, according to the conditions and priorities of Afghanistan. He underscored that the resolution adopted was a good basis for doing that sort of work, namely, to chart positive development in Afghanistan and monitor the areas where the Government and the people of Afghanistan needed the support of the international community. Several Council members<sup>343</sup> expressed regret that the Council was not able to reach consensus on a more detailed resolution. The representative of the United States accused China of derailing negotiations on the text owing to its demand that the resolution highlight its Belt and Road Initiative and of using Council resolutions as a platform for inappropriately promoting self-serving initiatives. In response, the representative of China elaborated on the Initiative and stated that the Council had failed to reach an agreement on the

<sup>331</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) (Indonesia and Germany); [S/PV.8587](#) (Belgium); [S/PV.8613](#) (Indonesia); and [S/PV.8687](#) (Poland).

<sup>332</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) (Poland, United Kingdom and France); [S/PV.8485](#) (United Kingdom); ([S/PV.8555](#) (Germany and Poland); [S/PV.8587](#) (Belgium); and [S/PV.8613](#) (Germany).

<sup>333</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) (France); [S/PV.8555](#) (France, Belgium and Peru); [S/PV.8613](#) (United Kingdom); and [S/PV.8687](#) (United States).

<sup>334</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) (Germany, Russian Federation, Belgium, Poland and United Kingdom); [S/PV.8587](#) (France and United Kingdom); [S/PV.8613](#) (China and Dominican Republic); and [S/PV.8687](#) (Russian Federation and Equatorial Guinea).

<sup>335</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) (United States); [S/PV.8555](#) (Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire); and [S/PV.8620](#) (Dominican Republic).

<sup>336</sup> See [S/PV.8687](#) (Indonesia, United Kingdom, Kuwait, Belgium and South Africa).

<sup>337</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) (South Africa, Peru and France); [S/PV.8555](#) (Indonesia and Côte d'Ivoire); and [S/PV.8587](#) (Indonesia, United Kingdom and Peru).

<sup>338</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) (Equatorial Guinea, Belgium and France); [S/PV.8555](#) (Côte d'Ivoire); [S/PV.8587](#) (Belgium); and [S/PV.8687](#) (Indonesia, Equatorial Guinea and France).

<sup>339</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) (Indonesia and China); [S/PV.8587](#), (Russian Federation); [S/PV.8613](#) (Kuwait and Equatorial Guinea); and [S/PV.8687](#) (Russian Federation and China).

<sup>340</sup> See [S/PV.8481](#) (South Africa and Peru); [S/PV.8555](#) (Russian Federation, Côte d'Ivoire and Peru); [S/PV.8587](#) (Russian Federation); [S/PV.8613](#) (Peru and France); and [S/PV.8687](#) (Russian Federation and China).

<sup>341</sup> Resolution [2460 \(2019\)](#), para. 4.

<sup>342</sup> See [S/PV.8485](#).

<sup>343</sup> Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Belgium and France.

extension of the substantive content of the resolution because of persisting differences, one of which being that one member in particular had repeatedly refused to accept the consensus of the Council for many years and the constructive opinions put forward by others.

On 17 September 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2489 \(2019\)](#), extending the mandate of UNAMA for 12 months, until 17 September 2020.<sup>344</sup> At the meeting,<sup>345</sup> before the vote, the representative of Germany introduced an oral amendment, requested by Afghanistan, to the text of the draft resolution. The President of the Council ruled that if delegations consented to the inclusion of the oral revision to the draft resolution, and there were no objections, then the

vote would proceed on the resolution as orally revised.<sup>346</sup> No objections were raised and the vote proceeded, on the basis of the instruction to include the oral revision in the text of the resolution.<sup>347</sup> After the vote, the representatives of Germany and Indonesia, as co-penholders of the resolution, thanked all Council members for their engagement in the negotiations, and specifically the delegation of China for its constructive approach.

Developments in Afghanistan were also considered under the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”.<sup>348</sup>

<sup>344</sup> Resolution [2489 \(2019\)](#), para. 4. For more information on the mandate of UNAMA, see part X, sect. II.

<sup>345</sup> See [S/PV.8620](#).

<sup>346</sup> For more information on the conduct of meetings, see part II, sect. VI.

<sup>347</sup> See [S/PV.8620](#).

<sup>348</sup> See part I, sect. 31.

### Meetings: the situation in Afghanistan

<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.8481</a> 11 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/193</a> )		Afghanistan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Deputy Executive Director of the Afghan Women’s Network	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8485</a> 15 March 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/193</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Germany and Indonesia ( <a href="#">S/2019/223</a> )	Afghanistan		Nine Council members, <sup>b</sup> invitee	Resolution <a href="#">2460 (2019)</a> 15-0-0

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<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.8555</a> 19 June 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/493</a> )		13 Member States <sup>c</sup>	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	All Council members, all invitees <sup>d</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8587</a> 26 July 2019			Afghanistan	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, President of the Afghanistan section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees <sup>e</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8613</a> 10 September 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/703</a> )		12 Member States <sup>f</sup>	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members, <sup>g</sup> all invitees <sup>h</sup>	
<a href="#">S/PV.8620</a> 17 September 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security ( <a href="#">S/2019/703</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by Germany and Indonesia ( <a href="#">S/2019/749</a> )	Afghanistan		13 Council members, <sup>i</sup> invitee	Resolution 2489 (2019) 15-0-0

<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.8687 16 December 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2019/935)		Afghanistan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Afghan youth representative to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees	

<sup>a</sup> The Deputy Executive Director of the Afghan Women's Network participated in the meeting by videoconference from Kabul. Afghanistan was represented by its National Security Adviser.

<sup>b</sup> Belgium, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>c</sup> Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

<sup>d</sup> The Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

<sup>e</sup> The President of the Afghanistan section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom participated in the meeting by videoconference from Kabul.

<sup>f</sup> Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

<sup>g</sup> The representative of Indonesia spoke twice, once in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) and once in his national capacity.

<sup>h</sup> The Executive Director of UNODC participated in the meeting by videoconference from Vienna. The Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union 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>i</sup> Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire (also on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and South Africa), Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

## 18. The situation in Myanmar

During the period under review, the Council held one meeting in connection with the item entitled "The situation in Myanmar". The only meeting held in 2019 took the form of a briefing.<sup>349</sup> No decisions were adopted by the Council under the item in 2019. More information on the meeting, including its participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

On 28 February 2019,<sup>350</sup> the Council heard a briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar concerning her visits to Myanmar, Bangladesh and other areas in the region, as well as the installation of her office in Myanmar. The Special Envoy noted that, in the broader context of the country's democratic transition, military and civilian tensions persisted ahead of the general elections to be held in 2020, and the peace process remained fragile. She underscored the need to end the violence in

Rakhine State, expressed concern that heavy fighting with the Arakan Army would further affect efforts towards the dignified, voluntary and safe return of refugees and stated that the country's strategy for the closure of internally displaced persons camps should address, among other things, the question of citizenship and of restoring freedom of movement. She outlined challenges that required international support, such as increasing the level of access by relevant United Nations entities in order to support the creation of conditions for the return of refugees and to address the fragility of all communities in Rakhine State. She also noted the importance of accountability in combating impunity and fostering genuine reconciliation.

During the discussion that followed the briefing, most Council members<sup>351</sup> stressed that a voluntary, safe and dignified return should be the guiding

<sup>349</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.A.

<sup>350</sup> See S/PV.8477.

<sup>351</sup> United Kingdom, Indonesia, France, Dominican Republic, Belgium, Poland, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, Germany, Peru, United States and Equatorial Guinea.