

<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.8621 18 September 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in South Sudan (S/2019/722) Report of the Secretary-General on future planning for the protection of civilian sites in South Sudan (S/2019/741)		South Sudan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8634 8 October 2019						S/PRST/2019/11
S/PV.8689 17 December 2019				Special Representative of the Secretary-General	13 Council members, ^e invitee ^f	

^a *For*: Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: none; *abstaining*: Russian Federation.

^b Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States.

^c *For*: Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: none; *abstaining*: China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Russian Federation, South Africa.

^d The representative of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board participated in the meeting by videoconference from Juba.

^e Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa (also on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea), United Kingdom and United States. The representative of Poland spoke twice, once in her capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan and once in her national capacity.

^f The Special Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference from Auckland, New Zealand.

10. Peace consolidation in West Africa

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings and issued one presidential statement under the agenda item "Peace consolidation in West Africa". Two of the meetings took the form of briefings and one meeting was convened for the adoption of a decision of the Council.¹⁸⁵ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, are noted in the table below. In addition, the

Council conducted a mission to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau from 13 to 17 February 2019.¹⁸⁶

During its meetings under this agenda item, the Council heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), during which he presented the succeeding reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office.

¹⁸⁵ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

¹⁸⁶ For more information on the Council's mission to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau, see part I, sect. 33.

In his first briefing, on 10 January 2019,¹⁸⁷ the Special Representative focused on the progress being made in the democratic consolidation process in West Africa and the Sahel, despite persisting and complex security challenges, including the expansion of terrorist activities undertaken by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin and continued violent clashes between farmers and herders in the region. He also commended the continued and successful partnership between UNOWAS and regional partners, including the Economic Community of West African States, the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) and the Lake Chad Basin Commission, including within the framework of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. He mentioned the promising progress made in the implementation of resolution 2349 (2017) to support a regional response to the crisis in the Lake Chad basin and highlighted the adoption of a regional strategy for the stabilization, recovery and resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad basin by the Council of Ministers of the Lake Chad Basin Commission on 30 August 2018. He spoke about the successful elections held in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania and Togo and emphasized the need to continue efforts to prevent and mitigate election-related violence. He also spoke of the allegations of human rights violations by security forces and the re-emergence of self-defence groups fuelling intercommunal tensions in some countries. He noted that, during the annual review of progress made in West Africa and the Sahel concerning the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), the discrimination against and marginalization of women in political processes had been highlighted once again, with women accounting for less than 15 per cent of parliamentarians. In that regard, he affirmed that his Office would continue to work with all regional actors to strengthen the role of women in the region.

After the briefing, the discussion among Council members was focused on building resilience and an environment favourable to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as on the threat posed by non-State actors, including terrorist groups striving to exploit intercommunal tension between herders and farmers. Some Council members¹⁸⁸ highlighted the link between climate change and security in the Sahel leading to tension over resources. Some members¹⁸⁹ mentioned the importance of UNOWAS for the upcoming elections and made reference to the Office's role in providing support for security sector reforms, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

processes. Some Council members¹⁹⁰ also expressed concern about the situation of women in the region, and some¹⁹¹ called for further action by Governments and the international community to see more women in positions of responsibility and decision-making.

In his second briefing, on 24 July 2019,¹⁹² the Special Representative noted that further progress had been made in democratic consolidation in West Africa and the Sahel, but that it had not been linear or without complications. He highlighted the gains made in the Gambia regarding justice and reconciliation and in Togo with regard to gender parity. Despite those gains, he noted that pre- and post-electoral periods continued to be characterized by antagonistic contests and disputes. He noted that addressing such potential sources of conflict remained a major priority ahead of the upcoming cycle of high-stakes presidential elections in West Africa, namely, in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, the Niger and Togo. He mentioned that democratic progress had been delayed and complicated and, on occasion, almost negated by a rapid expansion of violent extremism in the region. In that regard, he stated that the security situation remained volatile in the entire Sahel region, where escalating violence and insecurity had sparked an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. In that connection, he urged all Governments and partners to define a concerted approach to preventing a further expansion of terrorist activities and fostering support for medium- and long-term stabilization measures that aligned with the integrated strategy for the region.

In their deliberations at the same meeting, Council members focused on the deteriorating security situation affecting the Sahel and the Lake Chad basin. Many members¹⁹³ highlighted the importance of the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel in combating terrorism in the region. Council members¹⁹⁴ also highlighted the need to address the root causes of the situation surrounding terrorism, conflicts, insecurity and instability. Council members¹⁹⁵ addressed the challenges posed by climate change and its impact on conflict in the region, welcoming the Council's focus and the work of UNOWAS in that respect. Also at the

¹⁸⁷ S/PV.8442.

¹⁸⁸ Germany, France, United States, Peru, Poland, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Belgium and Dominican Republic.

¹⁸⁹ Peru and Dominican Republic.

¹⁹⁰ Germany, United States, Poland, United Kingdom and Dominican Republic.

¹⁹¹ Germany, France, Poland and Dominican Republic.

¹⁹² See S/PV.8585.

¹⁹³ France, Poland, Russian Federation, United States, Kuwait, China and Indonesia.

¹⁹⁴ Côte d'Ivoire, Poland, United States, Kuwait, Dominican Republic, Indonesia and United Kingdom.

¹⁹⁵ Côte d'Ivoire, Belgium, France, Poland, Germany, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom and Peru.

same meeting, Council members¹⁹⁶ acknowledged the progress achieved in the adoption and implementation of gender-parity legislation in several countries in the region and called on national authorities to enhance the participation of women at all levels.

Most of the issues outlined in the paragraphs above were also addressed in a presidential statement issued on 7 August 2019. In the statement, the Council welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to conduct a strategic review of the mandate of UNOWAS and its activities and invited him to present to the Council, by 15 November 2019, the recommendations stemming from that review and his observations on potential areas for improvement, including on counter-terrorism and the effects of climate change on security and intercommunal violence, in order to inform the Council's discussion on the renewal of the Office's mandate, which would be expiring on 31 December 2019.¹⁹⁷

In the statement, the Council expressed its deep concern about the continued deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel region and called for continued regional and international engagement to help countries in the region to address the peace and security challenges they faced.¹⁹⁸ The Council welcomed the leadership demonstrated by countries in West Africa and the Sahel in spearheading initiatives to address security challenges in the region and commended their efforts, as well as those of the African Union and ECOWAS, to strengthen security; it also underscored the need for security efforts to be aligned with political objectives and encouraged ECOWAS and the G5 Sahel to identify areas of

complementarity in preventing conflict and sustaining peace in the region.¹⁹⁹

Also in the statement, the Council encouraged the consolidation of political reforms in the region to prevent violence and instability and underlined the need for the United Nations to sustain support, including in non-mission settings, welcoming the role of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in sustaining peace and peacebuilding efforts.²⁰⁰ The Council emphasized the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in peacebuilding and in post-conflict situations and stressed the importance of their full, equal and meaningful participation and involvement in all efforts towards the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and reiterated the need for an integrated gender perspective in the design and implementation of comprehensive strategies to address root causes of the crisis.²⁰¹ The Council reiterated its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of all countries in West Africa and the Sahel, while underlining the need for a more integrated, cross-pillar approach across the development, humanitarian, human rights and peace and security nexus, including to address root causes of crises.²⁰² The Council also recognized the adverse effects of climate change, ecological changes and natural disasters, among other factors, on the stability of West Africa and the Sahel region and stressed the need for long-term strategies, based on risk assessments, by Governments and the United Nations, to support stabilization and build resilience; it encouraged UNOWAS to continue to integrate that information in its activities.²⁰³

¹⁹⁶ Côte d'Ivoire, France, Poland, Germany, Dominican Republic and Peru.

¹⁹⁷ [S/PRST/2019/7](#), fifth paragraph. For more information on the mandate of UNOWAS, see part X, sect. II.

¹⁹⁸ [S/PRST/2019/7](#), tenth paragraph.

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, nineteenth paragraph.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, fourteenth paragraph.

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*, sixteenth and seventeenth paragraphs.

²⁰² *Ibid.*, sixth and twenty-seventh paragraphs.

²⁰³ *Ibid.*, twenty-fifth paragraph.

Meetings: peace consolidation in West Africa

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S/PV.8442 10 January 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) (S/2018/1175)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWAS	All Council members, invitee	

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S/PV.8585 24 July 2019	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOWAS (S/2019/549)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General	13 Council members, ^a invitee	
S/PV.8592 7 August 2019						S/PRST/2019/7

^a Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire (also on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and South Africa), Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Kuwait, Indonesia, Poland, Peru, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

11. Peace and security in Africa

During the period under review, the Council held nine meetings and issued two presidential statements under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”. Five of the meetings took the form of briefings, two were debates and two were convened for the adoption of decisions of the Council.²⁰⁴ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Ethiopia and South Sudan from 19 to 23 October 2019.²⁰⁵

In 2019, the Council held two meetings on the activities of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, in connection with the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.²⁰⁶ In addition, the Council held four meetings focused on the following themes: partnership to strengthen regional peace and security; mobilizing youth towards silencing the guns in Africa by 2020; preventative diplomacy and conflict prevention; and intercommunal violence and terrorism in West Africa. The Council also heard a briefing on the joint mission by the United Nations and the African Union to Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia in October 2019.

The Council heard briefings on the activities of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel in May and November 2019. On 16 May 2019,²⁰⁷ the Council heard briefings by the High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso, the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, the European

Union Special Representative for the Sahel and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Assistant Secretary-General described the situation in Mali and the Sahel as extremely worrisome, stating that the region faced serious problems, ranging from climate change and drought to growing insecurity, violent extremism and illicit trafficking in persons, weapons and drugs, as terrorist groups continued to spread beyond borders. She added that, while the resumption of the operations of the Joint Force in January 2019 after the terrorist attack on its headquarters was encouraging, it was essential to maintain the momentum; she therefore urged the States members of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) to urgently accelerate the full operationalization of the Joint Force to reach its full operational capacity. Speaking on behalf of the States members of the G5 Sahel, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso reported on the composition of the Joint Force and requested the Council to accede to the Group’s request to establish a new United Nations approach to support the Force with the goal of equipping it to better respond to security challenges. The High Representative of the African Union described the security situation in the Sahelo-Saharan subregion and reported that, at its meeting on 9 April 2019, the Peace and Security Council had renewed the mandate of the Joint Force, while also noting the progress that had been made, the operations that had been conducted and the support that countries continued to provide to the Force. He emphasized that the operationalization of the Joint Force had now become an absolute and urgent necessity. The European Union Special Representative and the Executive Director of UNODC outlined the cooperation of their respective organizations with the Joint Force. During

²⁰⁴ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

²⁰⁵ For more information on the Council’s mission to Ethiopia and South Sudan, see part I, sect. 33.

²⁰⁶ [S/2019/371](#) and [S/2019/868](#).

²⁰⁷ See [S/PV.8526](#).