

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
25 June 2020	S/2020/602	Letter dated 26 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution 2529 (2020) 14-0-1 ^a (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/590
14 December 2020	S/2020/1236	Letter dated 18 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

^a *For*: Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam; *against*: none; *abstaining*: Russian Federation.

25. Children and armed conflict

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings, including one high-level meeting, and issued two presidential statements in connection with the item entitled “Children and armed conflict”. The meetings took the form of a briefing and a debate.⁶⁹¹ More information on the meetings, including on the participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in table 1 below. In addition, Council members held one open videoconference under the item.⁶⁹² More information on the videoconference is provided in table 2 below.⁶⁹³

In 2020, discussions in the Council focused on the integration of child protection issues into peace processes and peace agreements, attacks against schools and the impact of armed conflict on children’s education, and the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict for 2019.⁶⁹⁴ Council members were briefed twice by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and by the Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The Council also received briefings by the Secretary-General, the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union and four representatives of civil society.

On 12 February, at the initiative of Belgium, which held the Presidency for the month,⁶⁹⁵ the Council held a high-level meeting under the sub-item entitled

“Integrating child protection into peace processes”.⁶⁹⁶ At the outset of the meeting, the Council issued a presidential statement renewing its call to Member States, United Nations entities, the Peacebuilding Commission and other parties concerned to integrate child protection provisions at the early stages of all peace processes.⁶⁹⁷ The Council commended the work by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, together with relevant child protection actors, to develop a United Nations practical guidance document on the integration of child protection into peace processes and encouraged the Secretary-General to disseminate the practical guidance broadly.⁶⁹⁸ In the statement, the Council encouraged mediators, facilitators and other negotiators, including Member States and regional and subregional organizations, to use the practical guidance note as a tool in peace and mediation processes.⁶⁹⁹

In his remarks at the meeting,⁷⁰⁰ the Secretary-General stated that children under the age of 18 made up more than half of the population in countries affected by war and they were among the most vulnerable. Notwithstanding the progress made in raising awareness on the issue of children in armed conflict in the past 21 years, including through the engagement of the Council, the figures on grave violations against children continued to rise. According

⁶⁹¹ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁶⁹² See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 14.

⁶⁹³ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁶⁹⁴ [S/2020/525](#).

⁶⁹⁵ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 5 February 2020 ([S/2020/97](#)).

⁶⁹⁶ See [S/PV.8721](#).

⁶⁹⁷ [S/PRST/2020/3](#), seventh paragraph.

⁶⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, ninth and tenth paragraphs. See the letter dated 11 February 2020 from the Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2020/114](#)), drawing attention to the guidance note entitled “Practical guidance for mediators to protect children in situations of armed conflict”.

⁶⁹⁹ [S/PRST/2020/3](#), thirteenth paragraph.

⁷⁰⁰ See [S/PV.8721](#).

to the Secretary-General, the practical guidance for mediators being launched by the Secretariat was the next step in the overall strategy to put children at the heart of protection, peacebuilding and prevention efforts. The guidance recognized that children's needs and rights had to be considered in all phases of conflict, from prevention to mediation and recovery, through sustainable inclusive development. The Secretary-General added that, as important as the guidance was, it was not enough, and he urged all Member States to take concrete action to prioritize the protection of children at the national, regional and global levels.

The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union stated that it was critical that all actors who were engaged in mediation and peace processes incorporated child protection language and provisions in peace agreements and cited the peace agreements in Burundi, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Sudan as examples of the efforts of the African Union and regional economic communities and mechanisms in that regard. He described the practical guidance document as an invaluable tool for African Union mediators, envoys and member States engaged in peace processes. In her statement, the Chair of the Advisory Board of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, a global network of human rights and humanitarian organizations, observed that peace agreements that addressed child protection remained the exception, not the norm. In that regard, she explained that Watchlist had prepared a checklist of provisions related to children and armed conflict in ceasefire and peace agreements, which had been used as inspiration for the guidance that was being launched by the United Nations and Member States. Some of the key components included prioritizing child protection in the agendas of peace talks from the very beginning, ensuring that all parties explicitly agreed to end the six grave violations against children, and including provisions in peace agreements to address disarmament, demobilization and reintegration for children associated with armed forces, education, post-conflict programming, transitional justice, accountability and reparations mechanisms, and monitoring of child protection provisions. She urged the Council to take a series of steps, including to request that all conflict analyses include an assessment of the impact of armed conflict on children to ensure that such issues were dealt with at the beginning of any peace effort; to ensure that country-specific resolutions on peace processes emphasized the need for explicit and comprehensive provisions for child protection; to urge mediators, the United Nations, parties to conflict and other stakeholders to ensure the meaningful

participation of affected children and that their views were taken into account; and to insist that the Secretary-General's annual list of perpetrators of violations against children be accurate and evidence based, utilizing the data collected by the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict reflected in resolution 1612 (2005).

The King of the Belgians spoke immediately after the briefers and stated that saving children affected by conflict required an ongoing policy, joint prevention and remediation efforts and the tireless marshalling of financial and human resources. He also affirmed it would be possible to make lasting peace by listening to them, acknowledging their suffering and reintegrating them into society through unrelenting support. In their deliberations, Council members welcomed the launching of the practical guidance, which some considered a "living document".⁷⁰¹ Council members also called for its implementation by all concerned and underlined the importance for peace processes and agreements to address child protection concerns as a requirement for achieving durable peace. In that regard, some Council members highlighted the potential for collaboration with regional organizations in the protection of children such as the African Union,⁷⁰² the Intergovernmental Authority on Development,⁷⁰³ and the European Union.⁷⁰⁴ Several Council members expressed the view that child protection issues must be taken into account at all phases of armed conflict,⁷⁰⁵ from prevention to peacebuilding, as did the views of children on issues affecting them.⁷⁰⁶ A number of Council members emphasized the importance of inclusive and comprehensive reintegration programmes for children.⁷⁰⁷

At the videoconference held on 23 June,⁷⁰⁸ the Special Representative cited three positive developments on the children and armed conflict agenda in 2019. First, the adoption by parties to conflict of over 30 action plans, road maps, command orders and other measures to better protect children. Secondly, the search for peace in 2019 had yielded seven different peace dialogues and processes in children and armed conflict situations. Thirdly, the release of some 13,200 children by parties to conflict

⁷⁰¹ Viet Nam and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

⁷⁰² France.

⁷⁰³ Viet Nam.

⁷⁰⁴ Germany.

⁷⁰⁵ Indonesia, South Africa and Russian Federation.

⁷⁰⁶ United Kingdom, Dominican Republic and South Africa.

⁷⁰⁷ Indonesia, South Africa, Viet Nam, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Russian Federation, China and Germany.

⁷⁰⁸ See [S/2020/594](#).

as a result of advocacy by the United Nations. Presenting the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict for 2019, she noted that the number of grave violations against children, despite having decreased from 2018, remained very high with more than 25,000 being verified by the United Nations. Noting that the monitoring and reporting mechanism was only as strong as the resources and capacities available for its functioning, the Special Representative said that the Council and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly must ensure that when a new peacekeeping or political mission was set up or the budget of an existing mission was negotiated, enough child-protection capacity was mandated and retained.

The Executive Director of UNICEF noted the progress achieved since the adoption by the Council of resolution 1612 (2005) and the establishment of the monitoring and reporting mechanism, including on the release of children from armed forces and groups, engagement with parties to conflict and the definition of normative frameworks. She stressed the need for the Council to call for action in five key areas, namely, the signing of action plans by parties to conflict, the immediate release of children in detention, the repatriation of nationals and their children, investment in education and vocational training for reintegrated children, and urgent action to respect and protect water and sanitation infrastructure. At the videoconference, Council members also heard a statement by Mariam, a member of the National Children's Parliament of Mali. She elaborated on the consequences of wars and conflicts for children, including killings, abduction or forcible recruitment by armed groups, deprivation of education, family separation and rape. She asked Member States to take action to protect children, including in times of conflict and war, expressed the wish of children to participate in decision-making that concerned them and called on Council members to help to improve the living conditions of children and to prevent them from being victims of conflict.

In their statements, Council members and other speakers condemned the scale of violations against children committed in the past 15 years, a situation that had been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Speakers noted the progress made on the children and armed conflict agenda since the adoption of resolution 1612 (2005), in particular through the work of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, the monitoring and reporting mechanism and the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict and the corresponding listing procedure. Speakers widely underscored the crucial importance of safe access to

education for children, with some also stressing the importance of comprehensive reintegration programmes.⁷⁰⁹ A number of speakers condemned the disproportionate impact of conflict on girls, including acts of sexual violence and the denial of access to education.⁷¹⁰ Many speakers also drew attention to violations against children committed by terrorist and extremist armed groups.⁷¹¹

On 10 September, at the initiative of the Niger, which held the Presidency for the month, the Council held an open debate⁷¹² under the sub-item entitled "Attacks against schools as a grave violation of children's rights".⁷¹³ At the outset of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it reaffirmed the right of children to education and the contribution of education to the achievement of peace and security.⁷¹⁴ In the statement, the Council reiterated its strong condemnation of attacks as well as threats of attacks in contravention of applicable international humanitarian law against schools, children, teachers and other persons entitled to protection who were connected to schools and urged all parties to armed conflict to immediately cease such attacks and threats and to refrain from actions that impeded children's access to education.⁷¹⁵ The Council also expressed deep concern at the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international humanitarian law and urged all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools in accordance with international humanitarian law.⁷¹⁶ Condemning the lack of accountability for violations committed against children, teachers and other persons entitled to protection who were connected to schools in armed conflict, the Council urged Member States to ensure that attacks on persons entitled to protection connected to schools and against schools in contravention of international humanitarian law were investigated and those responsible were duly

⁷⁰⁹ Belgium, Indonesia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Viet Nam, Argentina, Austria, Chile, El Salvador, European Union, Greece, Malta, Mexico, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

⁷¹⁰ France, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom, Afghanistan, Argentina, Canada, El Salvador, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia.

⁷¹¹ Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United States, Afghanistan, Angola, Egypt, India, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

⁷¹² See [S/PV.8756](#).

⁷¹³ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 1 September 2020 ([S/2020/881](#)).

⁷¹⁴ [S/PRST/2020/8](#), sixth paragraph.

⁷¹⁵ *Ibid.*, seventh paragraph.

⁷¹⁶ *Ibid.*, eighth paragraph.

prosecuted.⁷¹⁷ The Council also urged Member States to develop effective measures to prevent and address attacks and threats of attacks against schools, including, as appropriate, through the development of domestic legal frameworks to ensure respect for their relevant international legal obligations.⁷¹⁸

At the meeting,⁷¹⁹ the Special Representative made a statement in which she expressed concern about the negative trend of attacks against schools and what appeared to be an emerging tactic of war, particularly in the Sahel, which the pandemic had made even worse. She urged all parties to conflict to better protect students and educational personnel and to respect the civilian nature of school infrastructure. The Executive Director of UNICEF noted that one fifth of the 494 verified attacks on schools in 2019 had taken place in West and Central Africa, including in the Sahel region. She explained that denial of education was just part of the challenge faced by children and that out-of-school children were at higher risk of recruitment by armed forces or groups, gender-based violence, child marriage and early pregnancy, abuse and trafficking. She called on donor Governments to commit to multi-year, flexible funding to help communities to rebuild education systems over the longer term. The Executive Director further called on Council members to lend their voices and influence to condemn all attacks on schools and children, to take concrete measures to fulfil obligations and commitments to protect education from attack and to end impunity for those who violated international law. She also encouraged future Presidents of the Council to make education under attack a regular thematic topic for the Council's deliberations on a sustained basis during the year.

The representative of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, a civil society organization, described the Sahel region as an area of critical concern. She called on the Council to continue to lead the agenda on ending attacks on education and holding the perpetrators of such violations accountable. Among other steps, she urged the Council to ensure that United Nations peace operations and special political missions had a child-protection mandate and the backing necessary to effectively monitor and report on attacks on education and the military use of schools, including through more consistent disaggregation of data related to attacks on education. Two civil society representatives from the Niger, Hadiza and Rimana Youssef Assane Mayaki, the latter a representative of the Youth Parliament of the Niger, further described

the impact of armed conflict on the education of children in the Niger and the Sahel region. Hadiza called on the Council to ensure the protection of children from attacks and safeguard the rights and duties of children, and on United Nations entities to mobilize international cooperation to fight the increased threat of attacks against schools by parties to armed conflict and step up international efforts towards the prevention of violence against children.

In their statements, Council members and other participants at the meeting underscored the importance of respecting the civilian character of schools and ensuring access to quality education for all children, especially for girls and other children in vulnerable situations. Council members and non-members alike called on Member States to strengthen the protection of children and education in armed conflict and to join the Safe Schools Declaration.⁷²⁰

In 2020, the Council addressed the children and armed conflict agenda in a number of its country- and region-specific decisions, as well as in decisions relating to thematic items. Selected provisions of decisions in which the Council explicitly referenced actions or measures concerning the children and armed conflict agenda in 2020 are listed in table 3. In 2020, the Council, *inter alia*: (a) condemned and demanded the cessation of violations and abuses against children, including attacks on schools and deprivation of access to education, and called for accountability and compliance with international instruments; (b) called for the implementation of action plans and programmes on children and armed conflict, with a new emphasis on preventing and responding to sexual violence against children; (c) underscored the importance of taking into account child protection concerns in the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration processes and security sector reform, with a particular focus on practical measures to ensure the protection of schools; (d) requested monitoring, analysis and reporting on violations and abuses against children; (e) mandated United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions with child protection tasks; (f) imposed or called for the imposition of measures against perpetrators of violations and abuses against children; and (g) strengthened its calls for the integration of child protection considerations into peace processes and peace agreements.

⁷¹⁷ *Ibid.*, eleventh paragraph.

⁷¹⁸ *Ibid.*, fourteenth paragraph.

⁷¹⁹ See [S/PV.8756](#).

⁷²⁰ See [S/PV.8756](#) (Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany and United Kingdom); and [S/2020/906](#) (Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Uruguay).

Table 1
Meetings: children and armed conflict

<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.8721 12 February 2020	Integrating child protection into peace processes Letter dated 5 February 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2020/97)			Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Chair of the Advisory Board of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict	Secretary-General, 13 Council members, ^{a,b} all invitees ^c	S/PRST/2020/3
S/PV.8756 10 September 2020	Attacks against schools as a grave violation of children's rights Letter dated 1 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2020/881)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Executive Director of UNICEF, representative of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attacks, Hadiza, representative of the Youth Parliament of the Niger	12 Council members, ^d all invitees ^{e,f}	S/PRST/2020/8

^a Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger and Tunisia), United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

^b Belgium was represented by its King and by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence. Indonesia was represented by its Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. Estonia was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^c The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union participated in the meeting by videoconference from Addis Ababa.

^d Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

^e The Special Representative, the Executive Director of UNICEF, Hadiza and the representative of the Youth Parliament of the Niger participated in the meeting by videoconference.

^f In accordance with the procedures agreed upon by Council members during the COVID-19 pandemic, including those related to the conduct of in-person meetings, statements by Member States not members of the Council and other entities were submitted in writing and circulated as a document of the Council ([S/2020/906](#)). For more information on the working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

Table 2
Videoconferences: children and armed conflict

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
23 June 2020	S/2020/594	Letter dated 26 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

Table 3
Provisions relevant to children and armed conflict, by theme and agenda item

	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
Condemnation of and demands for cessation of violations and abuses against children and calls for accountability and compliance with international instruments			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2513 (2020)	5
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2552 (2020)	23
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2556 (2020)	6, 11, 12, 13, 54 (c)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2531 (2020)	6
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2520 (2020)	33
		Resolution 2540 (2020)	9, 12
		Resolution 2554 (2020)	20
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2514 (2020)	29
		Resolution 2550 (2020)	25
Thematic	Children and armed conflict	S/PRST/2020/3	second, third, seventeenth
		S/PRST/2020/8	sixth, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, fourteenth, twenty-sixth
Action plans and programmes on children and armed conflict			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2543 (2020)	6 (g)
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2552 (2020)	23
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2556 (2020)	11, 29 (ii) (k)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2531 (2020)	55
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2520 (2020)	33
			Resolution 2540 (2020)

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	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2514 (2020)	29, 30
		Resolution 2524 (2020)	2 (iii) (d)
Thematic	Children and armed conflict	S/PRST/2020/8	eighth, fourteenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth
Child protection in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2552 (2020)	11, 32 (c) (i), 43
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2556 (2020)	17, 19, 29 (ii) (g), 29 (ii) (i), 31
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2531 (2020)	28 (a) (iii), 55
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2514 (2020)	8 (a) (vi), 29
		Resolution 2524 (2020)	2 (ii) (b)
Thematic	Children and armed conflict	S/PRST/2020/3	fifteenth, sixteenth
		S/PRST/2020/8	fifteenth
	Maintenance of international peace and security	Resolution 2553 (2020)	8
Monitoring, analysis and reporting on violations and abuses against children			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2543 (2020)	6 (g)
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2552 (2020)	32 (d) (ii)
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2556 (2020)	31
	The situation in Libya	Resolution 2542 (2020)	1 (ix), 8
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2531 (2020)	28 (e) (ii)
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2514 (2020)	8 (d) (ii)
		Resolution 2550 (2020)	26
Thematic	Children and armed conflict	S/PRST/2020/8	twelfth, thirteenth
Child protection mandates in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2543 (2020)	6 (f), 6 (g)
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2552 (2020)	31 (a) (iii), 32 (c) (i), 43
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2556 (2020)	29 (i) (c), 29 (ii) (g), 29 (ii) (i), 29 (ii) (k), 31
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution 2522 (2020)	2 (f)
	The situation in Libya	Resolution 2542 (2020)	8
	The situation Mali	Resolution 2531 (2020)	28 (a) (iii), 28 (c) (iii), 28 (e) (ii), 53, 55

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2540 (2020)	5 (h)
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2514 (2020)	8 (a) (i), 8 (a) (vi), 8 (a) (vii), 19, 30
	Resolution 2524 (2020)	2 (ii) (b), 2 (iii) (d)
Thematic	Resolution 2550 (2020)	27
Children and armed conflict	S/PRST/2020/8	twenty-first
Measures against the perpetrators of violations and abuses against children		
Country- and region-specific	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2556 (2020) 13
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2511 (2020) 6
		Resolution 2551 (2020) 21
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2521 (2020) 15 (d), 15 (f), 21
Integration of child protection into peace processes and peace agreements		
Country and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2552 (2020) 23
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2531 (2020) 54
Thematic	Children and armed conflict	S/PRST/2020/3 seventh, eighth, twelfth, thirteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth

26. Protection of civilians in armed conflict

During the period under review, the Council held no meetings in connection with the item entitled “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”. Council members did, however, hold four open videoconferences in connection with the item.⁷²¹ More information on the videoconferences is given in table 1 below.⁷²²

On 21 April, at the initiative of the Dominican Republic,⁷²³ which held the Presidency for the month, the Council held an open videoconference on the topic of “Protection of civilians from conflict-induced hunger”. At the videoconference,⁷²⁴ the Council heard briefings by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the

Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council. At the outset, the Director-General of FAO welcomed the Council’s engagement on the subject and its continued recognition of the relationship between conflict and hunger. He focused his remarks on how the *2020 Global Report on Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions* by the Food Security Information Network clearly showed the link between conflict and rising levels of acute food insecurity, especially in contexts of instability, such as in South Sudan, Yemen and the Sahel. In that connection, he stated that the experience of FAO showed that interventions supporting livelihoods and food security contributed to local peace and broader peace processes, as they addressed not only the symptoms but also the root causes of conflict. He stressed that conflict prevention and acting early to reduce the impact of conflict were highly effective steps that could be taken to avert and reduce acute food insecurity. In that sense, prevention was needed as conflicts, extreme weather, desert locusts, economic shocks and COVID-19 were likely to push additional millions of people into acute food

⁷²¹ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁷²² See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 16.

⁷²³ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 14 April 2020 ([S/2020/299](#)).

⁷²⁴ See [S/2020/340](#).