

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
24 September 2020	S/2020/953	Letter dated 28 September 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
20 October 2020	S/2020/1037	Letter dated 22 October 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
3 December 2020	S/2020/1176	Letter dated 8 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	Resolution 2553 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/1167

36. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

During the period under review, the Council held one meeting in connection with the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security”, which took the form of a briefing.⁹⁵⁷ Council members also held three open videoconferences in connection with the item.⁹⁵⁸ More information on the meeting, including on participants and speakers, is given in table 1 below. Additional information on the videoconferences is given in table 2 below. The Council also issued two presidential statements in connection with the item.

On 30 January, at the initiative of Viet Nam, which held the Presidency for the month,⁹⁵⁹ the Council held a meeting⁹⁶⁰ focused on cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the ASEAN Council. In his remarks, the Secretary-General noted that since the formalization of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations in 2011, the two organizations were today focusing on

how to strengthen their cooperation in addressing threats to peace and security. Looking ahead, he said that there were multiple potential areas of practical cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations in the areas of peace and security. In that regard, he highlighted the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations on peacekeeping, implementing the women and peace and security agenda and the youth and peace and security agenda, human rights, and counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism, as well as on addressing cross-border security threats and transnational organized crime and exploring early warning arrangements and threat analysis. With regard to the climate crisis and natural disaster management, he suggested strengthening the ties with ASEAN nations to strengthen adaptation and build resilience to disasters and to forge strategic synergies, collaborations and paths forward for future work. In his intervention, the Secretary-General of ASEAN touched upon two matters, namely the contributions of ASEAN to peace, security and prosperity, and its relations with its external partners, including the United Nations. On the former, he spoke about a number of areas, such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, by which ASEAN member States committed to maintaining peaceful relationships with one another, guided by the principles of mutual respect, non-interference in each other’s internal affairs and the peaceful settlement of disputes. He also highlighted the unique contribution of ASEAN to nurturing a conducive environment for peace and stability, including its ability to initiate and be the

⁹⁵⁷ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁹⁵⁸ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁹⁵⁹ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 9 January 2020 ([S/2020/30](#)).

⁹⁶⁰ See [S/PV.8711](#).

driving force on regional mechanisms and frameworks for promoting dialogue, cooperation and confidence-building, bringing together not only its member States but also external partners, including key players in the region and major global powers. On the relations of ASEAN with the United Nations, he noted that tangible results had been achieved since the five-year plan of action to implement the Joint Declaration was put in place in 2016, which he deemed a testament to the commitment of the two organizations in sustaining a comprehensive partnership. He also looked forward to commencing work on crafting the next plan of action of the ASEAN-United Nations comprehensive partnership for the period 2021–2025. In closing, he said that the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations provided an opportune time for the States Members of the United Nations, including ASEAN countries, to work closely together towards strengthening the United Nations.

Following the briefings, Council members recognized the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter, with some urging a greater reflection on such issues as how to strengthen coordination and coherence between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations regarding peace and security matters.⁹⁶¹ Several Council members also discussed specific situations in the South-East Asia region, such as the situation in the South China Sea and the Rohingya refugees in Myanmar, including the judicial proceedings initiated at the International Court of Justice by the Gambia against Myanmar.⁹⁶² Council members also acknowledged the role played by ASEAN in conflict prevention, resolution and management, as well as in the area of peacekeeping, and praised the progress achieved in relation to the women and peace and security agenda. Council members also highlighted areas where the two organizations could further cooperate, such as on the fight against terrorism and organized crime and climate change. In closing, the representative of Viet Nam expressed the hope that the momentum created by the meeting would be carried into the future to forge a more robust cooperation between the United Nations and ASEAN.

On 28 May, Council members held an open videoconference⁹⁶³ in connection with the item, focused on cooperation between the United Nations

and the European Union. At the videoconference, Council members heard a briefing by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. In his intervention, the High Representative outlined areas of action of the European Union on matters of international peace and security, particularly in the Sahel and Libya, as well as the Middle East and Europe. He also informed Council members regarding the launch of Operation IRINI of the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean with the core task of implementing the United Nations arms embargo on Libya. The High Representative further noted that the COVID-19 pandemic risked unravelling the progress in recent years towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it could exacerbate existing conflicts and generate new geopolitical tensions. He closed his briefing with some broader strategic reflections on the need to recommit to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and to support putting the climate and security nexus on the Council's agenda.

In their statements, Council members addressed and highlighted some of the main contributions of the European Union to international peace and security, including on peacekeeping, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, human rights and humanitarian assistance. In addition, some Council members made reference to the launch of Operation IRINI.⁹⁶⁴ A number of Council members also reaffirmed their commitment and expressed support to deepening international cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.⁹⁶⁵

On 8 September, at the initiative of the Niger, which held the Presidency for the month,⁹⁶⁶ Council members held a videoconference⁹⁶⁷ in connection with the item, focused on the role of the International Organization of la Francophonie. Council members were briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, in his capacity as Chair of the Ministerial Conference of the International Organization of la Francophonie. In her briefing, the Assistant Secretary-General noted that it was a particularly opportune time to look at the partnership

⁹⁶¹ For further details on the discussion, see part VIII, sect. I.B.

⁹⁶² See [S/PV.8711](#).

⁹⁶³ See [S/2020/489](#).

⁹⁶⁴ Belgium, France, Niger, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

⁹⁶⁵ China, France, Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), United Kingdom and United States.

⁹⁶⁶ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 1 September 2020 ([S/2020/880](#)).

⁹⁶⁷ See [S/2020/893](#).

between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie at their seventy-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries, respectively. She also noted that the two organizations were currently cooperating to promote international peace and security, sustainable development, good governance, democracy, rule of law, human rights and the inclusion of women and youth. In her briefing, she highlighted the cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in the areas of early warning and conflict prevention, electoral assistance and observation of electoral processes, as well as in the areas of peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding. The Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie highlighted the organization's three main areas of action in support of international peace and security, namely peacekeeping, crisis prevention and management, and supporting the democratic processes of its Member States. She further reported about the launch, on 25 September 2019, of a francophone platform in the Council to provide a framework for regular dialogue on international peace and security issues, with a view to amplifying the francophone voice in the Council, to develop convergences between francophones on issues on the Council's agenda and to continue the organization's actions to promote the French language and linguistic diversity in the work of the Council. In his briefing, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia focused on the cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie and noted that at a time when the negative consequences of the COVID-19 crisis were likely to weigh particularly heavily on developing countries and on the most vulnerable people, the two organizations needed to strongly affirm their willingness to promote peace, cooperation, solidarity and the values of living together in harmony. He added that it was in that regard that the International Organization of la Francophonie strongly supported the call of the Secretary-General for a global ceasefire and Council resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#).

Following the briefings, Member States praised the work of the International Organization of la Francophonie in promoting democracy, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. In addition, some speakers noted that many peacekeeping operations took place in French-speaking countries, and in that regard the representative of France argued that proficiency in French was a guarantee of effectiveness and needed therefore to be a precondition for deployment, while other speakers noted that multilingualism and communicating in French with local actors and civilians promoted increased confidence in the personnel of United

Nations missions and built trust, better understanding and engagement with the local community.⁹⁶⁸

On 4 December, Council members held a high-level open videoconference⁹⁶⁹ in connection with the item, focused on cooperation with the African Union. At the videoconference, Council members were briefed by the Secretary-General and by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The Secretary-General stated that cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the African regional economic communities and other regional mechanisms had gained in depth and scope, particularly since the 2017 signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and, in 2018, the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He added that African Heads of State and Government had presented a compelling vision for peace and security through the flagship initiative of Silencing the Guns in Africa and the Lusaka master road map. In that regard, he elaborated on the several ways in which the United Nations had sought to support those initiatives, including through technical assistance to mediation and disarmament capacities, partnering with the African Union to create the African Women Leaders Network and investment in youth-empowerment activities. The Secretary-General also highlighted other areas of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and signalled that action in Africa by the two organizations would benefit from a number of concrete steps, namely, further institutionalization of the cooperation at every level, which would also require a stronger collaboration between the Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, ensuring the predictability of financing for African Union peace support operations through assessed contributions, and doing much more to involve and engage women and young people in the peace and security agenda.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission stated that cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union was not only a necessity for both organizations but a prerequisite for the implementation of their mandates of promoting and upholding international peace and security. He also supported predictable, sustainable and flexible financing for African Union-led or African Union-authorized peace support operations, based on the principle of the use of

⁹⁶⁸ Dominican Republic, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, Côte d'Ivoire, Ireland, Romania and Senegal.

⁹⁶⁹ See [S/2020/1179](#).

United Nations assessed contributions. He also stated that the annual consultative meetings between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union since 2007 had been key in strengthening Council-to-Council engagement and noted that the two organizations had also increased operational cooperation and coordination by working hand in hand to support peace processes. Several Council members called for deeper cooperation between the Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union,⁹⁷⁰ and others expressed support for United Nations-assessed contributions to African Union-led peace support operations.⁹⁷¹

On 4 December, the Council issued two presidential statements in connection with the item, which were announced simultaneously at an open videoconference. In the first of the two presidential statements, the Council commended the increasing contribution of the African Union to the maintenance of peace and security and expressed its willingness to continue its cooperation and collaboration with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on issues of peace and security in Africa.⁹⁷² It also recognized that since the strengthening of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, significant gains had been made in finding sustainable solutions to African armed conflicts and moving the continent onto a path towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.⁹⁷³ The Council continued to encourage the United Nations and the African Union to strengthen their efforts to coordinate their engagement in a mutually supportive manner,

across the range of possible responses to conflict, in line with their Joint Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, and also emphasized the need for joint action between the two organizations to end sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations.⁹⁷⁴ The Council also acknowledged the need for more support to enhance African Union peace operations and encouraged further dialogue between the United Nations and the African Union to achieve it.⁹⁷⁵

In the second of the presidential statements (S/PRST/2020/12), the Council took note of the improved security situation in Burundi and of the six principal priorities presented by the President of Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye, for his Government in his inauguration speech on 18 June 2020, following the broadly peaceful elections.⁹⁷⁶ The Council also called upon the United Nations, the African Union, the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the guarantors of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi of 2000 to coordinate their efforts in assisting Burundian stakeholders in the implementation of the Arusha Agreement, which had helped to sustain a decade of peace in Burundi.⁹⁷⁷ Finally, noting that the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi had completed his assignment on 30 November 2019, the Council requested the Secretary-General to cease periodic reporting on the situation in that country and looked forward to the Secretary-General covering the situation in Burundi as part of his regular reporting on the Great Lakes region and Central Africa.⁹⁷⁸

⁹⁷⁰ South Africa, Niger, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Belgium, Germany, Indonesia and Dominican Republic.

⁹⁷¹ South Africa, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and United Kingdom.

⁹⁷² S/PRST/2020/11, sixth and fifteenth paragraphs.

⁹⁷³ Ibid., fifth paragraph.

⁹⁷⁴ Ibid., eleventh and eighteenth paragraphs.

⁹⁷⁵ Ibid., tenth paragraph.

⁹⁷⁶ S/PRST/2020/12, first paragraph.

⁹⁷⁷ Ibid., fifth paragraph.

⁹⁷⁸ Ibid., sixth paragraph. For more information on the Great Lakes region, see part I, sect. 3. See also part IX, sect. VI for more information on special advisers, envoys and representatives.

Table 1
Meetings: cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations

<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.8711 30 January 2020	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)			Secretary-General of ASEAN	Secretary-General, 13 Council members, ^a invitee	

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2020

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	Letter dated 9 January 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2020/30)					

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

Table 2

Videoconferences: cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
28 May 2020	S/2020/489	Letter dated 2 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	
8 September 2020	S/2020/893	Letter dated 10 September 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the Security Council	
4 December 2020	S/2020/1179	Letter dated 8 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the Security Council	S/PRST/2020/11 S/PRST/2020/12