

Table 2
Videoconferences: peacebuilding and sustaining peace

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
12 August 2020	S/2020/799	Letter dated 14 August 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 November 2020	S/2020/1090	Letter dated 5 November 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
21 December 2020	S/2020/1273	Letter dated 21 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 2558 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/1269

34. Threats to international peace and security

During the period under review, the Council held no meetings in connection with the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security”. Council members did, however, hold three videoconferences in 2020 in connection with the item.⁸⁹⁴ More information on the videoconferences is given in the table below. In addition, the Council adopted its resolution [2544 \(2020\)](#) in connection with the item.

In 2020, in connection with the item, Council members heard two briefings on the progress in the work of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD), at which the Special Adviser and Head of UNITAD briefed the members of the Council on the activities of the Investigative Team. In the videoconference held on 15 June, he presented the fourth report⁸⁹⁵ on the activities of UNITAD and informed the Council about the significant progress made in the identification and collection of new sources of evidentiary material which, if fully harnessed, had the potential to mark a paradigm shift in the prosecution of ISIL (Da’esh) members for the crimes they had committed in Iraq.⁸⁹⁶ The Special Adviser noted that UNITAD had moved forward a number of its lines of investigation into a phase of evidence consolidation and legal analysis. He further provided Council members with updates on the progress made in the investigation of crimes in the

areas of Mosul, Sinjar and Tikrit, noting the cooperation of UNITAD with the Iraqi and Kurdistan Regional Government authorities. With regard to the fifth report of UNITAD,⁸⁹⁷ on 10 December Council members held another videoconference⁸⁹⁸ in which the Special Adviser presented the innovative solutions that UNITAD had developed to confront the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the use of remote interviews and submission of evidence through a new online portal. The Special Adviser stated that the provision of meaningful support by UNITAD to Iraqi investigative judges represented an important moment in the implementation of its mandate, adding that with the potential adoption of legislation in Iraq allowing for the prosecution of international crimes, it was possible to begin to see a clear path towards the fulfilment of the promise made by the Council to survivors and affected communities through resolution [2379 \(2017\)](#). The Special Adviser also underlined the partnerships built by UNITAD with non-governmental organizations and with the religious leadership of Iraq. Concluding his briefing, the Special Adviser noted that UNITAD would continue to rely on the unanimous support of the Council members. Following the briefing, several Council members expressed their full support for the work of UNITAD,⁸⁹⁹ with some focusing on the importance of cooperation with a range of local actors, including civil society.⁹⁰⁰ Other Council members noted the

⁸⁹⁴ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁸⁹⁵ See [S/2020/386](#).

⁸⁹⁶ See [S/2020/547](#).

⁸⁹⁷ See [S/2020/1107](#).

⁸⁹⁸ See [S/2020/1193](#).

⁸⁹⁹ Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Niger, United Kingdom and United States.

⁹⁰⁰ Germany, Indonesia and South Africa.

importance of respecting the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Iraq over crimes committed on its territory and called on UNITAD to maintain its impartiality and discharge its duties in line with its mandate.⁹⁰¹

On 18 September, pursuant to a request by the Government of Iraq,⁹⁰² the Council unanimously

adopted resolution [2544 \(2020\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of the Special Adviser and UNITAD until 18 September 2021.⁹⁰³ By the same resolution, the Council also requested the Special Adviser to continue to submit and present reports to the Council on the team's activities every 180 days.⁹⁰⁴

⁹⁰¹ China, Russian Federation, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

⁹⁰² See [S/2020/909](#).

⁹⁰³ Resolution [2544 \(2020\)](#), para. 2.

⁹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 4. For more information, see part IX, sect. III.

Videoconferences: threats to international peace and security

<i>Videoconference data</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
15 June 2020	S/2020/547	Letter dated 17 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	
18 September 2020	S/2020/917	Letter dated 18 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	Resolution 2544 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/920
10 December 2020	S/2020/1193	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	

35. Maintenance of international peace and security

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings in connection with the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security". One of the meetings took the form of a high-level open debate and two were convened to adopt decisions.⁹⁰⁵ The Council adopted four resolutions, one of them under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued one presidential statement. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below. In addition, Council members held nine videoconferences in connection with the item. More information on the videoconferences is given in table 2 below. In addition to meetings and videoconferences, Council members also held informal consultations of the whole and closed videoconferences in connection with the item.⁹⁰⁶

As in previous periods, a broad range of new and existing sub-items of both a thematic and a regional

nature were discussed in connection with the item.⁹⁰⁷ The thematic sub-items were: (a) Upholding the United Nations Charter; (b) Implications of COVID-19; (c) Youth and peace and security; (d) Climate and security; (e) Humanitarian effects of environmental degradation and peace and security; (f) Global governance after COVID-19; and (g) Security sector reform. The region-specific sub-items were: (a) Comprehensive review of the situation in the Persian Gulf region; and (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [2491 \(2019\)](#) relating to the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya.

On 9 January, at the initiative of Viet Nam, which held the Presidency for the month,⁹⁰⁸ the Council held a high-level open debate⁹⁰⁹ marking the seventy-fifth

⁹⁰⁵ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁹⁰⁶ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 35.

⁹⁰⁷ For more information on new sub-items, see part II, sect. III.A.

⁹⁰⁸ The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 31 December 2019 ([S/2020/1](#)).

⁹⁰⁹ See [S/PV.8699](#).