

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
29 January 2020
English
Original: French

Letter dated 24 January 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of France and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached herewith the assessment of the work carried out by the Security Council in March and April 2019 (see annexes I and II) under the twin presidencies of France and Germany. These documents were prepared under our responsibility, following consultations with other members of the Council.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicolas **de Rivière**
Permanent Representative of the French Republic

(Signed) Christoph **Heusgen**
Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany



Annex I to the letter dated 24 January 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of France and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of France (March 2019)

Introduction

Under the presidency of France in March 2019, the Security Council held 19 public meetings, including 1 open debate and 10 consultations of the whole. The Council adopted five resolutions and agreed on and five press statements. A Security Council mission to the Sahel was organized.

In accordance with the Organization's practice, France began its presidency with the presentation of the provisional programme of work of the Council for the month, which was adopted at the Council's consultations of the whole on 1 March.

Thematic and other issues

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

On 19 March, the Council was briefed by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The Chair briefed the Council on the progress made in the work of the Committee, the issue of assistance to States, and cooperation with international and regional organizations. The full review of the status of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), scheduled for 2021, was described as a priority of the Committee, which had begun preparations in that regard.

The Chair recalled that, so far, 182 States had submitted an initial report to the Committee. Work with Member States on national action plans continued, including through regional training sessions (such as a workshop hosted by Togo and one that was to be held in Madagascar) and peer reviews. The effectiveness of measures taken at the national level was identified as a key factor in addressing regulatory needs. The Chair highlighted the role of the national points of contact (at the time, 105 Member States had informed the Committee of their points of contact) to support the full implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). The Committee's direct engagement with States, through the organization of visits and round tables, remained a priority.

Preventing and combating the financing of terrorism

On 28 March, the Council held an open debate on the issue of preventing and combating the financing of terrorism, with the participation of more than 70 delegations from Member States, and regional and international organizations.

At the opening of the debate, Council members unanimously adopted resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#), which was presented by France and was co-sponsored by a total of 68 Member States. In the resolution, the Council reiterated the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, called upon States to increase various efforts with a view to fulfilling these obligations and strongly urged all States to implement the comprehensive international standards embodied in the revised recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. It called upon States to adapt their response to the evolution of the threat, notably by cooperating with the

private sector concerning the evolution of the trends, source and methods of terrorist financing, and called for greater engagement of the United Nations.

After the adoption of the resolution, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov, the President of the Financial Action Task Force, Marshall Billingslea, and an expert on combating money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, Mercy Buku. Mr. Voronkov welcomed the fact that the recently adopted resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) expanded the focus on countering the financing of terrorism to key emerging issues and highlighted the willingness of the Office of Counter-Terrorism to support Member States in the implementation of the resolution. Mr. Billingslea focused on the challenges arising from new forms of terrorism financing and the need for Member States to fully implement the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force in that regard. Ms. Buku stressed the importance of cooperation with the private sector and the need to foster financial inclusion while combating the financing of terrorism.

Interventions by Member States and several international and regional organizations converged around the same challenges and priorities: implementing existing international obligations; adapting national frameworks and strengthening inter-agency coordination; strengthening regional and international cooperation; enhancing cooperation with the private sector and civil society; taking into account the potential impact of countermeasures, including on humanitarian action; respecting and promoting human rights while countering terrorism; holding accountable those responsible for terrorist acts; and dealing with the root causes of terrorism.

Europe

Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

On 7 March, the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Miroslav Lajčák, briefed the Council on the priorities of OSCE.

Mr. Lajčák focused his briefing on the three following topics: (a) the situation in Ukraine; (b) the situation in Georgia, regarding which Mr. Lajčák fully supported existing formats and remained committed to the international discussions held in Geneva and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism; and (c) the enhancement of an effective multilateralism that the international community should keep high on its agenda.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security: European Union

On 12 March, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, briefed the Council on the cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union.

Ms. Mogherini listed major challenges that have emerged in the context of specific regional situations, addressing the necessary democratic transition in the Syrian Arab Republic, the situation in Yemen and the hopes raised as a result of the Stockholm Agreement, and the need to implement relevant Council resolutions on Libya. Ms. Mogherini also mentioned the situation in Afghanistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Regarding Africa, the tripartite cooperation between the European Union, the United Nations and the African Union was essential to counter the threat of terrorism and organized crime. Regarding the Balkans, she called for a

resumption of the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. Finally, on disarmament and non-proliferation, Ms. Mogherini recalled the European Union support of the nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 11 March, the Council held a briefing followed by consultations on the situation in Afghanistan and the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA, Tadamichi Yamamoto, and the Deputy Executive Director of the Afghan Women's Network, Storai Tapes, who joined via videoconference from Kabul. In accordance with rule 37, the National Security Adviser of Afghanistan, Hamdullah Mohib, spoke on behalf of Afghanistan.

On 15 March, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2460 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNAMA.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Haiti

On 8 March, closed consultations on the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti were held. The Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Miroslav Jenča, briefed the Council.

Middle East

Syrian Arab Republic

On 6 March, closed consultations on the implementation of Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) were held. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Nakamitsu Izumi, on the latest monthly report of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

On 27 March, a briefing was held on the political and humanitarian issues concerning the Syrian Arab Republic. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, and the Director of the Coordination Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Ramesh Rajasingham. Both speakers stressed the dangerous consequences of the military escalation in Idlib and the dire humanitarian situation. Ms. DiCarlo briefed the Council on the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Geir Pedersen, noting that he had made proposals to the Astana guarantors regarding the release of detainees. Mr. Rajasingham mentioned the third Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region, at which \$7 billion were pledged for the Syrian Arab Republic. Member States recalled their support for the implementation of Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), including the launching of the constitutional committee, and for the Special Envoy.

Yemen

On 13 March, closed consultations on the situation in the Middle East (Yemen) were held. The Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General

for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, and by the head of the Redeployment Coordination Committee, Lieutenant General Michael Lollesgaard.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 26 March, a briefing and consultations were held on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, Nickolay Mladenov, briefed the Council in a context of violence owing to the recent firefights between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

Mr. Mladenov expressed his concern about the firefights. He explained that settlement activity was continuing, with the construction of 3,000 housing units. Similarly, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian property continued in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Similarly, in and around Gaza, the violence had escalated. No progress had been noted since the Israeli decision to withhold 6 per cent of funds paid to the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian leadership's decision to refuse any funds paid by Israel had resulted in some very severe austerity measures by the Government of the State of Palestine, resulting in a 50 per cent cut in salaries for over 50 per cent of government employees. Loans were going to be requested by the Government to the banks, complicating an already difficult economic situation.

Member States condemned the decision of the United States of America to support the annexation by Israel of Golan.

Lebanon

On 27 March, closed consultations were held on Lebanon. The Council was briefed by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Jan Kubiš, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, Major General Stefano Del Col, on the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

Golan

On 27 March, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretaries-General Rosemary DiCarlo and Jean-Pierre Lacroix on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

Ms. DiCarlo first recalled the history of the conflict between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the creation of UNDOF following the signing of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces in 1974. She stated that the Secretary-General had taken note of the decision on the Golan of the President of the United States, Donald Trump, and reiterated the Secretary-General's statement that the position of the United Nations on the Golan remained known and clear, as reflected notably in Council resolutions [242 \(1967\)](#) and [497 \(1981\)](#).

Mr. Lacroix presented the main elements of the most recent report of the Secretary-General on UNDOF. He stressed the risk of escalation and the importance of maintaining the ceasefire despite a number of violations of the Disengagement Agreement and increased military activity across the ceasefire line. He also recalled the threats to the security of the UNDOF personnel and the mission's progress in the implementation of its redeployment plan on the Bravo side. He also underlined the importance of cooperation among the parties to enable UNDOF to fulfil its mandate.

Member States reiterated their full support to UNDOF and emphasized its essential role for the stability of the region.

Africa

Libya

On 20 March, a briefing and consultations were held on the situation in Libya. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Ghassan Salamé, briefed the Council via videoconference on the situation in Libya and on the activities of UNSMIL and the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya summarized the most recent report on the activities of the Committee.

Mr. Salamé explained that UNSMIL strived to preserve political stability, especially in Jufrah and Sirte. In economic terms, he was encouraged by the measures taken to combat the economy of predation and illicit trafficking. More than 100 arrest warrants of individuals involved in fuel trafficking had been issued. Oil production had increased to 1.2 million barrels per day and audits of central banks would start soon. Mr. Salamé also mentioned that, in recent months, UNSMIL had had much contact with regional organizations, including the League of Arab States, the African Union and the European Union. He confirmed that the national conference would be held from 14 to 16 April in Ghadamis. Mr. Salamé recalled the need for the Libyan parties to prepare for national elections. He mentioned the agreement made in Abu Dhabi between the two main actors, the President of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord, Faiez Serraj, and the Commander of the Libyan National Army, Khalifa Haftar, which should be a basis upon which to build a political dialogue to move towards the transition.

On 26 March, the Council issued a press statement in which the members of the Council emphasized their support for Mr. Salamé and UNSMIL in their efforts to mediate a political way forward that would lead to peaceful elections in Libya. The Council members welcomed the announcement by Mr. Salamé on 20 March that the national conference would be held from 14 to 16 April 2019 in Ghadamis. They also welcomed the convening on 27 February of the talks between Faiez Serraj and Khalifa Haftar in Abu Dhabi.

Somalia

On 1 March, the Council issued a press statement on the terrorist attacks in Mogadishu, in which the members of the Council condemned in the strongest possible terms the terrorist attacks of 28 February 2019 and expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to the people and the Government of Somalia. They reiterated their determination to support peace, stability and development in Somalia.

On 27 March, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2461 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended for one year the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia as previously set out in Council resolution [2158 \(2014\)](#).

South Sudan

On 5 March, a meeting with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was held. Mr. Lacroix briefed the Council.

Mr. Lacroix explained that, despite the peace agreement, the situation in South Sudan remained difficult and unstable. Mr. Lacroix mentioned the military capabilities review conducted in April 2018, as a result of which the following priorities were raised, among others: (a) improving the security of the Mission;

(b) improving the intra-theatre projection capabilities; and (c) strengthening the static protection of sites. In addition, he pointed out that the creation of a level 2 for field hospitals was under way and that an engineering unit had been deployed. A review of medical evacuation procedures had also recently been conducted.

On 8 March, a briefing and consultations were held on UNMISS. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS, David Shearer, and the head of a South Sudanese civil society organization, Angelina Jial, briefed the Council.

Mr. Shearer said that considerable progress had been made in recent months, but that the schedule was falling behind and the substantive issues had not yet been addressed. He also noted that displaced people had begun to return home during the dry season to be able to plant crops in July. He stressed that UNMISS did not force them to leave civilian protection sites but helped those who wanted to return. He noted that intercommunal and sexual violence remained high.

Ms. Jial emphasized the importance of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that worked with communities. She deplored the competition between local and international NGOs and regretted that funding went mainly to international NGOs. She advocated more funding for women's organizations.

All members of the Council reiterated the Secretary-General's statement in his most recent report, namely that the security situation had improved, but that much remained to be done.

On 15 March, the Council adopted resolution [2459 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNMISS. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 14 in favour, with one abstention.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 14 March, a meeting was held with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO, Leila Zerrougui, briefed the Council.

Ms. Zerrougui acknowledged that a positive dynamic was on track in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: some armed groups had already laid down their arms and others had pledged to demobilize. The demobilization and reintegration of militias in Ituri and Kasai should become priorities. Nevertheless, she noted that the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had suffered casualties in the fight against the Allied Democratic Forces.

During the interventions by Member States, Morocco explained that a reduction of the force would hamper the stabilization of the security situation, as the Democratic Republic of the Congo was a huge territory.

On 18 March, a briefing and consultations on MONUSCO were held. Ms. Zerrougui and the head of a civil society organization, Anny Tenga Modi, briefed the Council. Mr. Lacroix complemented the briefing with a statement in closed consultations.

Ms. Zerrougui noted the positive political improvements, including the release of political prisoners, that had occurred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of the good conduct of the elections. However, some issues remained: in four constituencies, the polls were postponed for security reasons; opposition groups contested some results; the Democratic Republic of the Congo experienced the second largest Ebola epidemic outbreak in history; attacks by the Allied Democratic Forces

and Mai-Mai groups against the civilian population, security forces and MONUSCO (in North Kivu) continued; and intercommunal tensions increased in South Kivu.

Ms. Modi pointed out that the electoral process had been challenged by protests and demonstrations, both before and after the elections. Ms. Modi then hailed the efforts made to combat sexual violence in the armed forces. She also noted the useful legal provisions adopted in support of the integration and participation of women in the political process, but regretted that they were not being implemented.

Member States unanimously welcomed the first acts of good intentions of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix Antoine Tshilombo Tshisekedi, especially in the field of human rights, but recalled that the situation remained fluid. Disarmament required international support, in particular because of the persistent fragility of certain areas threatened by armed groups (such as the Allied Democratic Forces and the Mai-Mai groups) or intercommunal conflicts.

On 29 March, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2463 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of MONUSCO until 20 December 2019. In the resolution, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to conduct and provide to the Council, by 20 October 2019, an independent strategic review of MONUSCO, including the articulation of a progressive and comprehensive exit strategy.

Great Lakes region

On 26 March, a briefing and consultations on the Great Lakes region were held. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, briefed the Council on the most recent report of the Secretary-General.

Mr. Djinnit welcomed the recent positive developments in the Great Lakes region, in particular the peaceful elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic. He then described the recent initiatives of his Office, such as the voluntary repatriation of 98 former combatants of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and 80 ex-Mouvement du 23 mars combatants. However, some crises remained: 4 million of the 6.3 million refugees in Africa were from the Great Lakes region and, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, tensions persisted and natural resources were still illegally exploited. Mr. Djinnit then summarized the implementation of the priority areas of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region.

All States welcomed the progress that the Great Lakes region had recently made, mentioning the peaceful transfer of power in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the peace agreements in the Central African Republic and South Sudan and the dynamics of voluntary repatriation. In general, the Council members stressed the importance of continuing to support the States in the region. Several members also stressed that the humanitarian situation remained a concern. The Ebola outbreak was also mentioned as persistent issue.

Sudan

On 26 March, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan, Joanna Wronecka, briefed the Council.

Ms. Wronecka focused on the work of the Committee, covering the period from 18 January to 25 March 2019. She focused on the informal meeting between the Committee and the countries in the region held on 12 February, the most recent

quarterly report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, and her upcoming trip, at a date to be determined, to the Sudan.

Guinea-Bissau

On 26 March, the Council issued a press statement in which the members of the Council congratulated the people and the Government of Guinea-Bissau for the peaceful conduct of the legislative elections on 10 March. The Council members called upon leaders of all political parties to continue to refrain from incitement towards any violent action and to respect the election results. They recalled the importance of ensuring the organization of a free presidential election and underscored the need for dialogue. The Council members also called upon the national authorities to expedite the review of the Constitution of Guinea-Bissau, in accordance with the Conakry Agreement and the six-point road map of the Economic Community of West African States.

Central African Republic

On 28 March, the Council issued a press statement in which the members of the Council welcomed the consensus reached by the parties to the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic regarding the formation of an inclusive Government, in line with article 21 of the Agreement, and urged the relevant Central African parties to implement the Agreement.

Mali

On 29 March, the Council held a ministerial-level meeting on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), with the participation of the Secretary-General and the Prime Minister of Mali, which was aimed at discussing the way forward regarding the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and the future of MINUSMA, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Council resolution [2423 \(2018\)](#).

The Secretary-General recalled that the massacre in Ogossogou appeared to have been premeditated. He urged the Malian authorities to strengthen their efforts to break the cycle of violence. MINUSMA had played a crucial role in protecting civilian populations from terrorism in northern and central Mali, at the cost of 18 lives since the beginning of the year. MINUSMA had strengthened its posture by working in close coordination with Malian defence and security forces, the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) and Operation Barkhane. Significant steps had been taken over the past six months to accelerate the implementation of the peace agreement, including the launching of the accelerated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, the establishment of interim authorities in the north and discussions to strengthen the participation of women in the implementation structures of the peace agreement.

Mali and the Sahel

The Council carried out a mission to Mali and Burkina Faso from 21 to 25 March 2019, which was co-led by Côte d'Ivoire, France and Germany, and the Council was briefed by the three co-leaders on the conclusion of the mission. In Mali, the Council assessed the level of implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and discussed the situation in the centre of the country in the context of the attacks in Ogossogou. Regarding the G5 Sahel, the Council examined recent progress in the operationalization of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel. In Burkina Faso, the Council expressed its interest in preventing a further destabilization of the security situation and was briefed on the assessment process led

by the United Nations in order to adapt its support to the evolving needs on the ground. The Chair of the Political and Security Committee of the European Union was invited to accompany the mission.

On 28 March, the Council held an informal ministerial-level meeting on the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, with the participation of the States members of the G5 Sahel, the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union. A consensus emerged among participants to consider a revision of the technical agreement on MINUSMA support to the Joint Force, with a view to better addressing the needs of the G5 Sahel while preserving the current balance of the mechanism set by Council resolution [2391 \(2017\)](#).

Annex II to the letter dated 24 January 2020 from the Permanent Representatives of France and Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Germany (April 2019)

Introduction

In April 2019, the Security Council, under the presidency of Germany, held 22 formal meetings, including 1 private meeting and 9 informal consultations. The Council adopted five resolutions, two presidential statements and six press statements

Thematic and other issues

Promoting and strengthening the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security

On 1 April, under the presidency of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Heiko Maas, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer, and a Professor of Practice at Harvard Law School, Naz K. Modirzadeh.

Mr. Lowcock reported that 139 million people worldwide were in acute humanitarian need. In many conflicts, humanitarian and medical personnel had been attacked directly. He called for greater respect for international humanitarian law. This sentiment was shared by Mr. Maurer, who warned of a politicization of humanitarian action in conflicts. Ms. Modirzadeh pointed to tensions between the principled provision of humanitarian action to all in need, including fighters, and the requirements of international counter-terrorism frameworks. Council members agreed on the need to protect humanitarian personnel in armed conflict and to explain the legal framework applicable to humanitarian operations. Many underlined the importance of international humanitarian law and spoke out against impunity for perpetrators of war crimes.

Non-proliferation

On 2 April, under the chairmanship of Mr. Maas, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Nakamitsu Izumi, and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Amano Yukiya.

Ms. Nakamitsu stressed the important role that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons had played in preventing nuclear war and reminded Member States not to take this success or the effectiveness of the Treaty for granted. According to her analysis, the risk of nuclear weapons being used was higher than it had been for previous generations. She expressed hope that the upcoming 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons would offer a chance for positive outcomes. Mr. Amano pointed to a steady increase in nuclear material being produced, resulting in a higher number of facilities under IAEA safeguards and financial pressure on the Agency. He placed special focus on the nuclear programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Council members unanimously supported the merits of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and highlighted the benefits of nuclear technology on the one hand while also voicing concerns over global security. The Council adopted a press statement in which the Council members expressed their support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

On 10 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2464 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution [1874 \(2009\)](#), as specified in paragraph 26 of Council resolution [1874 \(2009\)](#) and modified in paragraph 29 of Council resolution [2094 \(2013\)](#). The Council furthermore urged all States and relevant United Nations bodies to cooperate fully with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#).

Refugees

On 9 April, the Council was briefed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi. Mr. Grandi reported on the ongoing displacement of nearly 70 million people around the world. He traced those numbers back primarily to conflicts and regretted that current approaches to conflict resolution were often fragmented, addressing only symptoms rather than root causes. Mr. Grandi specifically called for Council action to bring to a halt the escalation of hostilities in Libya. More generally, he deplored a growing toxicity in the language of politics, in the media and in everyday conversations. Council members spoke about the need to address the root causes of conflicts and to embrace the link between security and development. Some Council members emphasized the significance of the global compact on refugees adopted in December 2018.

United Nations peacekeeping operations

In an open debate on women in peacekeeping operations on 11 April, the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, the Chief of Staff and Head of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, Kristin Lund, and the Secretary-General of the South Sudan Democratic Engagement Monitoring and Observation Programme and Women's Representative to the National Constitution Amendment Committee, Lorna Merekaje.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Defence of Germany, Ursula von der Leyen. The Secretary-General of the United Nations emphasized that the greater employment of female personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations increased the effectiveness of missions in many ways: more credible protection for local populations, a less confrontational atmosphere at checkpoints and higher reporting of sexual and gender-based violence. He also referred to his uniformed gender parity strategy 2018–2028, rolled out earlier in 2019, that focuses on improvements in recruitment, communications and leadership. Ms. Lund recounted her deployment as Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, during which time she doubled the participation of women in the Force to 8 per cent and 25 per cent for the military and police components, respectively. Ms. Merekaje expressed her concern regarding the challenges faced by troop- and police-contributing countries in ensuring that female personnel met the deployment criteria for participation in peacekeeping operations. In the following discussion, nearly 60 delegations and observers expressed their views on how to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping. Many delegations highlighted that this could strengthen the effectiveness of peacekeeping.

Women and peace and security

On 23 April, the Council, by a vote of 13 in favour to none against, with two abstentions (China, Russian Federation), adopted resolution [2467 \(2019\)](#), in which it reiterated its demand on all parties to armed conflict to end with immediate effect all acts of sexual violence. The Council encouraged Member States to adopt a survivor-centred approach in preventing and responding to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations and called upon them to ensure that survivors received the proper care. It also urged States to recognize the equal rights of all individuals affected by sexual violence in armed conflict.

The Council was briefed by Secretary-General António Guterres, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, two Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Nadia Murad and Denis Mukwege, a barrister, Amal Clooney, and the Chair of the Tamazight Women's Movement, Inas Miloud. The Secretary-General noted a paradigm shift in the understanding of sexual crimes within the past decade, while also pointing to ongoing violence on the ground. Ms. Murad reported on how Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant had enslaved thousands of Yazidi girls and described the lack of accountability. Mr. Mukwege emphasized the importance of delivering justice, for example through the adoption of targeted sanctions against perpetrators. Ms. Patten deplored the slow pace at which measures against sexual violence in conflicts were being implemented and highlighted how the issue undermined the prospect of peace and development. Ms. Clooney shared experiences in providing legal counsel to survivors and laid out legal options to ensure that such crimes were punished. Ms. Miloud reported on her group's work with indigenous women affected by sexual violence in Libya. The briefings were followed by a debate during which more than 90 delegations took the floor.

Fight against terrorism

On 22 April, the Council adopted a press statement in which the Council members condemned in the strongest terms the series of terrorist attacks that were conducted at Saint Anthony's Shrine in Colombo, Saint Sebastian's in Negombo, Zion Church in Batticaloa and the Shangri-La, Cinnamon Grand and Kingsbury hotels in Colombo, as well as the three explosions across Sri Lanka, on Easter Sunday, 21 April 2019, which resulted in nearly 300 killed and hundreds more wounded.

Africa

Mali

A presidential statement on the situation in Mali was adopted by the Council on 3 April. In it, the Council took note of the progress made in the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali since the inauguration of the President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, on 4 September 2018. It welcomed a number of steps taken, including the holding of presidential elections, progress in the decentralization process and the increased representation of women in the Government. The Council, however, also regretted that several provisions of the peace agreement had not yet been implemented, including the adoption of legislation to establish a regional territorial force and the completed integration of signatory armed groups into the Malian Defence and Security Forces. It encouraged the parties to the agreement to adopt a revised road map and called upon Malian authorities to closely coordinate with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Furthermore, it urged Malian authorities to ensure that those responsible for crimes involving violations of human rights and international

humanitarian law were held accountable. The Council strongly condemned the continued attacks against civilians, political representatives and security forces.

On 22 April, the Council adopted a press statement in which the Council members condemned in the strongest terms the attack perpetrated on 20 April against a convoy of MINUSMA between Douentza and Boni (in the region of Mopti).

Central African Republic

On 9 April, the Council adopted a presidential statement on the situation in the Central African Republic, in which it welcomed the significant efforts with regard to security sector reform made by the State authorities, in coordination with their international partners. The Council also welcomed the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic between the State authorities and 14 armed groups. The Council recalled its intention to establish key benchmarks for the reform of the security sector, the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process and the management of weapons and ammunition. It expressed its readiness to review the arms embargo measures on the basis of the progress made in meeting these benchmarks.

Western Sahara

In view of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) ending at the end of April, the Council held a total of three meetings on Western Sahara during the month.

In a closed meeting on 9 April, the troop- and police-contributing countries to MINURSO were briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Head of MINURSO, Colin Stewart. Mr. Stewart described the security situation on the ground as generally calm but stated that landmines in the area of operation remained a challenge for the activities of MINURSO. He commended the tangible progress made in reviving the political process in recent months.

On 10 April, the Council held closed consultations on MINURSO and heard briefings by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Horst Köhler, and by Mr. Stewart. Mr. Köhler briefed the Council on the results of the second round table between the parties in Geneva at the end of March 2019. He urged the parties to show signs of good faith in order to move the political process forward. Mr. Stewart reported on the meeting with troop- and police-contributing countries on 9 April and on the status of recorded violations of military agreement No. 1.

On 30 April, the Council, by a vote of 13 in favour to none against, with two abstentions (Russian Federation, South Africa), adopted resolution [2468 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended MINURSO for a period of six months, until 31 October. During the meeting, Council members emphasized their support for MINURSO, the political process and the efforts of the Personal Envoy.

South Sudan and Sudan

On 12 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2465 \(2019\)](#), thereby renewing the support provided by the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism along the border between South Sudan and the Sudan. Both the delegations of South Sudan and the Sudan welcomed the adoption of the resolution and confirmed their commitment to the implementation of the mandate of UNISFA.

On 17 April, the Council was briefed by the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Jeremiah Mamabolo, and the Assistant Secretary-

General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller. Mr. Mamabolo reported that the political situation in the Sudan could affect the implementation of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. The mission had started establishing working relationships with the new authorities. The planned withdrawal of the mission by 30 June 2020 was still on track. Ms. Mueller reported that regular humanitarian operations had continued, including a vaccination campaign for children. She warned that the economic crisis could lead to rising medicine and food prices. She noted a significant improvement in the security situation in Darfur. She also pointed to the 150,000 refugees from South Sudan.

On 30 April, the Council held briefings and consultations on UNISFA. It was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga. Mr. Lacroix highlighted the importance of UNISFA for the stability of the border regions between South Sudan and the Sudan and requested a six-month extension of the mission's mandate. He proposed the creation of a civilian unit and reported on the Council's request to reconfigure the mission. Mr. Onanga-Anyanga noted that the new authorities in the Sudan might need time to resume active engagement in bilateral relations concerning the border. Council members mentioned their concern that the conflict could become "frozen" and called upon the parties to fulfil their obligations, including the advancement of joint plans for the administration of Abyei.

Middle East

Libya

Given the developments during the month of April, the Council held a total of three closed consultations on Libya.

The first closed consultations were held on 5 April. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Ghassan Salamé. Mr. Salamé strongly urged the Council to send a clear call for de-escalation and warned of an expansion of the conflict. Council members were very concerned about the military offensive near Tripoli and expressed their full support for Mr. Salamé.

The Council held further closed consultations on Libya on 10 April. Secretary-General António Guterres briefed the Council on the development of the conflict, the results of his trip to Libya and the current military situation. He reported that, despite further fighting, there had been no military breakthroughs. While addressing the Council, the Secretary-General said that it was important for the Council to demonstrate unity. The Council members jointly called for an immediate ceasefire and urged all parties to the conflict to return to the political process.

On 18 April, the Council held another closed consultation on the developments in Libya. Once again, the Council was briefed by Mr. Salamé, who reported on the current security and humanitarian situation and on the political developments. Mr. Salamé said that the situation had changed and that the military stalemate contained considerable potential for expansion and escalation.

Yemen

On 15 April, the Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, and – in closed consultations – by the Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee and Head of the United Nations Mission

to Support the Hudaydah Agreement, Lieutenant General Michael Anker Lollesgaard. The Council was also briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, and a female civil society representative, Muna Luqman.

Mr. Griffiths reported on the agreement for the redeployment of governmental and militia forces from the port city of Hudaydah as part of the Stockholm Agreement of December 2018, and Lieutenant General Lollesgaard described the status of the implementation of the redeployment plan.

Mr. Lowcock reported on the humanitarian situation. He regretted that, at that point, only 10 per cent of the support pledged at the February 2019 donors conference in Geneva had been received. More generally, Mr. Lowcock also reported on an alarming resurgence in the cholera epidemic.

Ms. Gamba reported that more than 3,000 children had been verified as having been recruited and used in the conflict, with more than 7,500 children killed and maimed, and that more than 800 incidents of denial of humanitarian access to children had been documented. Ms. Luqman recounted her experience as a survivor of the war in Yemen.

Council members called for the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement and highlighted the importance of unhindered humanitarian access.

On 17 April, the Council adopted a press statement in which the Council members expressed their grave concern that, four months after agreements had been reached by the Government of Yemen and the Houthis in Stockholm, those agreements had not yet been implemented and reiterated their endorsement of the Stockholm Agreement.

Syrian Arab Republic

During the month of April, the Council held a total of three meetings on the Syrian Arab Republic.

On 4 April, the Council held closed consultations on the implementation of Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) and was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Nakamitsu Izumi, on the latest monthly report of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

On 24 April, the Council was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller, and a young woman from Aleppo, Nujeen Mustapha. Ms. Mueller expressed worries over the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and focused on the need for increased protection for persons with disabilities. She reported that 12 million people in the Syrian Arab Republic depended on humanitarian assistance. She further reported on the situations at Al-Hol camp and in Rukban. Ms. Mustapha told her story as a person with disabilities and called for specific plans to help people with disabilities as part of humanitarian programmes.

Further briefings and consultations on the Syrian Arab Republic were held on 30 April. The Council was briefed by the Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen. He reported on the efforts to create a constitutional committee and on his activities with regard to the issues of detainees, abductees and missing persons. He laid out plans to unlock a political process in Geneva between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the opposition to foster comprehensive dialogue. Council members reaffirmed their support for the efforts of Mr. Pedersen in the context of his five priorities and expressed hope for tangible progress.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 29 April, the Council held an open debate during which it was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, and the Palestinian and Israeli Co-Directors of EcoPeace Middle East, Nada Majdalani and Gidon Bromberg.

Ms. DiCarlo emphasized how violence, settlement expansion, unilateral measures and intra-Palestinian division deepened the mistrust and worsened the chances for peace. Ms. Majdalani called Gaza a humanitarian catastrophe because 97 per cent of groundwater in the Gaza Strip was not suitable for human consumption. Mr. Bromberg called upon the Council to urge the Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian authorities to advance cooperation on issues related to water and the environment.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Haiti

On 3 April, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, and the Executive Director of Zanmi Lasante, which is a non-governmental health-care provider for Haitians, Loune Viaud.

Mr. Lacroix presented the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). He voiced concern about the humanitarian needs and the security situation in the country. He addressed the possible transition from MINUJUSTH to a special political mission. Ms. Bachelet focused on the significance of strengthening the rule of law and protecting human rights in order to sustain peace and prevent violence. Ms. Viaud emphasized the urgent need to ensure the full and meaningful political participation of women. She called upon the Council to effect change by asking MINUJUSTH to help to build gender-sensitive services for survivors of sexual violence and by addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of women and girls. Council members supported the establishment of and the transition towards a special political mission.

On 12 April, the Council, by a vote of 13 in favour to none against, with two abstentions (Dominican Republic, Russian Federation), adopted resolution [2466 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of MINUJUSTH for six months. In the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report every 90 days on the implementation of the resolution. Furthermore, it requested a gradual and phased withdrawal of MINUJUSTH and called for plans for an integrated United Nations system presence that would include a special political mission. It also underscored the urgency for the Government of Haiti to ensure the protection of human rights by national police and the judiciary. During the meeting, many delegations expressed their hope for a new chapter in Haiti. A number of delegations stressed the importance of respecting human rights in order to improve security.

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

On 10 April, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees/International Organization for Migration joint special representative for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region, Eduardo Stein, and a professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, Kathleen Page.

Pointing to increasing malnutrition and shortages in the health system, Mr. Lowcock described severe humanitarian problems. He asked that humanitarian efforts be shielded from political influence. Mr. Lowcock reported on the efforts of the United Nations resulting from the release of funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund. He expressed the willingness of the United Nations to respond to the situation and called for help and support. Mr. Stein defined the population outflow as unparalleled in the modern history of Latin America and appealed to States to receive, assist and host the displaced. Ms. Page presented the findings of her research on the collapse of the health system in the country. Council members called for a political solution while several highlighted the urgent need for increased humanitarian assistance.

Colombia

On 12 April, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, Carlos Ruiz Massieu, and the Executive Director of the Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica, Rosa Emilia Salamanca.

Mr. Ruiz Massieu warned against reopening the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, notwithstanding tensions related to the draft statutory law for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. He reiterated the Secretary-General's call to adopt the law. He also reported progress in the fostering of societal debate across ideological lines and in the efforts to address ongoing human rights violations. Ms. Salamanca laid out the hopes and challenges connected to the peace agreement: integrating former combatants into communities, delivering justice and implementing human rights, including women's rights. Council members expressed their support for the peace process and showed concern over continuing acts of violence. Many referred to the vital role of the statutory law for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. Some commended Colombia for its efforts to accommodate refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

On 16 April, the Council adopted a press statement in which the Council members reiterated their full and unanimous support for the peace process in Colombia.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 15 April, the Council adopted a press statement in which the Council members condemned the announcement by the Taliban of a spring offensive.

Europe

Ukraine

On 25 April, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller, the Chief Monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Ertuğrul Apakan, and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group, Martin Sajdik.

Ms. DiCarlo reiterated that a lasting ceasefire was an urgent priority and pointed to the existing negotiating formats as the primary political forums. She reported on a Russian presidential decree allowing residents of eastern Ukraine to obtain Russian citizenship. Ms. Mueller spoke of 500,000 people living close to the contact line that needed aid and protection. Mr. Apakan reported on 50,000 ceasefire violations since the last recommitment to the ceasefire on 8 March and called for his mission to be given full access to the region. Mr. Sajdik noted a growing rift between certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions on the one hand and the rest of the country on the other. Council members called for the implementation of the Minsk agreements.
