

**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
13 December 2021

Original: English

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**Letter dated 10 December 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith an assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of June 2021 during the presidency of the Republic of Estonia (see annex).

The assessment was prepared by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the United Nations, following consultations with other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sven Jürgenson**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 10 December 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

### **Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Estonia (June 2021)**

#### **Introduction**

During the month of June 2021, the Security Council held 28 public meetings and 13 consultations of the whole. All Council meetings, apart from the three high-level meetings, were held in person in the Council Chamber. In addition, four private meetings (including two meetings with troop-contributing countries), one informal interactive dialogue and four Arria-formula meetings were convened. Eleven meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council were held. The Security Council adopted seven resolutions and agreed on two press statements and three press elements.

The signature events of the presidency included a high-level open debate on the theme “Maintenance of international peace and security: cybersecurity”, held on 29 June, to bring attention to the issue of emerging security threats; a high-level open debate on the theme “Children and armed conflict”, held on 28 June, to highlight how peace, security and conflict prevention are inextricably linked; and a high-level debate on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, held on 22 June, to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. A briefing on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations (the European Union) was held on 10 June, and an open debate on the implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council dated 30 August 2017 ([S/2017/507](#)) on working methods, was held on 16 June with a view to contributing to increasing the transparency of the Security Council and improving its working methods. One of the goals accomplished was to include civil society representatives, with a particular focus on female briefers, to brief the Council, as they provided a broader view of the impact of conflicts. Eight representatives – six of them women – briefed the Council at different meetings in June.

In addition to the traditionally very busy programme of work, the President of the Council had the honour of addressing the General Assembly at the appointment of António Guterres for a second term as Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 18 June, and of presenting the 2020 annual report of the Council at the General Assembly debate on 11 June.

In accordance with United Nations practice, Estonia 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 closed consultations on 1 June. On the same day, the President of the Council gave briefings to the press and to all States Members of the United Nations on the work of the Council in June. On 30 June, the President of the Council held an in-person wrap-up session for all States Members of the United Nations on the activities of the Council in June, with the Permanent Representatives of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland invited as briefers.

## Africa

### Libya

On 3 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2578 \(2021\)](#) extending the authorizations set out in resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#) for another 12 months, having previously been extended by resolution [2526 \(2020\)](#).

### The Sudan and South Sudan

#### United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan

On 3 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2579 \(2021\)](#), which extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan until 3 June 2022 and maintained its strategic objectives, while prioritizing support to the implementation of the Juba Agreement for Peace in the Sudan, the protection of civilians, capacity-building and constitution drafting during the current mandate cycle.

#### The Sudan – International Criminal Court

On 9 June, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, presented to the Council the thirty-third report of the Office of the Prosecutor of the Court regarding the situation in Darfur, pursuant to resolution [1593 \(2005\)](#). She recalled her recent visit to Darfur and reported on the constructive dialogue and good spirit of cooperation between the Court and the Government of the Sudan. She further maintained that peace and justice continued to elude the people of Darfur and that accountability remained critical for lasting peace in the Darfur region. She underlined that the four outstanding warrants must be executed and that suspects must be handed over to the Court. She stressed the urgent need for Ahmad Muhammad Harun to be transferred into the custody of the Court as a matter of priority. She regretted that the security situation in some areas of Darfur remained volatile. Members of the Council underlined the need to ensure accountability, including in relation to the five suspects. Members also commended Ms. Bensouda's tenure as Prosecutor of the Court on the occasion of her final briefing to the Council.

#### Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan

On 14 June, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan gave a briefing to the Council on the work of the sanctions committee, covering the period from 25 March to 14 June 2021. The Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations, Sven Jürgenson, as Chair of the Committee, highlighted that the Committee had held two virtual, informal meetings during the reporting period. On 30 March, the Committee was briefed by the Panel of Experts on its programme of work for the current mandate. On 17 May, the members of the Committee were given briefings by the Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba de Potgieter. The Chair also presented elements of the first quarterly update that the Panel of Experts had submitted to the Committee.

#### United Nations Mission in South Sudan

On 21 June, the Security Council held a briefing and consultations on South Sudan, and the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, briefed the Council for the first time. The Executive Director and co-founder of the Organization for Responsive Governance, Rajab Mohandis, also gave a briefing. The

Permanent Representative of South Sudan also participated in the meeting. The focus of both the briefers and the Council members was the tenth anniversary of South Sudan, which was marked on 9 July. Members of the Council commended some positive achievements, such as the reconstitution of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly and the fact that the ceasefire was largely holding. However, the Council members also recognized the continuing subnational violence; the need for judicial reforms; attacks on humanitarian workers; the dire humanitarian situation, which was largely human-made and preventable; and the worsening economic situation in the country. The Council members urged the Government of South Sudan to move forward with political developments and expressed concern about the rising number of violations of the status-of-forces agreement. In broader terms, members encouraged the Government to move forward by adhering to the arms embargo benchmarks.

### **United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa**

On 7 June, the Security Council held an open meeting followed by closed consultations on the situation in Central Africa. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, François Louncény Fall, gave the Council a briefing on the activities of the Regional Office and the political and security developments in the region. He welcomed the collective efforts of the Central African Republic and Chad to resolve their differences through dialogue and the recent democratic elections in the Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo. However, he also highlighted that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continued to affect the region and the work of the office. He expressed concern over the continued violence in Cameroon and the Central African Republic, the increased threat posed by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin and the growing threat of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

Council members voiced support for the recommendation of the Secretary-General to renew the Regional Office's mandate and commended initiatives to broker peace and restore stability.

### **United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic**

On 7 June, the situation in the Central African Republic was raised under the agenda item "Other matters" by France, Kenya, the Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Mankeur Ndiaye, briefed the Council on a spike in hostile activities targeting MINUSCA and United Nations staff and a notable increase in violations of the status-of-forces agreement. He expressed particular concern about the threats made against the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Representative for the Central African Republic, Denise Brown, and about cross-border clashes between the Central African Republic and Chad and their partners.

Council members expressed their support to MINUSCA and stressed the importance of upholding the status-of-forces agreement. Press elements were adopted following the meeting.

On 23 June, the Security Council held its regular open meeting followed by closed consultations on the situation in the Central African Republic. The Security Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the

Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA; the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union, Bankole Adeoye; and the Managing Director for Africa at the European External Action Service, Rita Laranjinha. The President of Angola, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, and the representatives of the Central African Republic, Chad and the Congo also participated in the briefing.

The briefers expressed concern over an increase in violations of status-of-forces agreements and hostile activities targeting MINUSCA and United Nations staff. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General also highlighted the increase in conflict-related sexual violence in the Central African Republic, the deteriorating humanitarian situation and human rights violations in the country.

The representative of the Central African Republic addressed the Council, highlighting the progress made by the Government against armed groups. The representative of Chad addressed the Council and stressed that the activities of foreign mercenaries were undermining peace prospects in Central Africa. They further highlighted cross-border clashes between the armed forces of Chad and the Central African Republic and their partners.

### **United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali**

On 7 June, the Security Council held a closed meeting with countries contributing troops to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of MINUSMA, El Gassim Wane, emphasized the essential role of MINUSMA in the stabilization of Mali and the need to focus on implementing the adaptation plan despite delays in filling capability gaps. He said that the Mission still lacked helicopters, surgical teams and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability. Recent political turmoil had not affected peacekeeping activities. He stressed the importance of improving coordination on strategic communications between the Mission and the local authorities.

Member States recalled their planned contributions to MINUSMA and expressed the wish to be able to monitor the implementation of the adaptation plan. During the discussions, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General underscored the importance of the deployment and effective engagement of the units of the reconstituted army and the continuation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

On 14 June, the Security Council held an open meeting followed by closed consultations on MINUSMA. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and by the President of the Coalition des Femmes Leaders Nord, Sud et Centre du Mali, Fatima Maiga. The Special Representative gave an overview of the latest political developments in Mali since the coup d'état on 24 May and warned that the coup had cast a shadow over efforts to restore an elected democratic government. He emphasized the need for an inclusive approach, for strong Malian leadership and for concrete steps to be taken in order for the reform agenda to succeed. He stressed the importance of support from international partners including the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States. He pointed out the extremely difficult security situation in central and northern Mali, as well as the deeply concerning reports of human rights violations. Ms. Maiga focused on the deterioration in women's rights in Mali; emphasized the need to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the peace process; and made concrete suggestions on how to strengthen the mandate of MINUSMA with regard to the protection of women's rights in Mali, especially in central Mali.

The Security Council members expressed converging views on the need to prepare for general elections in February 2022 and to ensure a transparent and

inclusive political transition. Concern was voiced about the deteriorating situation with regard to the protection of civilians, and the importance of Malian ownership and leadership in achieving peace and stability in Mali and in implementing the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali was emphasized. Several delegations stressed the need to address human rights violations and abuses and international humanitarian law violations. Moreover, a number of delegations called for more sustainable and predictable support for the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.

On 29 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2584 \(2021\)](#), extending the mandate of MINUSMA for another 12 months, until 30 June 2022.

#### **Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia**

On 14 June, as Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia, the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, Geraldine Byrne Nason, gave her 120-day briefing to the Council, pursuant to paragraph 11 (g) of resolution [1844 \(2008\)](#). She noted that, on 26 February, the Committee had included three individuals on its sanctions list who held various positions in the armed group Al-Shabaab. She also highlighted that the Committee had discussed the midterm update at an informal meeting held virtually on 4 June. Somalia also participated in the 14 June briefing.

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

On 15 June, at the request of Kenya on behalf of the African members of the Security Council plus one – Kenya, the Niger and Tunisia plus Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – and France, the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was discussed under “Other matters”. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, gave a briefing to Council members on the situation following the eruption of the Mount Nyiragongo volcano on 22 May 2021. It was noted that the eruption had further complicated the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Council members commended the efforts of the Congolese authorities, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other partners in their response to the volcanic eruption. Council members underlined the continued need to assist the Government in facilitating the return of displaced persons and to rebuild infrastructures and ensure access to essential services. After the meeting, press elements were adopted.

On 29 June, the Security Council adopted resolution [2582 \(2021\)](#) renewing the sanctions regime imposed on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and extending by 12 months the mandate of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was overseeing their implementation. The Council demanded States to ensure that all measures taken by them to implement the resolution complied with their obligations under international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law, as applicable.

#### **Ethiopia**

On 15 June, an informal interactive dialogue was held on the humanitarian situation in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator briefed the members of the Council on the latest developments related to the humanitarian situation in the region and called for measures to be taken to address the growing threat of famine. He also mentioned allegations of violations of international humanitarian law in the region.

The Executive Director of the World Food Programme, David Beasley, provided an overview of the activities of the World Food Programme and called for unhindered humanitarian access in Tigray. The Commissioner of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission of Ethiopia, Mitiku Kassa, also briefed the Council on the humanitarian situation from the viewpoint of the Government of Ethiopia. The Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations also took part in the meeting, confirming the openness of the Government of Ethiopia to cooperate with international organizations focused on mitigating the humanitarian situation and to investigating allegations of violations of international humanitarian law. The Council members called for increased cooperation between the Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian organizations. Some Council members called for efforts to ensure broader humanitarian access, expressed concern about reports of continued sexual violence and other human rights violations and called for an end to the hostilities and the withdrawal of non-Ethiopian troops from Tigray. Some members stressed the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and called for increased international funding for humanitarian aid.

## **Middle East**

### **The situation in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)**

#### *Chemical weapons*

On 3 June, the Council held an open briefing on the implementation of resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) on the issue of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Council members were briefed by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, and the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Fernando Arias.

#### *Humanitarian situation*

On 23 June, the Security Council held an open meeting on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretary-General made an introductory statement and the Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ramesh Rajasingham, gave a detailed briefing on the humanitarian situation and the status of cross-border and cross-line deliveries. A briefer from civil society, the Country Director for CARE Turkey, Sherine Ibrahim, further elaborated on the humanitarian efforts taking place in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic. All briefers underlined the importance of improving the humanitarian situation in the country. The members of the Council discussed possible ways of meeting humanitarian needs across the Syrian Arab Republic.

#### *Political situation*

On 25 June, the Security Council held an open meeting on the political situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Geir Pedersen, gave a briefing on the status of the Constitutional Committee and national ceasefire efforts. A briefer from a member of civil society and of the Syrian Women's Political Movement, Abeer Hussein, focused her remarks on the role of women in peacebuilding. The members of the Council underlined the importance of resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#) in finding a peaceful solution to the Syrian conflict.

### **United Nations Disengagement Observer Force**

On 10 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, presented to the troop-contributing countries the conclusions of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

(UNDOF) (S/2021/516) with regard to the situation in the UNDOF area of operations and the activities of the Force and Observer Group Golan over the previous three months.

On 14 June, the Security Council held consultations on UNDOF. The Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations briefed the Council on the activities of the Mission over recent months and expressed concern about the continued violations of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces, which on several occasions had posed a risk to Mission personnel. He stressed the need for the parties to facilitate the full return of UNDOF to the area of separation and to allow the resumption of inspections. Observers continued to face the threat posed by explosive remnants of war and by the volatile security situation in the central and southern part of the area of operations on the Bravo side. The Under-Secretary-General recalled the operational challenges owing to the closures of the Alpha and Bravo gates at the Qunaytirah crossing point in the context of the pandemic. He noted that UNDOF had protested all the violations by the parties to the Disengagement of Forces Agreement that it had observed, including the firing into and across the area of separation as well as across the ceasefire line, the presence of unauthorized equipment and personnel in the areas of separation and limitation, the crossing of the ceasefire line by drones and aircraft, as well as crossings by civilians from the Bravo side. UNDOF had closely liaised with the parties, including during periods of heightened tension, in an effort to de-escalate the situation.

The members of the Security Council expressed their unanimous support for UNDOF and stressed the need for the parties to fully implement the Disengagement of Forces Agreement. They called for action to avoid violations of the Agreement and to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of UNDOF personnel. The members also stressed the important role of UNDOF in stabilizing the region and expressed support for extending the Mission's mandate for a further six months.

On 29 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2581 \(2021\)](#), renewing the mandate of UNDOF for another six months, until 31 December 2021, as it continued to monitor compliance with the Disengagement of Forces Agreement.

### **The situation in the Middle East (Yemen)**

On 3 June, the Security Council held a briefing and consultations on the floating storage and offloading oil tanker *Safer* in Yemen. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Inger Andersen, and the Director of Operations and Advocacy Division of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Reena Ghelani, briefed the Council on the increasing environmental and humanitarian risks posed by the decaying oil tanker and on the latest developments regarding negotiations with Houthi officials on the deployment of a United Nations technical team to the ship. The Council adopted press elements, reiterating Houthi responsibility for the situation and stressing its extreme concern about the growing risk that the tanker could rupture or explode. The press elements also included a call for the Houthis to facilitate unconditional and safe access for United Nations experts to conduct a comprehensive and impartial assessment and initial repair mission without further delay, ensuring close cooperation with the United Nations.

On 15 June, the Security Council held a monthly briefing and consultations on the situation in Yemen. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, who briefed the Council for the last time in the role, provided an overview of the latest diplomatic efforts to achieve a ceasefire and expressed deep regret that an agreement had still not been reached on endorsing the four-point plan for a nationwide ceasefire, opening Sana'a airport,

lifting restrictions on the ports of Hudaydah and restarting the political process. He also expressed regret about the civilian casualties, especially children, caused by the continued hostilities. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs also gave a briefing to the Council and reiterated the challenges that continued to be faced with regard to the protection of civilians, humanitarian access, funding for humanitarian aid and the deteriorating economy of Yemen. A member of the civil society organization SOS Center for Youth Capabilities Development, Najiba Al Naggar, gave a briefing to the Council and called for support for the role of women in Yemeni society and in the peace process. The members of the Council thanked the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs for their efforts during their tenures. They called on the parties to move forward with the ceasefire and with the lifting of the restrictions on fuel and commercial imports in Hudaydah port. They also called for humanitarian access to be facilitated and urged donors to support humanitarian aid. Several members expressed concern about the high number of civilian casualties, especially children, and the reports of the recruitment of children by armed groups. During the consultations, the Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee and Head of the United Nations Mission in support of the Hudaydah Agreement, Abhijit Guha, gave the Council a briefing on the situation in Hudaydah, where the level of hostilities had diminished slightly but the civilian casualties had continued to occur.

### **The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question**

On 24 June, the Security Council held a regular briefing and consultations on the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, gave a briefing on the latest developments regarding the implementation of Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) (see [S/2021/584](#)), including settlement activities and violence in the occupied Palestinian territories. He underscored that Israeli settlements constituted a flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions and international law and that they were a major obstacle to the achievement of a two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. He noted the alarming increase in the level of violence between Israelis and Palestinians, including hostilities between Israel and factions in Gaza at a scale and intensity that had not been seen in years. He also gave an overview of international efforts to solidify the cessation of hostilities and consolidate the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, to provide humanitarian assistance to Gaza and to begin the process of reconstruction in Gaza. The Special Coordinator urged all sides to refrain from unilateral steps and provocations and to take steps to reduce tensions. He also reiterated the determination of the United Nations to work with Israelis and Palestinians, members of the Quartet and key regional and international partners to lay the groundwork for a return to meaningful negotiations towards a viable two-State solution. The Council members called upon the parties to refrain from unilateral steps and provocations, including violence and settlement-related activities. Several Council members called for action to ensure the movement of goods to and from Gaza and to ensure unhindered access for humanitarian aid. Some Council members stressed the importance of ensuring that aid delivered to Gaza met its recovery and reconstruction needs and reached its designated beneficiaries. Calls were also made for continued international efforts to create conditions for the resumption of peace talks.

## **Europe**

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

On 29 June, a briefing and consultations on Bosnia and Herzegovina were held at the request of the Russian Federation. The briefing was given by the Officer-in-

Charge of the Europe and Central Asia Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Hervé Lecoq.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bisera Turković, also participated in the briefing. Members of the Security Council discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and expressed their views on the Office of the new High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## **Asia**

### **United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan**

On 11 June, the Security Council issued a press statement in which the Council members condemned in the strongest terms the atrocious and cowardly terrorist attack that took place in Baghlan-e Markazi, Afghanistan, on 8 June 2021. The attack, which was claimed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan, an entity affiliated with Da'esh, resulted in at least 10 people killed and more than a dozen wounded, many of whom were of the Hazara minority.

On 22 June, a high-level virtual debate was held on the situation in Afghanistan, chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Eva-Maria Liimets.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ghada Waly, and the Executive Director of the Afghan Women's Network, Mary Akrami, were the briefers of the meeting.

Five Council members participated at the ministerial level. In addition, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed the Council. The Council members expressed concern about the stalemate in the peace process and emphasized that the parties must reach a political agreement, as there was no military solution to the conflict. They condemned the increase in violence in Afghanistan, with a particular emphasis on the targeted killings of civilians, and called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire.

The importance of protecting the rights of women, youth, minorities and the constitutional order was noted, as was the need to include women in political and peace processes.

Members of the Security Council expressed concern at the continuing presence and activity of terrorist groups in Afghanistan. They expressed grave concern about the growing threat of drug trafficking and drug production in the country which remained a challenge to the region and abroad.

Members of the Security Council expressed concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and underlined the importance of continued humanitarian and development aid. The members also stressed the importance of regional cooperation and regional efforts with regard to Afghanistan. Some members also noted the appointment of Jean Arnault as the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General on Afghanistan and Regional Issues.

## **Myanmar**

On 18 June, the Security Council held a private meeting to discuss the situation in Myanmar. As indicated in the official communiqué of the meeting ([S/PV.8800](#)), the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener,

gave an overview of her recent visit to the region and of the latest situation on the ground. The Second Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, also gave a briefing to the Council in his capacity as Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the Association's visit to Myanmar in June and its outcomes.

## **Latin America and the Caribbean**

### **United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti**

On 17 June, the Security Council held an open briefing and closed consultations to discuss the situation in Haiti and the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, Helen Meagher La Lime, presented the most recent report of the Secretary-General ([S/2021/559](#)), with a particular focus on the impact of the protracted political, economic, social, institutional and humanitarian crisis. A member of Haitian civil society and a former member of the Haitian Constitutional Assembly, Chantal Hudicort-Ewald, presented her views on the challenges that Haiti was facing, in particular the political crisis, widespread violence, an increasing number of human rights violations, and impunity.

Council members were deeply concerned by the protracted crisis in Haiti as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. They reaffirmed their support for the people of Haiti and urged the Government of Haiti to take steps to end the political, security and humanitarian crisis. They stressed the need to hold timely elections, address the deteriorating humanitarian conditions, hold accountable those responsible for violence, tackle corruption and fulfil the responsibility to protect civilians. They further reiterated the need for the stakeholders of Haiti to work together to address the underlying drivers of instability and for the Government of Haiti to continue to work on needed political, economic and social reforms and to continue preparations for timely elections. They recognized the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti in supporting the country.

## **Thematic and other issues**

### **Children and armed conflict**

On 28 June, the Security Council held a high-level open debate by videoconference on the theme "Children and armed conflict". The meeting was presided over by the President of Estonia, Kersti Kaljulaid, and it included a number of high-level representatives of Council members.

The open debate considered the findings of the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict ([A/75/873-S/2021/437](#)) and, in accordance with the concept note for the debate ([S/2021/541](#)), also focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the protection of children in conflict, as well as the importance of a gender perspective in child protection, including the specific risks faced by girls. The suggested focus also included compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

In his address to the Council, Secretary-General of the United Nations underlined how all the available tools put in place by the Security Council in its resolutions on ending and preventing violations against children were used by his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations on the ground, along with civil society and other partners. He noted that the COVID-19

pandemic had added new dimensions and new stresses to that vital work and saluted the dedication and professionalism of United Nations staff and partners, who had adapted swiftly. He stressed the need to adapt the protection frameworks as armed conflicts evolved and children faced multiple threats, to ensure the protection of children in peace processes, and to enhance data analysis, early warning and advocacy for early action and funding for child protection. The Secretary-General noted that the start of 2021 had been no exception in terms of the impact of conflict on children and called upon all parties to conflict to prioritize the prevention of violations against children and to engage in dialogue, ceasefires and peace processes.

The Security Council also heard from the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, Henrietta Fore, who urged the Council to give the protection of children in armed conflict the priority it deserved in its decisions and deliberations and called upon Member States to help increase child protection capacity across the board. The Advocate for Children Affected by War with the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Forest Whitaker, focused on the invisible impact of violations against children, including lost years of education and stigma. The Education Specialist at Plan International Nigeria, Laban Onisimus, addressed the specific impact of armed conflict on girls and called on the Council and the international community to recognize and address the risks they faced, including attacks against schools, abduction and sexual violence.

Council members expressed their concern about the sustained high number of violations against children described in the report of the Secretary-General and reiterated the need to implement the Council's decisions in that regard, including through the use of the tools created for the protection of children in armed conflict. They expressed concern about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including its additional negative impact on the protection of schools and access to education. Written statements were submitted by 56 non-Council members, some of them on behalf of groups of Member States (see [S/2021/617](#)).

### **Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations (the European Union)**

On 10 June, the Security Council held a briefing on strengthening the partnership with the European Union under its agenda item on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell Fontelles, gave a briefing on the importance of multilateral cooperation. Regarding specific conflicts, he drew attention to the Middle East, including Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic, and the efforts of the European Union military operation in the Mediterranean, known as Operation IRINI, in that regard, and to Myanmar and the Sahel. He also highlighted some cases in Eastern Europe, such as the situation in Belarus and Ukraine.

Several members stressed that both organizations – the United Nations and the European Union – shared the same values. They noted with appreciation the support of the European Union for COVID-19 mitigation in conflict areas and its humanitarian aid to the Syrian Arab Republic. Some Council members stressed the importance of promoting the women and peace and security agenda and noted that the European Union and the United Nations should continue to deepen their cooperation.

### **Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council on the working methods of the Council**

On 16 June, the Security Council held an open debate on the implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council on the working methods of the Council ([S/2017/507](#)) on the theme “Agility and innovation: lessons for the future from the COVID-19 pandemic” that might be regarded as a sequel to the previous year’s open debate held under the Estonian presidency in May 2020.

The Council heard briefings on its working methods from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in her capacity as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and other Procedural Questions, Inga Rhonda King; the Executive Director of Security Council Report, Karin Landgren; and the co-author of the fourth edition of *The Procedure of the UN Security Council*, Loraine Sievers.

The Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, speaking on behalf of the Informal Working Group, said that the unforeseen COVID-19 challenges and constraints had given the Council much to consider for future extraordinary circumstances. She also said that it had provided the Council with new and innovative ways to maintain its continuous functioning, including through the use of technology. Ms. Sievers put forward several options on how the Security Council could consolidate its pandemic working methods as a reference for the future. She also explained that the Council’s provisional rules of procedure were valid and had the same legal standing as those of the General Assembly and the other principal organs of the United Nations. The Executive Director of Security Council Report recalled that it had been 20 months since the last Council visiting mission and maintained that there was scope for the Council to derive more value from its field visits.

The representative of Kenya delivered a joint statement in his capacity as coordinator for the month of June for the 10 elected members of the Council. The representatives of the five permanent members of the Council also made statements in their respective national capacities. In addition to the Council’s members, 28 States Members of the United Nations submitted their statements in writing, some on behalf of groups of countries, including the 27 members of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group and a group of 35 countries that had been elected to serve on the Council over the past decade. The compilation of the statements made by the wider membership of the United Nations was issued as a document of the Security Council ([S/2021/572](#)).

### **International Court of Justice**

On 29 June, the Council adopted without a vote the resolution [2583 \(2021\)](#) fixing the date of the election to the International Court of Justice to fill the vacancy related to the death of Judge James Richard Crawford. The election would be held on 5 November 2021 at the concurrent meetings of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

### **International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals**

On 8 June, the Council held a meeting on the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. The President of the Mechanism, Judge Carmel Agius, and the Prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, presented the eighteenth semi-annual report ([S/2021/487](#)), pursuant to resolution [1966 \(2010\)](#). President Agius also referred to his letter of 11 May ([S/2021/452](#)). Most members recalled that cooperation with the Mechanism remained crucial for fulfilling its mandate and that it was the

responsibility of States to cooperate with the Mechanism, including in the arrest and surrender of fugitives at large. Some members of the Council called upon the Mechanism to provide and adhere to clear and focused projections of completion timelines. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Rwanda and Serbia participated in the meeting.

### **Maintenance of international peace and security: cybersecurity**

On 29 June, the Security Council held its very first high-level open debate on maintaining peace and security in cyberspace by videoconference. The meeting was presided over by the Prime Minister of Estonia, Kaja Kallas, and included a number of high-level representatives of Council members. The Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs briefed the Council on the issue.

According to the concept note ([S/2021/540](#)), the objective of the open debate was to contribute to a better understanding of the growing risks arising from malicious activities in the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) and their impact on international peace and security, as well as to address global efforts to promote peace and stability in the domain. The Council members were invited to consider the global, regional and national policy mechanisms in place to mitigate threats in the use of ICT and advance responsible State behaviour, and to reflect on how Member States could effectively encourage their implementation.

The Under-Secretary-General noted the dramatic increase in the frequency of malicious incidents in the use of ICT in recent years, which had contributed to diminishing trust and confidence among States and posed a specific risk to critical infrastructure enabled by ICT. She drew attention to the efforts undertaken at the United Nations-level to address ICT threats. She noted the work of five Groups of Governmental Experts that had studied the existing and emerging threats of ICT to international security and recommended measures to address them. Most recently, two United Nations processes under the auspices of the General Assembly – an Open-ended Working Group and a sixth Group of Governmental Experts – had successfully concluded their work, resulting in two consensual reports. She further outlined work at the regional level to mitigate ICT threats and also referred to several private sector-led initiatives. She stressed that, given the implications for the maintenance of international peace and security resulting from ICT threats, engagements by the Security Council on the issues was paramount.

Some Council members welcomed the convening of the first open debate on the topic of cybersecurity, noting a significant increase in malicious cyber activities in recent years and recognizing that malicious and dangerous activity in cyberspace could pose a threat to international peace and security. Given the interconnectedness of the ICT domain, the Council members emphasized the need for close international cooperation and collaboration to tackle threats in the use of ICT. The Council members welcomed the recent progress at the General Assembly. Some Council members stressed the key role of the Assembly in addressing the issues of international security in the use of ICT.

Apart from statements delivered by members of the Council, 47 States and 2 international organizations also contributed to the open debate by submitting written statements. The compilation of the statements by the wider membership of the United Nations was issued as a document of the Security Council ([S/2021/621](#)).

### **Non-proliferation**

On 30 June, the Security Council held a meeting to discuss the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), in which the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was endorsed. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs,

Rosemary DiCarlo, gave a briefing based on the report of the Secretary-General (S/2021/582). The Council also heard the report on the role of the European External Action Service in coordinating the activities of the parties to the Plan of Action by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Olof Skoog, as well as a report on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) by the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, Geraldine Byrne Nason, in her capacity as Facilitator of the Council's work for the implementation of the resolution.

The Council members welcomed diplomatic engagements in Vienna to revive the Plan of Action. In addition to the Council members, Germany and the Islamic Republic of Iran also participated in the meeting.

### **Selection of the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

On 3 June, the Council discussed the procedure on the selection of the Secretary-General under "Other matters".

On 8 June, the Security Council met in a private meeting and adopted by acclamation resolution 2580 (2021), co-sponsored by all members of the Council, recommending to the General Assembly that António Guterres be appointed as Secretary-General of the United Nations for a second term of office from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2026. On 18 June, the Assembly adopted the respective resolution (75/286) appointing Mr. Guterres by acclamation. The President of the Council addressed the Assembly on that occasion.

### **Subsidiary bodies of the Council**

During the month of June, subsidiary bodies of the Council continued their work, partly in physical meetings. Altogether, 11 meetings were held.

The Informal Working Group on International Tribunals met in person on 2 June for an interaction with the President and the Prosecutor of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, prior to their briefing to the Council on 8 June.

On 11 June, the Military Staff Committee held a videoconference to discuss an update on the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and another, on 25 June, to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and South Sudan.

On 15 June, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) met to exchange views on an analysis, prepared by the Group of Experts, of updated matrix data in preparation for the 2021 comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

On 17 June, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism met to consider initial elements for preliminary assessment and observation of the virtual component of the hybrid visits of the Committee to five Member States. In addition, the Committee discussed the updated global survey of the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions by Member States and the global survey of the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) by Member States. A monthly update on the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate was also provided to the Committee.

On 24 June, the Security Council held a meeting in the 2231 format to discuss the eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2021/582).

Five sanctions committee meetings were held. The Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia met on 4 June via videoconference to discuss the midterm update of the Panel of Experts. The Security

Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic met on 4 June via videoconference to discuss the final report of the Panel of Experts. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan met with regional States on 18 June. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya met on 25 June to hear a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its programme of work under resolution [2571 \(2021\)](#). The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo was briefed on 30 June by the Senior Official of the Follow-on Mechanism, Robert Petit.

### **Working methods**

In light of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, members of the Council agreed to a consensual approach regarding the working methods of the Council for the month of June, as was reflected in the letter dated 1 June from the President ([S/2021/524](#)). Taking into consideration the eased situation in New York City and the altered risk assessment by the United Nations medical team, Estonia held in-person meetings of the Council in June in the Security Council Chamber, although the high-level meetings that were still held in virtual format so as to enable inclusive participation. The meeting format in the Security Council Chamber was initially limited to two persons from each Member State of the Council and, from 9 June onwards, to three persons. Consultations of the whole continued to be held in the Security Council Chamber for health and safety reasons. Meetings of the troop-contributing countries and some meetings of the subsidiary organs were held in the Economic and Social Council and Trusteeship Council Chambers.

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