

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 26 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative
of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 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 November 2020 during the presidency of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (see annex).

The assessment was prepared by the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations. While other members of the Council have been consulted, the assessment should not be considered as representing the views of the Council.

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

(Signed) Inga Rhonda **King**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 26 February 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (November 2020)

Introduction

During the presidency of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in November 2020, the Security Council held 5 public meetings, and 27 meetings by videoconference, 14 of which were held in an open format and 13 of which were held in a closed format, as well as 1 informal consultation. Meetings were held in person on the following matters: the election of five members to the International Court of Justice ([S/PV.8773](#)); the adoption, in relation to reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan, the situation in Somalia and the situation in the Central African Republic, of resolutions concerning the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) ([S/PV.8774](#)), sanctions on Somalia ([S/PV.8775](#)) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) ([S/PV.8776](#)), respectively; and a briefing on the situation in Mali, concerning the sanctions on Mali ([S/PV.8777](#)). In addition, consultations were held in person on the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) ([S/2020/1110](#)).

The signature event of the presidency was an open debate, held by video teleconference (VTC) on 3 November, on the theme “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: contemporary drivers of conflict and insecurity”.

In accordance with the Organization’s practice, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines began its presidency with the presentation of the provisional programme of work of the Security Council for the month, which was adopted at the Council’s closed video teleconference meeting on 2 November 2020.

The wrap-up session was held on 30 November, and the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and the Niger to the United Nations and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations participated as briefers.

Working methods

November 2020 was the first and only time that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines’ assumed the presidency of the Security Council for the term 2020–2021. During that month, the working methods of previous presidencies were observed, including those set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council ([S/2020/253](#)), which guided the adoption of resolutions through written procedure; the annex to the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council ([S/2020/372](#)), which guided virtual work; and the annex to the letter dated 1 October 2020 from the President of the Security Council ([S/2020/966](#)), which guided in-person meetings. The working methods commitments of the African members of the Security Council plus one (A3+1),¹ which were first presented under the presidency of the Niger in September, also informed the work of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In line with best practices, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines sought to consult with countries on the Council’s agenda ahead of meetings and maintained engagement with other organs of the United Nations, including by inviting the President of the Economic and Social Council to give a briefing at the signature

¹ A3+1 is the configuration of the three African member States of the Security Council (at the time, the Niger, Tunisia and South Africa) plus Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

event, and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission to give a briefing at the meeting on the Group of Five for the Sahel. The President of the Security Council also took part in the joint meeting of Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission held virtually on Thursday 19 November, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. under the theme “Fostering global solidarity and conflict-sensitive responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic impacts”.

In an attempt to ensure the transparency and clarity of meeting formats, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines adopted the following nomenclatures for VTC events: “VTC briefing”, “VTC consultations”, “VTC debate” and “VTC open debate”. In addition, a hybrid online platform was used to ensure interpretation in all open virtual meetings, in an effort to ensure multilingualism.

Africa

Central African Republic

On 12 November, in the Security Council Chamber, Council members unanimously adopted resolution [2552 \(2020\)](#) to renew the mandate of MINUSCA for 12 months.

On 4 November, the Security Council held a video teleconference meeting on MINUSCA for troop- and police-contributing countries. The Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Bintou Keita, provided an overview of the Secretary-General’s latest report on the Central African Republic ([S/2020/994](#)). The Deputy Military Adviser and the Police Adviser and Director of the Police Division of MINUSCA provided updates on the Mission’s preparations for and operational readiness to assist with security for the upcoming elections. Several Council members and troop- and police-contributing countries made brief interventions in which they highlighted a number of operational challenges and indicated their ongoing support for the Mission’s mandate.

Libya

On 10 November, the Security Council held a VTC briefing on the twentieth report of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to the Security Council pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#). Libya participated in the meeting, in which the Prosecutor of the Court, Fatou Bensouda, presented the report. Deliberations during the meeting focused on the positive developments in Libya, including the signing of the ceasefire agreement and the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, as well as the progress made in the work of the Prosecutor and her Office. States parties to the Rome Statute reaffirmed their commitment to the Court, called for States to honour their international obligations, in particular cooperation with the Court, and encouraged non-States parties to the Rome statute to become members. On the other hand, non-State parties took note of the report and emphasized that it was the responsibility of sovereign States to ensure accountability for crimes committed in their respective territories.

On 19 November, the Security Council held a VTC briefing, followed by VTC consultations, on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Stephanie Williams, participated in the meeting and provided a comprehensive overview of the developments in Libya. The representative of Libya participated in the meeting in accordance with rule 37 of the Council’s provisional rules of procedure. Deliberations during the meeting were primarily focused on the positive developments unfolding in Libya. In particular, the permanent ceasefire agreement was welcomed and Libyans were commended for their

resolve and determination in the political dialogue processes, including the in-person Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, which had been hosted by Tunisia. Delegations also stressed the importance of implementing the decisions reached by the Forum with regard to creating a road map for Libya and scheduling national elections for 24 December 2021. Members also called on States to respect their international obligations, specifically by fully respecting the arms embargo in accordance with resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#). Delegations urged parties to honour and implement the ceasefire agreement and called on foreign fighters and foreign forces to leave Libya. Member States further called for respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law and reiterated the importance of appointing a new Special Envoy to advance the peace process in Libya.

Mali

On 17 November, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#) concerning Mali briefed the Security Council on the work of the Committee from 1 January 2020 and on the work of the Panel of Experts during the same period. The briefing included updates on the informal consultations held by the Committee, meetings with Mali and other concerned States, and the Committee's management of the challenges presented by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Peace and security in Africa (Group of Five for the Sahel)

On 16 November, the Council held a VTC briefing to discuss threats to peace and security in Africa and specifically in the Sahel region. The Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, highlighted the growing threat of terrorism in the Sahel region, despite the restrictions imposed as part of the response to the pandemic. He updated the Council on the support provided by MINUSMA to the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel through the tripartite mechanism of the European Union, the United Nations and the Group of Five for the Sahel. The Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations, Issa Konfourou, on behalf of the Group of Five for the Sahel, delivered a presentation on the latest military operations of the Joint Force and reiterated the call from the countries of the Group of Five for more support for the Joint Force, including from the United Nations. He emphasized that a security-based response alone could not guarantee lasting peace. He called for structural support that would benefit all citizens, especially women and children. The Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Robert Keith Rae, also briefed the Council in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. He addressed the crucial role of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in building sustainable peace and security. The Council was also briefed by the Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service, Koen Vervaeke, who described the multifold European Union strategy for the Sahel and stressed that the implementation of the 2015 Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali was a priority now more than ever. Lastly, the Council received a written briefing from the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smaïl Chergui.

The Sudan and South Sudan

On 12 November, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2550 \(2020\)](#), extending the mandate of UNISFA until 15 May 2021. The Council also maintained, for the term of the mandate extension, the mission's support for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, which monitors the Sudan-South Sudan border. Following the adoption of the resolution, the delegation of the United States of America (the penholder) and Germany delivered brief remarks.

Somalia

On 12 November, the Security Council adopted resolution [2551 \(2020\)](#), with 13 votes in favour and 2 abstentions. The Council extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Somalia until 15 December 2021 and renewed the partial lifting of the arms embargo on the country's security forces. In addition, the Council decided that deliveries of arms and the provision of technical advice, financial assistance or training intended for the Somali security forces would be exempt from the arms embargo. It also prohibited the reselling of weapons and military equipment supplied to the Somali National Security Forces or Somali security sector institutions. It also requested the Secretary-General to provide the Council with a technical assessment of the weapons and ammunition management capability of Somalia and recommendations to improve it further.

On 23 November, the Security Council held a VTC briefing, followed by VTC consultations, on the situation in Somalia. The briefers were the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), James Swan; the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia, Francisco Caetano José Madeira; and the Founder and Chair of Somali Gender Equality Movement, Zainab Hassan. Mr. Swan and Mr. Madeira welcomed the end of the two-year political stalemate by the Federal Government and the federal member states on the electoral model. Mr. Swan noted the various challenges the country faced, including the upcoming elections and the humanitarian and economic situations, and expressed the full support of the UNSOM. Mr. Madeira reported on the critical work undertaken by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) regarding election security and counter-terrorism. Their support would enable Somalia to have free and fair elections. Ms. Hassan noted the critical contribution of women to peacebuilding and in political processes. She called for increased government funding for education and economic empowerment to ensure women's meaningful and equal participation at all levels of regional and national politics in Somalia. The Prime Minister of Somalia, Mohamed Hussein Roble, addressed the Council under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. He renewed the Government's commitment to finding relevant solutions towards overseeing the elections scheduled for 2020 and 2021 and expressed his unwavering commitment to continue working with UNSOM and AMISOM.

Ethiopia

On 24 November, the Council discussed the situation in Ethiopia under "other matters" (also referred to as "any other business").

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East (Yemen)

On 11 November, the Security Council held a VTC briefing, followed by VTC consultations, on Yemen, and received updates from the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, on the political, security and humanitarian situation. Yemen also participated under rule 37. The Special Envoy noted that negotiations on the joint declaration on a nationwide ceasefire, economic and humanitarian measures and the resumption of political process were ongoing. On the security front, he stated that, while violence had not been as intense, the situation remained fragile, particularly in Ma'rib and Ta'izz, and called upon all parties to respect international humanitarian law. However, recently,

the Government and the Southern Transitional Council had been focusing more on the Riyadh Agreement, and on resolving differences and clarifying what was needed to move forward. Mr. Lowcock stated that “the Yemeni people are being starved” and that the United Nations Yemen humanitarian response plan was approximately 45 per cent funded, and stressed that additional funding was urgently needed, otherwise 9 million Yemenis might lose access to health services and the treatment of millions of malnourished children might stop. He also emphasized that the ongoing dispute between the Government of Yemen and the Houthis over revenue management must be urgently resolved. In addition to Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Lowcock, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), David Beasley, also briefed the Council and recalled that, as a result of lack of funding and obstructions, WFP had been forced to cut rations to 9 million people living in Houthi-controlled areas; however, he welcomed the fact that the biometric registration pilot project had finally commenced. He further emphasized that a comprehensive and adequately funded plan was needed to combat famine, stabilize the economy and support longer-term development.

Lastly, the Council was briefed by a representative of civil society, Omer Badokhon from Solutions for Sustainable Societies. He emphasized that the Sustainable Development Goals could only be achieved in Yemen amid peace and a higher standard of living. His focus was on the impact of conflict on the environment and, in that regard, he urged the parties to avoid exploiting the environment, highlighted the imminent risk of an environmental and humanitarian catastrophe from the oil tanker *Safer* and called for humanitarian intervention to be extended to include green technologies, including transforming waste into energy and investing in solar power. Council members appealed to donor countries to honour their commitments, recognizing that the humanitarian situation would worsen if the necessary funding were not acquired. Some members also expressed concern over the drone attacks against Saudi Arabia and emphasized the need for a ceasefire and a political solution. Concern was also expressed over the continued bureaucratic impediments to humanitarian aid, and over the recent attack on a Red Crescent worker in Aden and the attack on the aid agency compound in Aden.

Lebanon

On 17 November, the Council held closed consultations to discuss the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) ([S/2020/1110](#)). The Security Council was briefed by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Ján Kubiš, and the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Mohamed Khaled Khiari. In their briefings, the Special Coordinator reported on recent developments in Lebanon, while the Assistant Secretary-General reported on the situation in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) area of operations and the implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

Members of the Security Council echoed their deep concern at all violations of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). Council members expressed solidarity with the people of Lebanon and underlined the need to prompt the Lebanese authorities to engage in constructive nationwide dialogue, implement outstanding reforms and swiftly form a new Government that would address the needs and aspirations of the Lebanese people. Council members reiterated their support for Lebanon and its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Many Council members welcomed the recent announcement that Lebanon, Israel and the United States had agreed to a framework for discussions with respect to the Lebanon-Israel maritime boundaries. Council members commended UNIFIL for its ongoing engagement with the parties to find common ground and constructively use the tripartite coordination mechanism.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 18 November, the Council held a VTC briefing, followed by VTC consultations, on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, briefed the Council on the Middle East peace process. The Special Coordinator welcomed the decision of the Palestinian Authority to restart civilian and security coordination with Israel. He reported that the negative trends on the ground continued, including with the decision taken by the Israeli authorities on 15 November to open the bidding process for the construction of over 1,200 housing units in the Givat Hamatos settlement and with the most extensive demolition in the occupied West Bank in the past decade, carried out on 3 November, in which over 70 structures, including homes, in the Bedouin village of Humsa Al Bqai'a, in Area C, were destroyed. He reiterated his call on the Israeli authorities to cease demolitions, the seizure of Palestinian property and efforts to relocate communities in the occupied West Bank and stressed that such actions were contrary to international law and could undermine the chances for the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state. He emphasized that Israeli and Palestinian leaders had a responsibility to explore every opening that could restore hope in the two-State solution. Lastly, the Special Coordinator stated that it was imperative that the Middle East Quartet, key Arab partners and Israeli and Palestinian leaders build upon recent developments in the region and urgently re-engage on returning to the path of meaningful negotiations.

Many members of the Security Council reaffirmed their support for the two-State solution and condemned the publication by the Government of Israel of tenders for construction of 1,200 housing units in the East Jerusalem settlement of Givat Hamatos. Members of the Security Council offered their condolences to the family of Saeb Erekat, following his death, and to the President, Mahmoud Abbas, and the Palestinian people. They also welcomed the recent announcement of the Palestinian Authority about the resumption of security and civil coordination with Israel. Several Council members reiterated the call by Mr. Abbas for the United Nations to convene an international peace conference in 2021 and called upon the Middle East Quartet to boost cooperation for that purpose. Council members urged the international community to act swiftly and provide the necessary resources for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

The situation in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

On the chemical weapons track, the Council met on 5 November for a VTC briefing to receive the monthly report of the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which was presented by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu. In the report, OPCW continued to note that the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic could not be considered accurate or complete. It also provided an update concerning the intention of OPCW to conduct further rounds of inspections in 2020, subject to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some Council members continued to reiterate their support for OPCW and their faith in its impartiality and independence and welcomed the recent reports of the OPCW fact-finding mission regarding the incident of alleged use of chemicals as a weapon in Saraqib on 1 August 2016 and the incident in Aleppo on 24 November 2018. Some Council members expressed regret at the fact that, to date, the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic remained incomplete, and underscored the need to clarify all outstanding issues. Other Council members continued to voice their concerns about the Organisation's politicization.

On 25 November, the Council held a VTC briefing on the political and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Council was briefed by the

Deputy Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Khawla Matar, and the Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Ramesh Rajasingham. The Deputy Special Envoy noted that moderate progress had been made by the Constitutional Committee but stated that the constitutional track alone could not resolve the crisis. She called for an end to all violence, including against women, as a means to achieve genuine peace in the country and reiterated the call for a nationwide ceasefire as called for in Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). She also called for progress to be made with regard to the release of detainees and abductees and information on missing persons. The Acting Assistant Secretary-General highlighted the challenges that Syrians were facing with the devaluation of the Syrian currency and increasing food prices. In addition, spikes in violence in some areas of the country had endangered the lives of civilians and humanitarian aid workers. Mr. Rajasingham praised the commitment of humanitarian agencies throughout the country as they continued to provide critical aid to the most vulnerable populations.

Iraq

On 24 November, the Council held a VTC briefing, followed by VTC consultations, on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The Special Representative and Head of UNAMI, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, gave a briefing on recent developments in Iraq, and on the two most recent reports of the Secretary-General. The first report, concerning the activities of UNAMI ([S/2020/1099](#)), had been submitted pursuant to resolution [2522 \(2020\)](#). The second report, concerning the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property, including the national archives ([S/2020/358](#)), had been submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#). With regard to the first report, the Special Representative updated Members on the general preparations for early elections, which would take place in June 2021, and noted that the electoral law had been finalized by Parliament. UNAMI was increasing its technical assistance, and the Special Representative made reference to a letter sent to the Security Council by the Government of Iraq, in which it had requested greater support and observation. One major concern was the economy, which was expected to contract by 10 per cent in 2020. In mid-October, a white paper had been released that provided an overview of structural imbalances that characterized the economy and described the much-needed reform measures. The Special Representative also expressed her concern over the continued violence, enforced disappearances and assassinations, as well as attacks on diplomatic missions, which were condemned by Council members, many of whom also stressed the need for accountability and justice and encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to gain control over weapons and to prevent missile attacks on diplomatic missions. Members also emphasized that Iraq should not become an area of regional confrontation and that it was imperative that differences be resolved through dialogue.

Despite the constraints related to COVID-19 and the impact of the pandemic, progress had been made in some areas. On 16 September, the Government of Iraq had handed over the remains of persons exhumed from a mass grave in southern Iraq. This was supported by UNAMI and the International Committee of the Red Cross. By the date of the briefing, the Kuwaiti authorities had confirmed the identification of seven persons as missing Kuwaiti nationals. Unfortunately, not much progress had been made on the return of Kuwaiti property, as a result of constraints related to COVID-19. Regarding Baghdad and Erbil, the Special Representative welcomed the Sinjar agreement. This was recognized as a means of paving the way for reconstruction in the North and was supported by Council members, who called for a long-term agreement on resource- and revenue-sharing to be reached.

A press statement was issued by the President of the Council.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 5 November, the Security Council held an open debate on Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council was briefed by the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, who continued to urge all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to fully abide by their commitments under the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to implement the third national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). The Security Council renewed its authorization of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea) for another 12 months. Following Mr. Inzko's statement, Council members took the floor to express concerns over instances of divisive rhetoric in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the hope that the upcoming elections would be free and fair. Many Council members also welcomed the renewal of the authorization of EUFOR-Althea and expressed support for the work and reporting of the High Representative, while one member called for the closure of his Office. In accordance with rules 37 and 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia Serbia, and the European Union participated in the meeting.

Belarus

On 11 November, at the request of Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany and the United Kingdom, the Security Council discussed developments in Belarus under the item "Other matters".

Nagorno-Karabakh

On 11 November, at the request of the Russian Federation, the Security Council discussed the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh under the item "Other matters".

Signature event

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines hosted one signature event, a virtual open debate held on 3 November, under the theme "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: contemporary drivers of conflict and insecurity". It was chaired by the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph E. Gonsalves. The high-level signature event, which featured a panel of four briefers, attracted keen interest from many Council members and among the general membership of the United Nations. The Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic had shown that rapid change was possible, but that it was crucial not to revert to static frameworks or response mechanisms. She noted that a better post-COVID-19 world remained within reach, but recovery efforts must prioritize good governance, respect for human rights and economic development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Chief Executive Officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, Ibrahim Mayaki, emphasized the importance of regional partnerships and the role of digital technologies. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Sir Hilary Beckles, underscored the legacies of underdevelopment left in the wake of violent colonization, slavery and institutionalized racism, and emphasized that the work of decolonization would not be completed until adequate reparations were provided. The President of the Economic and Social Council, Munir Akram, underlined the need for political will to promote a sustainable recovery, including by providing debt relief to the poorest countries. Council members emphasized the importance of stronger collaboration

among relevant United Nations bodies, in accordance with their respective mandates, to address the root causes of instability by strengthening national ownership over peace processes, advancing sustainable development and promoting inclusivity. The Council received 39 written statements from the wider membership, which are contained in document [S/2020/1090](#). Following the virtual open debate, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in its national capacity, circulated an analytical summary of the meeting ([S/2020/1328](#)).

Special events and thematic and general issues

United Nations peacekeeping operations: police commissioners

On 4 November, the Security Council held its annual dialogue, as an open video teleconference meeting, with the police commissioners of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peace Operations, Alexandre Zouev, highlighted that United Nations police had advanced the integrated peacekeeping performance and accountability framework in line with the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative, which was critical for mission effectiveness. The Police Commissioner of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) underscored that Haiti had benefited from the support provided by United Nations police to the Haitian National Police in facilitating the transition from the peacekeeping mission, building capacities and advancing gender-responsive national policing capacities. The Police Commissioner of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) emphasized the importance of United Nations police in assisting the Mission with its protection of civilians mandate, especially in fragile areas such as camps for internally displaced persons. The Police Commissioners from MINUSCA and MINUSMA also briefed the Council and highlighted the important role of police components in those mission settings. Council members welcomed the opportunity to interact with the Police Commissioners and reaffirmed their support for the United Nations police, which played a critical role in the contexts of mission transitions and exits.

Election of five members of the International Court of Justice

The first ballot in the Security Council for the election of five members of the International Court of Justice were held on 11 November, concurrently with the voting in the General Assembly. The result of the voting in the Assembly was inconclusive, while the result in the Council indicated five clear candidates. A second round of balloting was held in the Assembly on 12 November and produced five clear candidates. There was then an exchange of letters between the President of the Security Council and the President of the General Assembly with the voting results from both organs, and it was established that the five candidates selected by the Assembly matched those selected by the Council. The Council convened later that day to announce the five candidates elected as judges of the International Court of Justice. Concurrently, the results were announced in the Assembly. The five judges elected, for a term of nine years, are: Yuji Iwasawa (Japan), Georg Nolte (Germany), Julia Sebutinde (Uganda), Peter Tomka (Slovakia) and Xue Hanqin (China).

Briefings by the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

On 23 November, the Security Council held a joint meeting of three Committees: the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). The Chairs of the Committees briefed the Security Council on the cooperation between the three Committees and their respective expert groups.

On behalf of the Chairs of the three Committees, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations, Tarek Ladeb, reported that during the period 2019–2020, the Committees and their respective expert groups had stepped up their regular joint consultations. Mr. Ladeb expressed concern that terrorists and extremist groups were exploiting the pandemic situation and that there had been a surge in recruitment and fundraising activities. Early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committees and their respective expert groups expressed concern that terrorists and violent and extremist groups would seek to exploit the global disruption caused by the pandemic. Notwithstanding the pandemic, the expert groups were able to strengthen the flow of information and communication, attend briefings and organize virtual events. The Committees also continued to assist Member States in countering the financing of terrorism and proliferation.

The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, Dian Triansyah Djani, stated that despite the pandemic, the Committee continued to undertake activities to promote the full and effective implementation of the resolution and assist States in strengthening national capacity, upon request. However, activities related to the comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) had been postponed to 2021, with the exception of the process of revising the Committee's matrices.

Members of the Security Council commended the Committees for adapting their working methods in order to continue their work despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. Many Council members expressed deep concern about the continuing and evolving global terrorist threat to international peace and security. Council members warned of the possibility that terrorists and extremist groups could make use of opportunities provided by the lockdown. Many Security Council members urged the Committees to further strengthen their coordination, continue assisting Member States in the implementation of their obligations under Council resolutions and monitor evolving threats to international peace and security.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 17 November, the Security Council discussed the implementation of paragraph 5 of resolution 2397 (2017) (concerning the "oil cap") under "Other matters".

On 30 November, the Council held VTC consultations to discuss the 90-day report by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 (g) of the resolution. The report was delivered by the Chair of the Committee and Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, Christoph Heusgen, and addressed the Committee's activities for the period from 28 August to 30 November 2020.
