

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
27 November 2019
English
Original: Spanish

Letter dated 27 November 2019 from the Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Dominican Republic in January 2019 (see annex). This assessment was prepared under my responsibility and in consultation with the other members of the Council.

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

(Signed) **José Singer Weisinger**

Ambassador

Special Envoy of the Dominican Republic to the Security Council



**Annex to the letter dated 27 November 2019 from the
Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: English]

**Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the
presidency of the Dominican Republic (January 2019)**

Introduction

Under the presidency of the Dominican Republic in January 2019, the Security Council held 27 public meetings and informal consultations, adopted three resolutions and agreed on 11 press statements.

Africa

Somalia

On 3 January, the Council held a briefing on the situation in Somalia. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Nicholas Haysom, and by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia, Francisco Madeira. The representative of Somalia was invited to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Following the open meeting, the Council held closed consultations on the declaration of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia as persona non grata by the Somali authorities. The members of the Council instructed the President of the Council to hold a meeting with the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations. Said meeting took place on that same day.

On 4 January, the Council held closed consultations under "Any other business" to address the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the President of the Council gave a briefing on his meeting with the Permanent Representative of Somalia. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, also briefed the Council on the steps being taken by the Secretary-General on the issue.

On 5 January, the Council issued a press statement on Somalia expressing its regret at the decision of the Federal Government of Somalia to declare the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia persona non grata, underlined its full support for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and its mandate and underscored the strong and continued commitment of the international community to support peace, stability and development in Somalia.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 4 January, the Council held closed consultations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo following the elections that were held in that country on 30 December 2018. The Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Leila Zerrougui, briefed the Council by videoconference from Kinshasa and outlined the main details regarding the elections, as well as the situation unfolding after the delays in the announcement of the results.

The members of the Council highlighted their appreciation for the work being done by MONUSCO in support of the electoral process and congratulated the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the high voter turnout.

On 11 January, the Council held an open meeting and closed consultations on the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO.

The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO; the President of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Corneille Nangaa Yobeluo; a Permanent Observer of the African Union, Fatima Kyari Mohammed; and the President of the National Episcopal Conference of the Congo, Monsignor Marcel Utembi. The Council began its consideration of the item and heard briefings by the Special Representative and the President of the Independent National Electoral Commission (both by videoconference from Kinshasa); and by the Permanent Observer of the African Union. The Council heard a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia, Joseph Malanji (by videoconference from Johannesburg). The Council heard a briefing by the President of the National Episcopal Conference of the Congo (by videoconference from Kinshasa).

The President of the Security Council invited the representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. The Council heard the details regarding the election results and the delays in announcing the election results in various regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 15 January, the Council issued a press statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo in which they congratulated the millions of Congolese people who went to the polls with calm and determination to express their wish, and commended the Congolese people and political actors for the conduct of the presidential, national and provincial elections, which saw broad and inclusive participation of political parties and welcomed the role played by national and regional observation missions. They also stressed the need for all concerned stakeholders to act in a way that reaffirms the integrity of the electoral process and respects the outcome of the poll, upholds democracy and preserves peace in the country.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

On 10 January, the Security Council held an open meeting on peace consolidation in West Africa and on the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWAS, Mohammed Ibn Chambas, who said that for UNOWAS preparing the ground for high-stakes elections in Benin, Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal, through support for inclusive dialogue and national conflict prevention capacities, is a priority.

Council members echoed the call of the Special Representative for strengthened engagement by the international community to overcome security challenges while advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to address the root causes of conflict.

Mali

On 16 January, the Council held an open meeting followed by consultations on the situation in Mali and was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Bintou Keita, in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. The President of the Security Council invited the representative of Mali,

the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali, Kamissa Camara, to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

The Assistant Secretary-General provided an exhaustive briefing on the political situation on the ground, including on the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. She further elaborated on the issue of national security sector reform and outlined the main humanitarian challenges and concerns resulting from the continued intercommunal confrontations.

Council members widely expressed concerns about the growing violence in key parts of the country. Many also called upon the parties to make all possible efforts in order to fully implement the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali as a vehicle to achieving sustainable peace in the country.

On 16 January, the Council issued a press statement on Mali where it welcomed the recent positive steps achieved in the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The members urged the Government of Mali and the Platform coalition of armed groups and the Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad to take immediate and concrete action to effectively implement the remaining key provisions of the Agreement. The members underlined the importance of an inclusive implementation of the Agreement, which brings together all Malian actors supportive of the peace process.

The members of the Council expressed growing concerns about the continued deterioration of the security situation in central Mali. They strongly condemned the continued attacks, including terrorist attacks, against civilians, representatives from local, regional and State institutions, as well as national, international and United Nations security forces.

On 20 January, the Security Council issued a press statement on the attack against the camp of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), by which they condemned in the strongest terms the attack perpetrated on 20 January 2019 which resulted in the death of 10 peacekeepers from Chad and several others injured. The members of the Security Council expressed their concern about the security situation in Mali and the transnational dimension of the terrorist threat in the Sahel region. They urged the Malian parties to fully implement the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali without further delay. They noted that the full implementation of the Agreement and the intensification of efforts to overcome asymmetric threats can contribute to improving the security situation across Mali.

The members of the Security Council further stressed the importance of MINUSMA having the necessary capacities to fulfil its mandate and promote the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers.

On 25 January, the Security Council issued a press statement on the attack against MINUSMA condemning in the strongest terms the attack perpetrated on 25 January 2019 against a convoy of MINUSMA. The members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. They underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 17 January, the Council held an open meeting on the resolution regarding the situation in Sudan and South Sudan. The Council heard the quarterly briefing by the Permanent Representative of Poland, Johanna Wronecka, in her capacity as Chair

of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan. The Ambassador briefed the Council on the work of the Committee covering the period from 4 October 2018 to 17 January 2019. She highlighted aspects of the final report of the Panel of Experts and the informal consultations where the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, briefed the Council.

Libya

On 18 January, the Council held an open meeting on the situation in Libya and was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Ghassan Salamé (by videoconference from Tripoli) and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany, Jürgen Schulz, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya. The representative of Libya participated in the meeting in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

The Special Representative described how the south region of the country, which represents much of the nation's source of natural wealth, continues to be in a vulnerable state and the conditions are deteriorating at an alarming rate, with high levels of insecurity as a result of fragile borders and the presence of criminals and mercenaries who prey upon citizens and migrants indiscriminately; as well as the hardships citizens have had to endure as a result of the brutality of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the lack of investment in basic public infrastructure. The Special Representative stated that after the calm that resulted from the ceasefire agreement, the city of Tripoli was once again the scenario of clashes. UNSMIL worked closely with all parties to stop breaches of the ceasefire going any further and contain the violations. He also cautioned member States that without international support, spoilers will sabotage the political process, disrupt the fragile economic reforms and undo any progress made. Additionally, he encouraged member States to provide the opportunity of making the national conference a success, as well as parliamentary, municipal and presidential elections a reality.

Member States expressed support to all the initiatives taken by the authorities and UNSMIL to end conflict and foster peace. Some States called upon Libyan authorities to come to an agreement and break the current political deadlock. General support was also expressed for the convening of the national conference, as it is considered the best way to reach a political solution. One delegation called upon the Council to exert its influence with various national and external actors to resolve the conflict. Many expressed concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation, and the threat that terrorism still represents in some areas of Libya, despite the military success achieved over Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant last year.

The representative of Libya requested the Council to take all necessary measures to support Libyan security agencies, including by taking measures to alleviate the arms embargo, which will allow its relevant institutions to acquire the equipment to combat armed groups and terrorists. The representative also requested support from the Council "to put an end to negative foreign interference in Libya, which has contributed to prolonging the Libyan crisis by influencing certain parties in the country".

Western Sahara

On 29 January, the Council held closed consultations on the situation concerning Western Sahara. The Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Horst Kohler, briefed the Council on the 5 and 6 December 2018 round-table meeting

held in Geneva that brought together Morocco, Frente POLISARIO, Algeria and Mauritania and updated members on his plans to advance a political process intended to find a mutually accepted solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

On 31 January, the Council issued a press statement in which the members of the Council expressed their full support for the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara. The members welcomed the ongoing and constructive engagement of Morocco, Frente POLISARIO, Algeria and Mauritania with the Personal Envoy.

Middle East

Yemen

On 9 January, the Security Council held an open meeting followed by closed consultations on the situation in the Middle East (Yemen). At the open meeting, the Council was briefed by 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.

The Special Envoy reported on the implementation of the commitments made by the parties in Stockholm, namely, the agreement reached on the city and Governorate of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa; the executive mechanism on activating the prisoner-exchange agreement; and the statement of understanding on Ta'izz. He also provided an update on the preparations for the next round of consultations.

The Under-Secretary-General elaborated on the current dire humanitarian conditions affecting the population, he informed the Council that humanitarian agencies are scaling up to meet the needs of the Yemenis including food, health and malnutrition and underscored that following the agreement, an immediate objective was to regain access to the Red Sea Mills and several humanitarian warehouses in Hudaydah. This has not yet happened. Finally, he highlighted the fact that in 2019, it is expected that 24 million people will depend on humanitarian aid, making this the worst humanitarian emergency in the world.

The President invited the representative of Yemen to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

In closed consultations, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee, Major General (retired) Patrick Cammaert.

On 16 January, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2452 \(2019\)](#) which established a special political mission to support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement reached in Stockholm on 13 December 2018. The United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement, with an initial mandate of six months, will lead and support the Redeployment Coordination Committee tasked with overseeing the ceasefire, redeployment of forces and mine operations.

The President invited the representative of Yemen to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

On 31 January, the Council held closed consultations on the situation in Yemen, and was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen; the Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee; the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; and the Ambassador of Peru, Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#).

Syrian Arab Republic

On 8 January, the Council held closed consultations on the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013) and heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu.

On 30 January, the Council held an open meeting followed by closed consultations on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator briefed the Council on the matter. He highlighted that harsh winter conditions and ongoing hostilities in some parts of the country have resulted in the forced displacement of tens of thousands more civilians across the country, exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation and posing further protection concerns.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 22 January, the Security Council held its customarily quarterly open debate on “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question” and was briefed by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, Nickolay Mladenov, by videoconference, reporting that “as 2019 begins, we should have no illusions about the dangerous dynamics in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which continues to unfold before our eyes”, and warned that the possibility of establishing a viable, contiguous Palestinian State has been systematically eroded by facts on the ground.

The Special Coordinator mentioned the continued advancement and legalization of settlements by the Israeli authorities, as well as demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; fading hope for a genuine intra-Palestinian reconciliation; an increase in violent incidents in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, during demonstrations, clashes, military operations and others, where a number of Palestinians were killed by Israel security forces, and the launching of incendiary devices towards Israel, including two rockets launched by militants; and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza; The Special Coordinator also referred to the regional situations in Lebanon and the occupied Golan.

He reiterated a call to Israel to restrict the use of lethal force only as a last resort, and in response to an imminent threat of death or serious injury, while Hamas in Gaza must also stop the indiscriminate firing of rockets and mortars and guarantee that the protests remain peaceful. He also acknowledged the importance for the international community that both sides remain committed to existing bilateral agreements and arrangements, concerned that over time, those agreements have eroded as the prospect for credible negotiations has dimmed, only to be replaced by the lack of hope and the growing risk of a one-State reality of perpetual occupation. Several Council members and others participating in the open debate expressed their concern over the current state of affairs and highlighted the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

Europe

Cyprus

On 17 January, the Council held a closed meeting with the troop- and police-contributing countries which was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of Mission, United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Elizabeth Spehar. The Special Representative

acknowledged the countries contributing troops to UNFICYP and recognized the hard work that is being done in Cyprus under the Security Council mandate.

On 23 January, the Council held closed consultations on the situation in Cyprus and was briefed by the Special Representative, where she thanked the international community for supporting the peace process in Cyprus. She expressed that, despite concrete advances in the dialogue, the situation in Cyprus is at a decisive point. She further indicated that the leaders are called to take responsibility for the peace process with the guarantor nations, benefiting from the work being done by consultant Jane Lute to achieve a solution.

She stressed the importance of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus and reported on the work carried out by UNFICYP highlighting the importance of the opening of the two new crossing points and developing trust. She suggested that an explicit resolution is needed to support the work of UNFICYP in the field. She also requested support for the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP.

Council members expressed concern about incidents of violations in the buffer zone. Some Council members recognized the need for empowerment of women and youth to achieve progress in the peace process. They welcomed the appointment of Major General Cheryl Ann Pearce as the new Force Commander of UNFICYP.

Overall, members indicated their support for UNFICYP and the need for progress in the peace process through political dialogue and the unification of the island, and supported the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP, however they expressed that the status quo cannot be extended forever.

Members welcomed the implementation of measures for the promotion of trust between the communities and the activities with women and young people.

On 30 January, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2453 \(2019\)](#) which extends the mandate of UNFICYP for six months until 31 July 2019.

Asia

The situation in Myanmar

On 16 January, the Council held closed consultations under “Any other business” on the situation in Myanmar. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi; and the Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau of Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Xu Haoliang.

The Under-Secretary-General highlighted the need for the Council to remain engaged with the situation in Myanmar. The High Commissioner informed the Council that humanitarian access has improved since last December and highlighted the need to include refugees in the repatriation arrangements and to build their confidence in the process. The Assistant Secretary-General stressed the necessity to continue engaging with the Government of Myanmar for the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between Myanmar, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNDP.

Members of the Council called for a full implementation of the memorandum of understanding between Myanmar and Bangladesh and the tripartite memorandum of understanding between Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR and called for the safe, informed, dignified and voluntary return of displaced people. They also recognized the need to address the root causes of the conflict in order to ensure a safe environment for the returnees.

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

On 24 January, the Council held closed consultations on the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Natalia Gherman, who provided an update on, among other issues, the Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia, which implements the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. She highlighted the meeting organized by the Centre with the deputy foreign ministers of Central Asia, which included the deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan, and detailed the initiatives of the Centre on cross border issues, water management, climate change, drug trafficking and women and youth.

The Americas

Colombia

On 23 January, the Council held an open briefing followed by consultations on the situation in Colombia. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, Carlos Ruiz Massieu. The meeting was presided by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Miguel Vargas.

The Special Representative mentioned, in particular, the remaining obstacles and polarization around the peace process.

He discussed the territorial areas for training and reintegration and the monthly stipend that former combatants receive. He spoke as well of the developments in the work of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, the justice component of the transitional justice system, which continues to be a politically divisive issue.

Member States highlighted their serious concern about the persistent pattern of assassinations of community and social leaders, with seven verified murders of such leaders since 1 January 2019. They stressed the importance of swift action on the ground. They welcomed the Government's decision to convene the National Commission on Security Guarantees established under the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, which brings together State institutions and civil society, and underlined the importance of collective approaches involving the combined extension of security and civilian State institutions into vulnerable rural areas, as well as individual protection measures. The members of the Council also reiterated their concern at continued killings of former members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP), and noted the need for preventive and protective measures to ensure the safe participation of their candidates in local elections for the first time in 2019, as well as those of all parties.

The Special Representative and the Council members stressed the need for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace to be independent, as provided by the Final Peace Agreement.

The President invited the representatives of Colombia and Cuba to participate in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council.

Venezuela

On 26 January, the Council held a debate on the situation of Venezuela. The meeting was presided by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic.

A procedural vote was held to approve the agenda. The agenda was adopted with 9 votes in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions.

The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. She highlighted the situation in Venezuela and the fact that attempts at dialogue have not led to any agreement. She said that the protracted crisis in the country has had a grave impact on the population, with high levels of political polarization and growing humanitarian needs. While calling for a political solution that has the interests of the population at its heart, she said nearly all 30 million Venezuelans are affected by the deterioration in basic service delivery, the lack of access to supplies, the drastic drop in oil prices and that around 3 million Venezuelans are now living abroad, many having fled to neighbouring countries.

The Under-Secretary-General mentioned the regional dialogue led by the Dominican Republic, which was terminated in mid-2018 having achieved no progress, and stated that “the Government went ahead with presidential elections in May 2018. President Nicolás Maduro Moros was declared the winner over two other candidates. Most of the opposition did not participate in the elections or recognize the results”. The Under-Secretary-General then stated that “On 23 January, large-scale opposition protests culminated with Juan Guaidó, President of the opposition-led National Assembly, announcing that he did not recognize President Maduro or his Government. Mr. Guaidó proclaimed himself interim President, pledging to form a transitional Government and call for elections.” Pointing to reports of deaths and injuries at those protests, she called for an independent investigation. Warning that the situation may spiral out of control, she recalled that, on 24 January, the Secretary-General emphasized the urgent need for all relevant actors to commit to dialogue and act in full respect of human rights and the rule of law. Meanwhile, the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are creating a mechanism to support Venezuelans fleeing the country. She stressed that all actors must exercise maximum restraint, urging them to be guided by the pursuit of the well-being of the Venezuelan people.

The members of the Council expressed concern regarding the political situation in the country which has led to widespread instability and to the displacement of many Venezuelans to neighbouring countries.

Council members called for international attention to Venezuela’s grave humanitarian situation and full respect of the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention in State affairs of the Charter of the United Nations.

The representative of Barbados, on behalf of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, expressed concern about the plight of the Venezuelan people amid increasing volatility. She expressed that the region must remain a zone of peace, and for external forces to refrain from destabilizing actions and on the parties to “step back from the brink”.

The President of the Council invited the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Jorge Arreaza, to address the Council under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council.

Thematic and other issues

Maintenance of international peace and security: addressing the impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security

On 25 January, the Council held an open debate on addressing the impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security. It was presided by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Miguel Vargas.

The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Under-Secretary-General, Administrator of UNDP, Achim Steiner; the Chief Scientist of the World Meteorological Organization, Pavel Kabat; and, a research assistant with the Stimson Center's Environmental Security Programme, Lindsay Getschel.

The debate generated great interest from Member States, with more than 80 speakers taking the floor, 14 of which were at the Ministerial level from all regions, and some delegations shared their views on the security implications of climate change and the possible engagement of the Security Council on the matter. The Dominican Republic presented a chair's summary of the open debate.

On 28 January, the Security Council issued a press statement on the terrorist attack in Sulu Province, Philippines. The members condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack that took place at Jolo Cathedral in Sulu, Philippines, on 27 January 2019, which resulted in 20 persons killed and dozens others wounded, for which Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) has claimed responsibility.

The members of the Council expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of the Philippines and they wished a speedy and full recovery to those who were injured. They reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.
