

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 18 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the work of the Security Council for the month of June 2019 during the presidency of Kuwait (see annex). The document was prepared by the Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, following consultations with 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) Mansour **Alotaibi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Introduction

In June 2019, the Security Council, under the presidency of Kuwait for the second time, held 31 formal meetings, including 1 open meeting, 1 debate, 3 closed meetings for representatives of troop- and police-contributing countries to peacekeeping operations and 13 informal consultations. The Council adopted eight resolutions and issued one presidential statement, four press statements and three elements to the press. Two Arria formula meetings, one informal interactive dialogue and one Toledo formula meeting were also held.

In accordance with United Nations practice, Kuwait began its presidency by presenting the Council's provisional programme of work for the month, which was adopted at the informal consultations of the whole on 3 June 2019.

Middle East

Libya

At the request of the delegation of the Russian Federation, the Council held an informal interactive dialogue on Friday, 7 June 2019, on developments connected with Operation Sophia in the run-up to the extension of the authorizations under Council resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#) on the strict implementation of the arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya. The Council was briefed by the Deputy Secretary-General for Common Security and Defence Policy and Crisis Response at the European External Action Service, Pedro Serrano.

The Deputy Secretary-General said that the European Union was the only regional organization taking effective measures to enforce the arms embargo pursuant to resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#). Since its adoption, some 2,420 vessels had been stopped for compulsory inspection during the Operation and two shipments of smuggled weapons had been seized. The measures served as a deterrent and had contributed to curbing arms smuggling to Libya. He expressed his hope that the suspension of the maritime component of Operation Sophia would be reviewed in September, indicating that the Operation was continuing in the form of aerial reconnaissance to gather data and identify key operational sites and thereby obtain a detailed picture of the situation off the coast of Libya. He stressed that the Operation was continuing to cooperate closely with the United Nations by sharing information and reporting on its activities.

The majority of members underlined their support for Operation Sophia and asserted that it was playing a tangibly positive role in enforcing the arms embargo. They expressed the hope that maritime operations would resume, as they were key to the strict implementation of the embargo. The Deputy Secretary-General urged the Council to extend the authorizations pursuant to resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#) at its meeting on the subject scheduled for Monday, 10 June 2019, given that they played a role in containing the fighting between Libyan factions around the capital, Tripoli. He pointed out that there was no military solution to the crisis and underlined the importance of resuming political dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations.

At a formal meeting held on Monday, 10 June 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2473 \(2019\)](#), by which the authorizations pursuant to resolution [2292 \(2016\)](#) were extended for one year. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire and

Indonesia all expressed concern about the increasing flow of weapons to Libya, where a battle had been raging around Tripoli for more than two months. They affirmed that, in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the parties to the conflict must not violate the arms embargo. They also underscored that there could be no military solution to the crisis in Libya and called upon all sides to cease fire immediately, eschew violence and return to the political process under the auspices of the United Nations.

Syrian Arab Republic

At a closed meeting held on Tuesday, 11 June 2019, for representatives of troop- and police-contributing countries, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

At informal consultations held on Thursday, 13 June 2019, to discuss the monthly report on the latest developments with regard to chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic (S/2019/447), the Council was briefed by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu.

At informal consultations held on Monday, 17 June 2019, to discuss the report of the Secretary-General on UNDOF (S/2019/467), the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations.

On Tuesday, 18 June 2019, the Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”, at the request of Belgium, Germany and Kuwait, in their capacity as pen holders for the Syrian Arab Republic on humanitarian issues, to discuss developments in the north-western Syrian Arab Republic. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs reported that violent clashes, air strikes, artillery exchanges and the use of barrel bombs continued unabated in the north-western Syrian Arab Republic and that such an escalation in hostilities rendered it impossible for the United Nations to pursue its efforts with regard to the political process in the country.

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator focused on the humanitarian consequences of the ongoing hostilities in the north-western Syrian Arab Republic, reporting that some 330,000 people had been displaced and more than 230 killed. Moreover, 37 schools had been affected by the violence, leaving 250,000 pupils unable to attend classes, and 26 health-care facilities had been targeted.

The majority of Council members expressed concern about the ongoing violence in the north-western Syrian Arab Republic and its impact on civilians and the humanitarian situation there and called upon the parties to abide by the memorandum of understanding concluded by the Russian Federation and Turkey in September 2018.

The representative of Germany delivered a statement on behalf of the pen holders for the Syrian Arab Republic on humanitarian issues (Belgium, Germany and Kuwait) condemning the civilian casualties caused by the escalation in fighting and welcoming efforts by the Russian Federation and Turkey to reinstate the ceasefire measures stipulated in their memorandum of understanding.

In his statement, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic focused on attacks by the Levant Liberation Organization on the population of Idlib and its environs and on the Syrian army, and called for an immediate end to the foreign

presence in his country, the lifting of sanctions, an end to the politicization of the humanitarian situation and support for efforts by the Syrian Arab Republic to rebuild and facilitate the return of Syrians to their homes.

The representative of Turkey expressed his country's concern about attacks on civilian facilities in the north-western Syrian Arab Republic and stressed his country's commitment to the memorandum of understanding between the Russian Federation and Turkey. He pointed out, however, that attacks by the Syrian regime on Turkish observation posts made it difficult to implement the memorandum and called upon the Syrian side to cease those attacks.

The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed his country's backing for the counter-terrorism efforts of the Syrian Arab Republic. He said that the Syrian Arab Republic was entitled to recover control of all its territory and to protect civilians, and that the taking of civilians as hostages by terrorists was unacceptable.

On Tuesday, 25 June 2019, the Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East" to discuss the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions [2139 \(2014\)](#), [2165 \(2014\)](#), [2191 \(2014\)](#), [2258 \(2015\)](#), [2332 \(2016\)](#), [2393 \(2017\)](#), [2401 \(2018\)](#) and [2449 \(2018\)](#) (S/2019/508). The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Head of the Russian Centre for the Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in Syria, Major General Alexey Bakin, and the Executive Director of the Syrian American Medical Society, David Lillie.

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator urged a halt to the killing of civilians and destruction of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools. He said that, despite attempts to reach ceasefire agreements, violent clashes between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and its allies, on the one hand, and armed groups and terrorist organizations such as the Levant Liberation Organization, on the other, continued to afflict the north-western Syrian Arab Republic. He talked at length about the deconfliction system, the purpose of which was to help the parties to the conflict to avoid targeting hospitals and medical and civilian facilities. The coordinates of such facilities had been disseminated, but they had been targeted nonetheless. He expressed concern about the situation in Rukban camp, calling upon the Syrian authorities to allow in a third humanitarian convoy, and Hawl camp, with its population of 73,000 people.

The Head of the Russian Centre for the Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in Syria said that, in a positive development, more than 220,000 refugees had returned to the Syrian Arab Republic since the beginning of 2019. He referred to the attacks and acts of provocation that had been committed in the recent past by terrorist groups, in particular the Levant Liberation Organization, on Syrian and Russian forces and gave an overview of attacks by terrorist groups on civilians and civilian facilities.

The Executive Director of the Syrian American Medical Society focused on the Society's efforts to provide medical care to people in need in the north-western Syrian Arab Republic but made clear that the latest escalation in hostilities was making it difficult to furnish such services. He described in detail several attacks that had targeted medical facilities in previous weeks.

The majority of members expressed concern about the continuing violence in the north-western Syrian Arab Republic and the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the Rukban and Hawl camps. The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic raised the issue of the politicization of humanitarian work and stressed the need to coordinate humanitarian action with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the importance of continuing to combat terrorism in the country.

At a formal meeting held on Wednesday, 26 June 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2477 \(2019\)](#), which had been submitted by the United States of America and the Russian Federation, extending the mandate of UNDOF for six months, until 31 December 2019.

On Thursday, 27 June 2019, the Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”, during which it was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Geir Pedersen, on the political process in the Syrian Arab Republic.

After the briefing, the Council held informal consultations to continue its discussion of the item.

The Special Envoy reiterated his concern about the situation in the north-western Syrian Arab Republic, where air strikes and shelling were continuing, adding that the situation on the front lines had changed little. There was a need to stop attacks by the Levant Liberation Organization, protect the civilian population in Idlib and uphold international humanitarian law during any counter-terrorism operations. Military clashes between Syrian forces and Turkish forces manning observation posts were a further source of concern.

He said that the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic could not be solved by military means and underscored his own efforts to revive the political process, in accordance with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#), and the need to begin, as a matter of priority, the work of the Constitutional Committee. He believed that the establishment of the Committee and its rules of procedure was within reach and looked forward to consulting the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Syrian Negotiation Commission in the near future in order to finalize the matter.

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic raised the subject of the Golan, affirming that it was Syrian territory occupied by Israel.

Yemen

On Monday, 10 June 2019, the Council issued a press statement in which it underlined its support for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, and reiterated its call upon the parties to continue broader implementation of the Stockholm Agreement, including full adherence to the ceasefire in Hudaydah Governorate, to the finalization of arrangements for the prisoner exchange agreement and to the Statement of Understanding on Ta‘izz.

On Monday, 17 June 2019, the Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East” to discuss the situation in Yemen, during which it was briefed by the Special Envoy, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), David Beasley.

After the briefing, the Council held informal consultations and was briefed by the Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee, Lieutenant General Michael Lollesgaard.

The Special Envoy thanked the Council for its support as he pursued efforts with the two sides to achieve a political solution in line with the three components of the Stockholm Agreement. He said that there was a solid commitment to the ceasefire across Hudaydah Governorate and optimism regarding the initiation of the first phase of the Hudaydah Agreement, in particular regarding the tripartite monitoring mechanism and meeting the parties’ concerns on the concept of operations. He hoped that tangible progress could be made on the implementation of the prisoner exchange

agreement and the Statement of Understanding on Ta‘izz as a step towards a political solution and emphasized his commitment to that goal and his impartiality.

The Under-Secretary-General emphasized that the main task for the humanitarian agencies working in Yemen was to keep millions of people alive by furnishing them with daily assistance. The response plan in Yemen required \$4.2 billion, which was three times more than the amount required in 2015.

The Executive Director of WFP spoke of the challenges facing the Programme in some areas controlled by Houthi militias, which was creating such obstacles to its operations that WFP might have to suspend or cut back its activities in those areas.

Many Council members condemned the targeting by the Houthis of Abha International Airport in Saudi Arabia, stressing that such acts threatening regional and international peace and security would have an adverse impact on United Nations efforts in support of a political solution to the crisis in Yemen. They also expressed concern about the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation and called upon donor States to fulfil their undertakings swiftly and provide the humanitarian agencies operating in Yemen with the support they needed so that they would not have to cut back or suspend their activities in some of the worst-affected areas.

At the same meeting, the Council agreed on elements to the press in which the members condemned the Houthi attack on Abha International Airport in Saudi Arabia on 12 June 2019 in which 26 people, including women and children, had been injured.

State of Palestine

On Thursday, 20 June 2019, the Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”, during which it considered the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Council was briefed by the United Nations 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, on the tenth report of the Secretary-General on the status of implementation of resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#).

After the briefing, the Council held informal consultations to continue its discussion of the item.

The Special Coordinator noted that Israel had not desisted from its policies on settlements and the seizure of Palestinian land by force. He called for an end to such operations, saying that the rate of house demolitions and forced displacement of civilians had reached its highest level since the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs had started monitoring those activities. He expressed concern about the financial plight of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and unilateral measures. He called upon the Government of Israel to release all funds, warning that the Palestinian Authority could collapse as a result of the grave economic situation it was facing. He also reiterated that long-term economic and humanitarian solutions were needed in Gaza. With regard to the \$480 million in assistance provided by Qatar, he noted that \$180 million had been allocated as humanitarian aid, part of it distributed through United Nations agencies working in the Gaza Strip, \$250 million as loans to the Palestinian Authority and \$50 million in project grants for the West Bank.

The Special Coordinator said that he had been apprised of the workshop that Bahrain and the United States intended to hold in Manama. Acknowledging the importance of economic support for creating an environment conducive to negotiations, he nevertheless stated that economic measures alone would not resolve the conflict. Rather, they must be one of several complementary steps in a political

process designed to end the occupation and address all final status issues in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The representative of the United States said that the Peace to Prosperity workshop that would be co-hosted by his country, in cooperation with Bahrain, presented a unique opportunity to bring together Governments, civil society and businesspeople to exchange ideas, discuss strategies and mobilize support for investments and potential economic initiatives that could be carried out as part of a peace deal. The workshop would facilitate discussions on an ambitious but achievable framework that could pave the way for a prosperous future for the Palestinians, including by improving economic management, developing human capital and unlocking private sector growth. His country was clear that its plan must be comprehensive and address all final status issues and that the economic plan was complementary to the political process. Sustainable Palestinian economic growth could not be achieved in the current climate. The economic vision constituted a road map, made up of a detailed set of projects and capacity-building programmes that could unleash sustainable, private sector-driven growth, but only after the final status issues had been resolved and peace achieved. He urged States to keep an open mind and make any suggestions in that regard.

The majority of the Council members expressed their concern about unilateral measures and the withholding of tax revenues, called for the full restitution of funds belonging to the Palestinian Authority and reiterated the basic terms of reference for achieving peace, including the two-State solution. They also called for a halt to settlement activity and land seizures, rejected attempts to change the historic character of and situation in Jerusalem, demanded respect for the holy sites there and reiterated their support for UNRWA, including through the forthcoming donor conference to be held in New York.

Islamic Republic of Iran

On Monday, 24 June 2019, the Council held informal consultations under the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East” to discuss the latest developments relating to attacks on tankers and ships in the Gulf region and the downing of an American drone. It was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

The Council issued elements to the press at the meeting, in which it condemned the attacks on oil tankers, which posed a grave threat to freedom of navigation and energy supplies, contravened international rules on freedom of navigation and maritime transport and threatened international peace and security.

Iraq

On Sunday, 30 June 2019, the Security Council issued a press statement on the visit by members of the Council to Kuwait and Iraq on 28 and 29 June 2019, which had been co-led by Kuwait and the United States. The members of the Council thanked the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, as well as the United Nations, for facilitating the visit, which had been the first of its kind to Iraq. They commended the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the International Committee of the Red Cross for their leadership of the tripartite commission set up to monitor developments in the search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals pursuant to Council resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#), and reaffirmed their support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and for the Mission in their work to support and assist the Government in accordance with the mandate contained in resolution [2470 \(2019\)](#).

Africa

Central African region

On Tuesday, 4 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “The situation in the Central African Republic”, during which it heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, François Louncény Fall.

After the briefing, the Council held informal consultations to continue its discussion of the item.

In his briefing, the Special Representative focused on the positive developments that had occurred in the Central African region, such as the presidential elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic by the Government and 14 armed groups. In addition, he addressed the deteriorating security in the region, drawing attention to the armed actions committed by the Lord’s Resistance Army in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the armed actions of and violations perpetrated by Boko Haram in Cameroon, Chad, the Niger, Nigeria and the Lake Chad basin region. He called upon Security Council members to intensify their cooperation with the States of the region and African organizations in order to find a solution to halt the actions of those groups and to address the root causes of armed conflict in the Central African region.

The Special Representative welcomed the notable progress that the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and other United Nations missions and offices in Central Africa, on the one hand, and the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States, on the other, had made in enhancing regional integration and cooperation.

Council members condemned the acts of terrorism perpetrated by Boko Haram and expressed concern that such acts continued to be perpetrated and about the threat that they posed to the Central African region, in particular the Lake Chad basin region. They emphasized that international partners and the Governments of the States of the region must redouble their efforts to respond to such acts and stressed the importance of international and regional support for Governments of the States of the region in countering the criminal acts and violations committed by the Lord’s Resistance Army against the local population in certain Central African States, namely, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mali

The Security Council held a closed meeting on Monday, 10 June 2019, for representatives of troop- and police-contributing countries, during which the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Mahamat Saleh Annadif, on MINUSMA.

On Wednesday, 12 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “The situation in Mali”, during which it was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of MINUSMA on the latest developments in Mali and on MINUSMA. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali, Tiébilé Drame, also participated in that meeting.

The Special Representative said that the security situation in central Mali had deteriorated since the beginning of the year. Noting that there had been cases of

intercommunal violence, he drew attention, in particular, to the attack that had occurred on Sunday, 9 June 2019, in the village of Sobane Da. MINUSMA was taking measures to support national efforts to control the situation in central Mali and to ensure the protection of civilians and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to areas in the centre of the country.

Council members offered their condolences to the people and Government of Mali for the lives lost in the attack against Sobane Da. The majority of members expressed concern about the security situation in central Mali and emphasized the need to expand the mandate of MINUSMA to support the efforts of the Government of Mali to ensure stability in central Mali.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali, speaking on behalf of the President and people of Mali, said that he appreciated the ongoing support of the Security Council to bring about stability in his country, and stressed the need to renew the mandate of MINUSMA for another year and expand the scope of its operations to include central Mali, owing to the deteriorating security situation there. He offered his thanks to all the States that had contributed troops to MINUSMA and expressed his appreciation for the support and protection that they provided to civilians in the country.

On Friday, 28 June 2019, the Council held a formal meeting at which it unanimously adopted resolution [2480 \(2019\)](#), which had been submitted by France (the pen holder), concerning the extension of the mandate of MINUSMA.

All members made statements in which they welcomed the unanimous adoption of the resolution and urged the Government of Mali to implement the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, which had been concluded by the Government and the signatory armed groups.

Sudan and South Sudan

On Tuesday, 11 June 2019, the Security Council issued a press statement in which Council members strongly condemned the recent violence in the Sudan, expressed regret for the loss of life and injuries among civilians, extended their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy and complete recovery to the injured.

At a closed meeting held by the Council on Tuesday, 11 June 2019, representatives of troop- and police-contributing countries were briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and by the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, Atul Khare, on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

On Friday, 14 June 2019, the Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”. It was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Andrew Gilmour.

After the briefing, the Council held informal consultations to continue its discussion of the item.

The Under-Secretary-General underscored that the remaining challenges for Darfur were the resumption of the political process, land ownership, environmental change and human rights issues. Peacekeeping was no longer the most appropriate tool to address the situation in Darfur. In the course of discussing the forthcoming mandate of UNAMID, it was necessary to focus on achieving a political solution, promoting the rule of law and providing durable solutions for internally displaced persons.

The Assistant Secretary-General addressed human rights violations committed in Darfur, in particular in the Jebel Marra area, where there were only civilians, militias and Sudanese forces.

The representative of the Sudan praised the strategic assessment team for its professionalism and said that his country strongly rejected any attempt to change the timeline for the exit of UNAMID and to maintain the presence of United Nations forces without justification.

On Wednesday, 19 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”, during which the Council was briefed by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda.

On Tuesday, 25 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”, during which the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, David Shearer, by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and by a representative of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board of the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, Lydia Minagano.

After the briefing, the Council held informal consultations to continue its discussion of the item.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General addressed the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan and informed the Council that the number of community reconciliations had increased, the ceasefire continued to hold and more than half a million internally displaced persons and refugees had returned since the signing of the Agreement. He said that the States members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development had extended the pre-transitional period by six months, to 12 November 2019, adding that that was the last opportunity to achieve peace and all parties must seize it.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights said that he was concerned about violations of privacy, restrictions of liberty, arbitrary imprisonment and impunity for crimes of sexual violence. The Government of South Sudan had not yet signed the memorandum of understanding on the establishment of the hybrid court, something that it had agreed to do in 2015 under the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and again under the Revitalized Agreement.

The representative of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission addressed women’s issues. She called for a reduction in violence against women and for an increase in women’s participation in all institutions, including transitional and military institutions. In addition, she highlighted the importance of security sector reform and called for the strengthening of communication among the Government in Juba, the states and civil society.

The majority of Council members stressed the importance of not losing the opportunity presented by what remained of the pre-transitional period, and they condemned human rights violations and crimes of sexual violence in South Sudan.

The representative of South Sudan reiterated that the transition process in her country required much funding and technical assistance. She thanked donor countries for their assistance and hoped that more countries would join their ranks in the future.

On Wednesday, 26 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”

to discuss the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan. The Permanent Representative of Poland, in her capacity as Chair of that Committee, briefed the Council.

The Permanent Representative of Poland presented the quarterly report on the activities of the Committee.

On Thursday, 27 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting at which it unanimously adopted resolution [2479 \(2019\)](#), on extending the mandate of UNAMID for four months.

Burundi

On Friday, 14 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “The situation in Burundi”, during which the Council was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Smaïl Chergui, and the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Jürg Lauber.

After the briefing, the Council held informal consultations to continue its discussion of the item.

The Assistant Secretary-General said that the attention of the Government of Burundi was focused on the elections that would be held in 2020 and, in that connection, set out some of the notable steps that the Government had taken, such as the adoption of the electoral law and the establishment of the National Independent Electoral Commission. The Government had postponed the publication of the electoral calendar, which had initially been scheduled to be released on 14 June 2019, but it would soon do so. He added that the situation of human rights in Burundi remained a cause for concern, unemployment was increasing and almost 1.8 million Burundians suffered from acute food shortages. He said that \$106.4 million was required to fund the humanitarian response plan to address the food shortages.

The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union said that his organization had been fully committed to the process of restoring peace and security to Burundi since the outbreak of the crisis in 2015, adding that the African Union was firmly convinced that the only way for Burundi to overcome the crisis was for all parties, without exception, to engage in a comprehensive dialogue. Turning to the elections, he said that the political process in Burundi was progressing slowly and the 2020 elections should not be a new source of division among the Burundian people.

The Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission said that no security incidents had been reported during his stay in Bujumbura and the streets had been filled with persons engaged in their normal activities. The Burundian authorities had confirmed that the security situation in the country was calm and stable and did not pose a threat to international peace and security. He encouraged members, international partners, the United Nations and the Government of Burundi to work together to create an environment that was conducive to improving the situation of human rights. Initiatives to promote reconciliation and dialogue among all stakeholders were vital to reducing tensions during the election and post-election periods and preserving the gains that would be achieved through the electoral process, in accordance with the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement.

The representatives of Belgium, Côte d’Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, France, Peru, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States said that the Government of Burundi must address the causes of the deteriorating security conditions and put a stop to human rights violations, such as violence, murder, intimidation and forced disappearance. Halting those abuses was vital to achieving progress before the 2020

election. They also said that it was important to keep the situation in Burundi on the agenda of the Security Council until the presidential elections were held in 2020. Those States welcomed the efforts that regional and international organizations, most notably the East African Community and the United Nations, were making. They praised the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Michel Kafando, for his efforts and emphasized the need to continue supporting him.

The representatives of China, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Kuwait, the Russian Federation and South Africa reaffirmed that the political dialogue between the opposition parties and the Government of Burundi must continue and emphasized the need to adhere to the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, which had been signed in the United Republic of Tanzania in 2000. They welcomed the voluntary return of refugees to their homes following the tripartite agreement that had been concluded by the Governments of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and called for government programmes to be put in place that would reintegrate the returning refugees into society. The above-mentioned members praised the Government of Burundi for the measures that it had taken to prepare for the presidential elections in 2020, including the adoption of the electoral law and the establishment of the National Independent Electoral Commission, and they welcomed the decision by the President, Pierre Nkurunziza, not to contest the forthcoming presidential elections. Equatorial Guinea and the Russian Federation stressed the need for the Council to remove Burundi from its agenda.

The representative of Burundi said that it was regrettable that the situation in his country was once again on the agenda of the Security Council, adding that some Council members still viewed the situation in Burundi as it had been four years ago and did not want to consider the current political situation in Burundi objectively and with discernment. He said that the timing of the meeting was not at all appropriate given that there was no emergency in Burundi. The meeting constituted diplomatic and political harassment of Burundi, and such actions could undermine peace, security and stability in his country. He reiterated that the political situation in Burundi had returned to normal following the post-election tensions in 2015. Democratically elected institutions were now operating throughout the country, and the mandate of those institutions would be renewed in the same democratic manner in 2020.

Central African Republic

On Thursday, 20 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “The situation in the Central African Republic”, during which the Council was briefed by 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, Mankeur Ndiaye, the African Union Special Representative and Head of the African Union Office in the Central African Republic, Matias Bertino Matondo, and the Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service, Koen Vervaeke.

After the briefing, the Council held informal consultations to continue its discussion of the item.

The Special Representative drew attention to some of the measures that the President of the Central African Republic, Faustin Archange Touadera, and his Government had taken since the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic on 6 February 2019, including the issuance of laws or decrees that were in line with its provisions and cooperation with regional and international organizations. The Special Representative said that he

welcomed the visits to the Central African Republic by representatives of organizations and of the Governments of neighbouring States. He noted that, despite positive developments in the Central African Republic over the past few months, international organizations continued to report that armed groups were violating human rights and engaging in illicit activities, including illegal taxation and impeding the restoration of State authority in many areas.

The African Union Special Representative and Head of the African Union Office in the Central African Republic and the Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service said that the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic was a genuine achievement for the Government of the Central African Republic, adding that the African Union and the European Union were its partners and supported it. They were fully convinced that the Agreement provided a genuine opportunity for a better future in the Central African Republic if it were implemented by all parties in good faith and seriousness and with a real sense of responsibility. They also drew attention to the positive actions that the Government had taken since the signing of the Agreement, such as establishing special committees to follow up on the implementation of the Agreement, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration into society of members of armed groups, making preparations for the elections, registering voters and setting out the electoral calendar before the end of the current year.

Council members praised the President and the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic for their efforts to restore security and to engage all the political parties in dialogue and consultation. They also praised their cooperation with neighbouring States and regional and international organizations and their willingness to receive United Nations delegations. Members commended the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic for its efforts to establish peace in the Central African Republic. They expressed deep concern regarding the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic and the fact that nearly half the population was in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. They reiterated that it was important for all international organizations to provide the Central African Republic with political and financial support in order to help it implement the provisions of the Agreement and improve the security, political and economic situations.

The Council issued elements to the press in which it strongly condemned the continued violence by armed groups, including the killing of more than 40 civilians near Paoua in May 2019, which was an unacceptable violation of the Agreement.

Nigeria

On Thursday, 20 June 2019, the Security Council issued a press statement in which it condemned the terrorist attack that had occurred on 16 June 2019 in the village of Konduga, Nigeria, which resulted in the deaths of 30 persons. The Council conveyed its condolences to the victims' families and the Government of Nigeria and wished a speedy recovery to those who had been injured. It emphasized that the competent authorities in the country must determine the causes of the attack and called upon the international community to cooperate with the Government of Nigeria in order to apprehend the perpetrators of the attack.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On Wednesday, 26 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting at which it unanimously adopted resolution [2478 \(2019\)](#), which had been submitted by France, concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo sanctions regime.

Somalia

On Wednesday, 26 June 2019, the Security Council held informal consultations under the item entitled “The situation in Somalia”, during which the Council was briefed by the Permanent Representative of Belgium in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia on the activities of that Committee.

Asia

Afghanistan

On Wednesday, 19 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “The situation in Afghanistan” to discuss the latest developments in the situation in Afghanistan. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, and the Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Sima Samar.

The Special Representative focused on the preparations for the forthcoming presidential elections, which were scheduled for 28 September 2019, impartially and without government intervention. He stressed the need to reach a negotiated settlement and not to lose momentum. He mentioned the continuation of direct talks between the United States and the Taliban, as well as the efforts of Germany and Qatar to prepare a second round of an intra-Afghan dialogue. He also said that some prominent Afghan actors had already had the opportunity, in Moscow in late May 2019, to exchange views with Taliban representatives. He stressed the need for all those efforts to be directed towards one common objective: to start formal negotiations between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban to reach a peace agreement.

The Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission focused on the human rights of women, youth and minorities in Afghanistan and the role of those groups in the political process, and she stressed the importance of preserving the rights that had been won and the progress that had been made over the previous 18 years. In addition, she addressed the targeting of civilians by the Taliban and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and stressed the need to pursue further reforms to combat corruption.

All Council members expressed concern about the unstable and volatile security situation but noted that the political and security aspects were linked. Arriving at an agreement in respect of the political reconciliation process would have a positive effect on the security situation in Afghanistan. Council members drew attention to the election of the current Parliament. Council members also expressed their concern regarding the continued migration and displacement of many Afghan civilians from villages and towns because of violence, drought and natural disasters. They reiterated that those questions must be addressed promptly in order to avoid further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

Non-proliferation

On Wednesday, 26 June 2019, the Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “Non-proliferation” to discuss implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) concerning the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The Council heard briefings from the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Permanent Representative of Belgium in his capacity as Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#), and the representative of the European Union on behalf of the Joint Commission.

All the briefers noted the importance of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as a unique diplomatic achievement. They welcomed the continued compliance by the Islamic Republic of Iran with its nuclear commitments, as verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). They regretted the decision by the United States to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. That decision had had an impact on the capacity of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement certain of its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action owing to the non-extension by the United States of oil waivers and the ban on cooperating with certain technical projects that were part of the Plan of Action.

The briefers agreed that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was at a crossroads. They regretted the announcement by the Islamic Republic of Iran that it could no longer fulfil its commitments under the Plan of Action, including those with respect to uranium enrichment and heavy water production.

The Under-Secretary-General relayed the Secretary-General’s call upon Member States to avoid actions that might result in a further deterioration of the current situation. She said that the Secretary-General urged all parties to engage in dialogue and diplomacy to address their differences, exercise maximum restraint and de-escalate current tensions to avoid the risk of miscalculation and accidents. She emphasized that the Security Council had an important role to play in that regard.

The representative of the European Union noted that the States members of the European Union were committed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which was an appropriate and exemplary mechanism for verifying the nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thanks to the Plan of Action, five European Union-led discussions had already taken place, with a focus on exchanging views with the Islamic Republic of Iran on regional stability.

A majority of Council members expressed regret at the decision by the United States to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Recent developments had put implementation of the Plan of Action at a crossroads. Council members also expressed regret that the United States had imposed unilateral sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran, failed to extend oil waivers and banned certain projects included in the Plan of Action.

The representative of the United States said that the defiance of the Security Council by the Islamic Republic of Iran and its reckless behaviour, which threatened peace and security globally, must not be downplayed in the name of preserving a deal that did not fully cut off the path of the Islamic Republic of Iran to a nuclear weapon. Iranian provocations had been relentless and its excuses for every provocation, from launches using ballistic missile technology to procurement of prohibited items, strained credulity. He said that the United States had made clear its willingness to engage in dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran to negotiate a deal that would better serve international peace and security.

All Council members brought up the attacks on oil tankers and other ships, which they condemned as a threat to international shipping lanes and energy supplies, and therefore to international peace and security.

The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that IAEA reports had confirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran was carrying out its nuclear commitments. That fulfilled the first pillar of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. However, the second pillar, which was the lifting of sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the initiation of commercial exchange, had not been fully implemented. He stated that a multilateral agreement could not be implemented unilaterally. The Islamic Republic of Iran, under paragraphs 26 and 36 of the Plan of Action, had the right to cease performing its commitments under the Plan of Action in whole or in part. He added that it had been the United States that had violated Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and penalized the Islamic Republic of Iran by engaging in “economic terrorism” against its people. It had then sent its military forces and spy planes, after sowing division among the States of the region so it could force them to buy weapons from it. He added that the United States drone brought down by the Islamic Republic of Iran had crossed four miles into Iranian airspace. The wreckage had landed in Iranian waters and was in the possession of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He closed his statement by saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran rejected the claims being made by the United States about the attacks on tankers. Even some of the closest allies of the United States were not supporting those claims.

Europe

Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)

On Monday, 10 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)”. The Council heard briefings from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Zahir Tanin, and the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, João Miguel Ferreira de Serpa Soares, on the report of the Secretary-General ([S/2019/461](#)) and the incident on 28 May 2019 in the northern Kosovo town of Zubin Potok. Also taking part were the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dačić, and the representative of Kosovo, Vlora Çitaku.

The Special Representative and the Under-Secretary-General discussed at length the incident on 28 May 2019 in the northern Kosovo town of Zubin Potok. The fact-finding process was ongoing, but it was important to note certain circumstances of the incident that involved violations by the authorities in Kosovo of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. Those violations included failure to respect the immunity of United Nations staff, seizure of a United Nations vehicle and failure to disclose all the particulars of the incident to the Secretary-General or his Special Representative. The authorities in Kosovo needed to be transparent with UNMIK about the incident. The doctrine of *persona non grata* should not be applied to United Nations personnel.

Council members underlined the importance of respecting the diplomatic immunity enjoyed by United Nations staff under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. They also called upon Kosovo to rescind or suspend recently adopted measures raising customs duties on products from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia to 100 per cent, which violated the Central European Free Trade Agreement.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia stressed that Serbia had refrained from taking unilateral action. Dialogue had been cut off for one reason alone, which was the decision by Kosovo to raise import duties on products from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia to 100 per cent. That measure had been roundly condemned by the international community, including allies of Kosovo, and was in violation of the Central European Free Trade Agreement. He hoped that Kosovo would fulfil its pledge made at the Balkan summit convened by France and Germany in April 2019 to resume dialogue, implement existing agreements between the two sides and move ahead with the normalization of relations.

The representative of Kosovo explained her delegation's position on the 28 May 2019 incident in the northern Kosovo town of Zubin Potok. She stressed that the police in Kosovo operated in accordance with the highest standards and complied fully with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, in addition to respecting diplomats. She indicated that the increase of import duties for Serbian goods to 100 per cent had been in response to a hostile campaign by Serbia against Kosovo.

Americas

The question concerning Haiti

On Tuesday, 25 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting at which it adopted resolution [2476 \(2019\)](#) by 13 votes in favour to none against, with 2 abstentions (China and the Dominican Republic). In that resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti to replace the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, the mandate of which was scheduled to expire on 15 October 2019.

The representative of the United States recounted the achievements of United Nations missions in Haiti and looked forward to a new United Nations role in the country that would be exemplified by a new political mission that was not a peacekeeping mission. The representatives of Peru, Germany, France and the Dominican Republic expressed disappointment at the lack of reference to the effects of climate change on the ecosystem of Haiti. The representative of China said that his country had abstained because the resolution lacked clarity and was inconsistent with the core function of the Security Council as the custodian of international peace and security. The representative of the Russian Federation urged the national Government to engage positively with the new political mission in pursuit of the goal for which it had been established, which was to strengthen and upgrade national institutions to meet the aspirations of the Haitian people. The representative of Haiti looked forward to the role to be played by the political mission at a critical stage, during which stability in Haiti was being affected by lack of food security and an increase in the activity of armed gangs.

Thematic issues

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council on the working methods of the Council ([S/2017/507](#))

On Thursday, 6 June 2019, 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](#)). The Council heard briefings on the working methods of the Council from the Executive Director of Security Council Report,

Karin Landgren, and the Director of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, James Cockayne.

The Executive Director of Security Council Report touched on the working methods of the Security Council as they related to strengthening the role of the Council's elected members, cooperation with the other United Nations Member States and mandates for peacekeeping operations and preventive actions. She focused on the growing unity shown by the 10 elected members of the Council with regard to improving the Council's working methods and the proposals made by Kuwait to ensure equitable and fair distribution of responsibilities among all members. She also stressed the importance of ensuring fairness and due process in the work of the sanctions committees.

The Director of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research spoke about the importance of ensuring due process in the implementation of United Nations sanctions. The Security Council should consider adapting the working methods of sanctions committees to strengthen due process protections, including by broadening the mandate of the Ombudsperson to cover all the committees.

All States taking part, including the Security Council members, expressed their appreciation for efforts by Kuwait to increase the efficiency and transparency of the Council's work through its chairing of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. All the permanent members expressed their determination to work constructively with the rest of the Council members to reach agreement on the draft notes provided by Kuwait in the context of the work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions.

The representative of South Africa, in his capacity as coordinator for the 10 elected members for the month of June, delivered a statement on behalf of the 10 non-permanent members in which he called upon all Council members to cooperate constructively to reach agreement on the notes submitted by Kuwait.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On Tuesday, 11 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled "Protection of civilians in armed conflict". The Council heard briefings from the Director of the Operations and Advocacy Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Reena Ghelani, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah.

At that meeting, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2474 \(2019\)](#) on missing persons in armed conflict. The resolution had been submitted by Kuwait and sponsored by 68 States Members of the United Nations.

The Director of the Operations and Advocacy Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs welcomed the adoption of resolution [2474 \(2019\)](#) and encouraged Council members to work on its implementation. She listed a number of things that might cause civilians or combatants to go missing in armed conflicts, resulting in major humanitarian implications for their families.

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Kuwait for its leadership in bringing the humanitarian issue before the Council. He commended the Council's unity in adopting the first thematic resolution on the issue of missing persons in armed conflict, describing it as one of the deepest wounds of war. He called upon the international community to muster the political will needed to ensure full compliance with international legal

obligations within a collaborative framework capable of addressing the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict. So much could be done if parties to conflicts would fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law to search for missing persons and identify remains. It would have positive consequences for the future of relations between parties to conflicts if the issue were treated as humanitarian rather than political.

Council members commended the initiative of Kuwait in putting the issue before the Council under the item entitled “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” for the first time. Some Council members also emphasized that the term “missing persons in armed conflict” included not only civilians, but also combatants. Council members said that the resolution would strengthen international cooperation in the context of multilateral action. They expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts of international and regional organizations, and in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross, to reduce the humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts and find solutions to determining the fate of missing persons. They stressed that responsibility lay primarily with States and the parties to conflicts to ensure implementation of existing international laws and norms.

On Thursday, 20 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting at which it unanimously adopted resolution [2475 \(2019\)](#) on protection of persons with disabilities during armed conflict. The resolution had been submitted by Poland and the United Kingdom and sponsored by 68 States Members of the United Nations.

Maintenance of international peace and security

On Wednesday, 12 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”. The Council heard briefings from the Secretary-General, the Chair of the Elders, Mary Robinson, and the Vice-Chair of the Elders, Ban Ki-moon. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah.

The Secretary-General said that conflict prevention and mediation were two of the most important tools for reducing human suffering. Early and united action could successfully prevent crises, save lives and reduce suffering. He listed some of the challenges facing the world, including divisions in the international community and the resurgence of populism and policies that contributed to marginalization and extremism.

The Chair of the Elders expressed the view that the Security Council had often failed to live up to its responsibilities. She focused on three particular areas: (a) preventive measures, including attention to human rights, inclusion of women and realization of justice; (b) the threat posed to international peace and security by climate change; and (c) the potential of technology to exacerbate crises, such as through the misuse of social media. In that regard, she stressed the need for the Council to consider the topic of cybersecurity.

Mr. Ban touched on the need for the Security Council to be more effective, which would require improving its working methods. He stressed the importance of support from the Council for the special envoys and representatives of the Secretary-General in carrying out their functions, and the need to strengthen cooperation with regional organizations. Nuclear proliferation was among the greatest threats facing the international community, and he specifically noted the need to address the nuclear programmes of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also expressed concern about the withdrawal of the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which he feared would send the wrong signal in

terms of the ongoing negotiations over the nuclear programme in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Most Council members stressed the importance of improving the Council's preventive measures and addressing conflicts in their initial stages before they escalated and became threats to international peace and security. That would also save lives and avoid depletion of the United Nations' financial resources.

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

On Thursday, 13 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security". The Council heard a briefing from the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah.

The Secretary-General reviewed the situation in the Arab region, beginning with the importance of resolving the Palestinian question and putting an end to the Israeli occupation in accordance with the two-State solution on the basis of United Nations resolutions. He also called for a peaceful solution in the Syrian Arab Republic, respect for human rights, an end to violence, an inclusive and credible political solution, full implementation of Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#) and the launch of a peace process. He expressed concern about military confrontation and armed clashes in Libya and called for a peaceful solution there. He also called for more support for the stability of Lebanon and a resolution of the refugee issue, as well as a peaceful solution to the crisis in Yemen.

The Secretary-General welcomed recent political developments in Iraq, and in particular its opening up and restoration of relations with its neighbours. He added that Iraq still needed the support of the international community and neighbouring States in order to continue its recovery and reconstruction.

The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States spoke about the security situation in the region, including, in particular, in the Syrian Arab Republic, where the ongoing crisis had entered its ninth year. He noted the sensitivity of the situation in Yemen, which posed a direct threat to its neighbours. He stressed the centrality of the Palestinian question, the need to end the occupation and the importance of supporting a two-State solution and reaching a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also noted the importance of solidifying security in Somalia and the Horn of Africa region. He condemned the targeting of oil tankers in the Arabian Gulf and called for an end to interference in the region and an end to support and financing for terrorist militias coming from outside.

Council members emphasized the essential role played by regional organizations in strengthening international peace and security. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations should be enhanced within the framework of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Coordination and cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations was important for establishing security and stability in the region and finding joint solutions to problems relating to terrorism, refugees, migration and the environment that faced the Arab States, in particular, and the world as a whole. Focus should be placed on the magnitude of the challenges facing the Arab world and their impact on international peace and security, and the importance of coordination to reach common ground with a view to eliminating extremism, Islamic State in Iraq and

the Levant terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region.

After the meeting, the President of the Security Council issued a presidential statement in which he expressed the Council's appreciation for the briefings of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, on 13 June 2019, and reiterated that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security, and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter, could improve collective security. The Council requested the Secretary-General to report, as appropriate, on further ways of strengthening institutional relations and cooperation between the two organizations.

United Nations peacekeeping operations

On Tuesday, 18 June 2019, the Security Council held a formal meeting under the item entitled "United Nations peacekeeping operations". The Council heard briefings from the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the Force Commander of UNAMID, General Leonard Muriuki Ngondi, and the Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Major General Cheryl Pearce.

The Under-Secretary-General expressed his condolences for the passing of the former Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. He said that United Nations peacekeeping operations needed funding to meet unforeseen challenges, including pandemics or natural disasters, that affected civilians. With regard to operations in Africa, he reiterated the position of the Secretariat in support of providing predictable and sustainable financial resources for United Nations-authorized operations led by the African Union.

The Force Commander of UNAMID focused on challenges facing the Mission, in particular with regard to the change of government in the Sudan, the handover of UNAMID sites and the safety of Mission personnel, as they related to the eventual exit of UNAMID in 2020. He said that the Mission was making progress in three of the four elements of the mandate. It was only the political pillar that was facing challenges, owing to conditions in the Sudan and the stalled political process in Darfur.

The Force Commander of UNFICYP talked about the mission's operation in the buffer zone. According to her, the Cypriot sides viewed the buffer zone differently, which made the mission's work difficult sometimes. She also said that troop-contributing countries had a responsibility to ensure cooperation with host States and avoid negative impacts on missions.

Most of the questions asked by members in their statements revolved around lessons learned from mission operations. Most States stressed the need for all concerned, including the host States, to comply with status-of-forces agreements and other agreements with peacekeeping missions.