

Table 2  
**Videoconferences: the situation in the Central African Republic**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
21 January 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/76</a>	Letter dated 25 January 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
24 February 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/187</a>	Letter dated 26 February 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
12 March 2021	<a href="#">S/2021/258</a>	Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2566 (2021)</a> 14-0-1 <sup>a</sup> (adopted under Chapter VII) <a href="#">S/2021/253</a>

<sup>a</sup> *For*: China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam; *against*: none; *abstained*: Russian Federation.

## 6. Central African region

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings in connection with the situation in the Central African region. It adopted no resolutions on the item in 2021. Both meetings took the form of briefings.<sup>167</sup> Under the item, the Council considered developments in Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and the Gulf of Guinea. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

During the period under review, consistent with the six-month reporting period requested by the Council in its presidential statement of 10 August 2018,<sup>168</sup> the Council heard two briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of UNOCA.<sup>169</sup> The Special Representative apprised the Council on the activities of UNOCA, its continued cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the United Nations Office for West

Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and its activities as the secretariat for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. The Special Representative updated the Council on the political, human rights and security situation in the region. In that regard, he informed the Council on the preparations for and conduct of elections in several Central African countries and the subsequent political transitions, the continued threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism, particularly in the Lake Chad basin, maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the activities of UNOCA and the socioeconomic situation in countries in the region, and the impact of climate change on the security and prosperity of Central African countries.

In his briefing to the Council on 7 June,<sup>170</sup> the Special Representative reported that the pandemic continued to affect the activities of UNOCA, although the situation was gradually improving thanks to a combination of immunization and prevention programmes implemented by the Governments in the subregion. Central Africa remained the subregion on the African continent with the lowest number of infections and deaths from COVID-19. In that regard, he mentioned the successful convening of the fifty-first

<sup>167</sup> For more information on format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>168</sup> [S/PRST/2018/17](#), twentieth paragraph.

<sup>169</sup> See [S/2021/517](#) and [S/2021/975](#).

<sup>170</sup> See [S/PV.8787](#).

meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee by the Government of Burundi in Bujumbura on 28 May 2021, which was a testament to the resilience that Central African States had demonstrated, individually and collectively, in their efforts to promote socioeconomic recovery, maintain political stability and promote regional integration despite the constraints posed by the pandemic. On elections, the Special Representative took note of the recommendation by the ministerial segment of the Advisory Committee to develop a subregional protocol on electoral governance and democratic elections in Central Africa. Since his last briefing to the Council, elections had taken place in four countries, namely, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo and Gabon, and elections were upcoming in Sao Tome and Principe. In that regard, he encouraged the national authorities and all political stakeholders to promote continued dialogue and consensus on the conditions governing the elections. He further noted the commitment of ECCAS to promoting peace and stability in the subregion, as evidenced by the convening of two extraordinary summits of Heads of State and Government, on the situation in the Central African Republic and on Chad, on 26 December and 4 June 2020, respectively.

The Special Representative also provided information to the Council on the challenges specific to the various countries of the subregion, namely, the fragilities in Burundi, the violence in the north-west and south-west regions of Cameroon and the instability and border tensions in Chad. He also referred to the threat posed to the region by non-State armed groups, such as the increased and compounding threat posed by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin and by the Lord's Resistance Army. He added that in the Gulf of Guinea, maritime crime remained a serious threat to Central and West African States and had been high on the agenda of the last two meetings of the Advisory Committee. He concluded that Central Africa was strongly affected by the negative impact of climate change, a trend that was likely to worsen over the next few decades, hampering socioeconomic progress and exacerbating political and security tensions in the subregion.

In his briefing to the Council on 15 December,<sup>171</sup> the Special Representative reported on the worsening situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic and a generally slow and asymmetric vaccination campaign in the subregion. On elections, he took note of the peaceful and orderly presidential election in Sao Tome and Principe and the preparations for the upcoming crucial elections in 2022 and 2023, including in

Angola, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. The Special Representative pledged to pursue good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General to encourage inclusive and meaningful political dialogue in the countries preparing for elections, for which the Council's support would be crucial. He reported on the implementation of institutional reform in ECCAS, including through the operationalization of the newly established Committee of Permanent Representatives and the regular convening of statutory meetings. He commended ECCAS for its continued engagement in Chad and the Central African Republic. A strong ECCAS was needed to help its member States to address the many challenges facing Central Africa, including terrorism and violent extremism, particularly in the Lake Chad basin, maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the weak participation of women in peace and political processes and the impact of climate change on peace and security. As in his previous briefing, the Special Representative provided information to the Council on the challenges specific to the various countries of the subregion, such as Cameroon and the continued violence in the north-west and south-west regions of the country, the Central African Republic, including the regional engagement within the framework of the road map adopted in Luanda in September 2021 to support the effective implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic,<sup>172</sup> and Chad, where significant progress had been achieved in reaching key transitional milestones despite challenges.<sup>173</sup>

In 2021, the Council's deliberations focused on major political and security developments, as well as on the humanitarian, human rights and socioeconomic challenges affecting the Central African region, including those resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. On the political front, Council members discussed the electoral processes taking place in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe and the assistance provided by the United Nations in that regard. Council members also deliberated on the role of the United Nations, including UNOCA and its Head, in conflict prevention and mediation throughout the Central African region. They also addressed the Office's cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union and ECCAS, as well as United Nations regional offices, in resolving conflicts, assisting countries in peace and

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<sup>171</sup> See [S/PV.8933](#).

<sup>172</sup> *Ibid.* For more information, see sect. 5 above.

<sup>173</sup> See [S/PV.8933](#).

political processes, addressing the humanitarian and human rights challenges and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. With regard to cooperation with regional actors, some Council members expressed support for the UNOCA-ECCAS joint strategic plan for 2021–2025.<sup>174</sup> Council members also addressed the situations in specific countries and, in particular: (a) post-electoral developments in the Central African Republic, including reports of violence and human rights abuses and attacks on the personnel of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic,<sup>175</sup> and the subsequent ceasefire declared by the President, Faustin Archange Touadera;<sup>176</sup> (b) clashes in Cameroon, in particular the north-west and south-west regions, including reports of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law;<sup>177</sup> (c) border tensions between the Central African Republic and Chad;<sup>178</sup> (d) progress made by Chad towards transitional milestones despite significant security challenges, and the call by the African Union for an inclusive transition and the restoration of constitutional order;<sup>179</sup> and (e) the improving human rights situation in Burundi.<sup>180</sup> Council members deliberated on the cross-border threat posed by terrorism in the Lake Chad basin and elsewhere and expressed support for action by the Multinational Joint Task Force to respond to those threats, in particular the activities of Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa

Province.<sup>181</sup> Council members also expressed concern regarding the continued threats posed by organized crime and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.<sup>182</sup> Some members recognized and deliberated on the adverse effects of climate change on security in the region.<sup>183</sup> They also continually addressed the impact of conflict and humanitarian crises on women<sup>184</sup> and the need to ensure the equal participation of women and youth in political and peace processes.<sup>185</sup>

In 2021, by an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Council dated 3 and 6 August 2021 respectively, the Council extended the mandate of UNOCA for three years, until 31 August 2024.<sup>186</sup> In renewing the mandate, the Council reiterated that, with certain modifications, the mandate would focus on four core objectives, namely: (a) monitoring political and security developments in Central Africa and carrying out good offices on behalf of the Secretary-General in order to prevent and resolve conflicts, sustain peace and advise the Secretary-General and United Nations entities in the region on matters related to sustaining peace in Central Africa; (b) enhancing subregional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation in countries of the subregion, with due attention to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including human rights and gender dimensions; (c) supporting and enhancing United Nations efforts in the subregion, as well as regional and subregional initiatives on peace and security, including from human rights and gender perspectives; and (d) enhancing coherence and coordination in the work of the United Nations in the subregion on peace and security.<sup>187</sup>

<sup>174</sup> See [S/PV.8787](#) (India, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Viet Nam and Ireland).

<sup>175</sup> *Ibid.* (India, United States, Russian Federation, Ireland and Estonia).

<sup>176</sup> See [S/PV.8933](#) (United Kingdom, France, Viet Nam, India, Mexico, China, Ireland, United States and Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

<sup>177</sup> See [S/PV.8787](#) (United Kingdom, China, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), United States, Norway, France, Viet Nam, Mexico and Ireland); and [S/PV.8933](#) (United Kingdom, France, Viet Nam, Mexico, China and United States).

<sup>178</sup> See [S/PV.8787](#) (United Kingdom, India, Norway, Russian Federation and Viet Nam); and [S/PV.8933](#) (India).

<sup>179</sup> See [S/PV.8787](#) (United Kingdom, China, India, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), United States, France and Ireland); and [S/PV.8933](#) (United Kingdom, France, Estonia, India, Mexico, China, Ireland, United States and Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

<sup>180</sup> See [S/PV.8787](#) (United States); and [S/PV.8933](#) (United Kingdom, China and United States).

<sup>181</sup> See [S/PV.8787](#) (India); and [S/PV.8933](#) (United Kingdom, France and India).

<sup>182</sup> See [S/PV.8787](#) (China, India, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Norway, Russian Federation and Viet Nam); and [S/PV.8933](#) (Norway, Viet Nam, India, China and Russian Federation).

<sup>183</sup> See [S/PV.8787](#) (United Kingdom, Norway, Ireland and Estonia); and [S/PV.8933](#) (Norway, Estonia, India and Ireland).

<sup>184</sup> See [S/PV.8787](#) (Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), France and Viet Nam); and [S/PV.8933](#) (Viet Nam, Ireland and Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

<sup>185</sup> See [S/PV.8933](#) (Norway, France, Estonia, Mexico, Ireland, United States and Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

<sup>186</sup> [S/2021/719](#) and [S/2021/720](#).

<sup>187</sup> [S/2021/719](#), annex, objectives 1–4. For more information on the mandate of UNOCA, see part X, sect. II.

**Meetings: Central African region**

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8787</a> 7 June 2021	Report of the Secretary General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) ( <a href="#">S/2021/517</a> )			Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA	12 Council members, <sup>a</sup> invitee	
<a href="#">S/PV.8933</a> 15 December 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of UNOCA ( <a href="#">S/2021/975</a> )			Special Representative of the Secretary-General	12 Council members, <sup>a</sup> invitee	

<sup>a</sup> China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Mexico, Niger (also on behalf of Kenya, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Norway, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

## 7. Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

During the period under review, the Council held 15 meetings and adopted seven resolutions and two statements by the President of the Council under the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”. Eleven of the meetings took the form of briefings and four were convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>188</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in table 1 below. Council members also held nine open videoconferences in connection with the item, more details of which are given in table 2 below.<sup>189</sup> In addition to the meetings and open videoconferences, Council members held informal consultations of the whole, closed videoconferences and an informal interactive dialogue in connection with the item.<sup>190</sup> In 2021, the Secretary-General appointed a new Special Representative for

South Sudan and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).<sup>191</sup>

Consistent with prior practice, the Council considered several distinct topics under the item, namely: (a) the situation in the Sudan, the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) and the drawdown and liquidation of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID); (b) relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, the situation in the Abyei Area and the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA); and (c) the situation in South Sudan and the mandate of UNMISS.<sup>192</sup> The Council also discussed the work of the Committees and Panels of Experts concerning the Sudan and South Sudan and the implementation of resolution [1593 \(2005\)](#), by which the Council referred the situation in Darfur to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.<sup>193</sup>

<sup>188</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>189</sup> For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II, sect. I, and *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part II, sect. I.

<sup>190</sup> See [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 26. See also [S/2021/1014](#), [S/2021/1084](#) and [S/2022/174](#). In 2021, some informal consultations of the Council and informal interactive dialogues were held in the form of closed videoconferences. An informal interactive dialogue related to the item was held on 14 April.

<sup>191</sup> See [S/2021/49](#) and [S/2021/50](#).

<sup>192</sup> For more information on the mandates of UNISFA, UNMISS and UNITAMS, see part X.

<sup>193</sup> For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan and their respective Panels of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.