

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

Meeting record and date	Sub-item	Other documents	Rule 37 invitations	Rule 39 and other invitations	Speakers	Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)
S/PV.9232 21 December		Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom (S/2022/983)			Six Council members ^k	Resolution 2670 (2022) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

^a Albania, Brazil, China, France, Ghana (also on behalf of Gabon and Kenya), India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

^b The representative of Ireland spoke on behalf of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia.

^c Albania, China, India, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

^d Albania, Brazil, China, France, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Kenya), India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

^e The representative of Ireland spoke in her capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia.

^f The representative of Ireland spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia.

^g China, Kenya, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

^h For: Albania, Brazil, France, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: none; *abstaining*: China.

ⁱ China, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

^j For: Albania, Brazil, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: none; *abstaining*: China, Gabon, Ghana, Russian Federation.

^k China, France, Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom and United States.

3. The situation in the Great Lakes region

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings on the situation in the Great Lakes region, both in the form of briefings.⁸⁵ The Council did not adopt any decisions under this item in 2022. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is provided in the table below. Council members also held informal consultations of the whole in connection with the item.⁸⁶

In 2022, the Council heard briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and a civil society representative. In addition, the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission submitted written advice, under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure, in connection with the two briefings.⁸⁷ Further to the two reports of the Secretary-General,⁸⁸ during his briefings to the Council, the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region focused on the activities of his Office in supporting the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and the progress achieved on the political and security fronts, as well as the related challenges.

At the meeting held on 27 April, the Special Envoy noted that, since his previous briefing to the Council, the situation in the Great Lakes region had shown an encouraging trend in terms of dialogue, cooperation and integration and, in general, the continued will to tackle the root causes of the instability.⁸⁹ However, that positive trend had been disrupted by the security and humanitarian crisis in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, compounded by the resumption of military activities by the Mouvement du 23 mars in the last quarter of 2021, with attacks on several positions of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁹⁰ The Special Envoy expressed regret that the Allied Democratic Forces and other local armed groups continued to commit atrocities against civilians. Despite that

⁸⁵ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

⁸⁶ See A/77/2, part II, chap. 11. See also S/2022/868.

⁸⁷ See S/2022/353 and S/2022/789. For more information on written advice submitted in accordance with rule 39, see part II, sect. VII, and part IX, sect. VII.

⁸⁸ S/2022/276 and S/2022/735.

⁸⁹ See S/PV.9023.

⁹⁰ For more information on the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, see sect. 4 below.

fragility, he remained convinced that it was still possible to consolidate the significant gains that had been made in the region and to move progressively towards a lasting peace. To that end, the Special Envoy called for efforts to be made on at least three levels: (a) increased cooperation on security matters; (b) direct, standing dialogue at the highest level between the leaders in the region to ease tensions and strengthen trust; and (c) continued support by the international community for the region.

With respect to security cooperation, the Special Envoy noted, *inter alia*, the joint operations conducted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, the memorandum of understanding between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the establishment of the Contact and Coordination Group on non-military measures, as well as the efforts on devising a counter-terrorism strategy at the level of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. With regard to the dialogue aimed at reducing tensions in the region, the Special Envoy welcomed the progress made in normalizing the relations between Rwanda and Uganda and the relations between Burundi and Rwanda. Concerning the support of the international community, the Special Envoy called upon the Council and the International Contact Group for the Great Lakes Region to support regional dialogue efforts and welcomed the close cooperation between the Office of the Special Envoy and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The Special Envoy further informed the Council about his priority initiatives, which included continuing good offices and diplomatic efforts aimed at improving relations among the countries of the region; supporting the effective deployment of the operational unit of the Contact and Coordination Group on non-military measures; providing technical and logistical support to the Nairobi peace process; promoting enhanced national and regional ownership of the Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources; promoting the economic empowerment of women as a peacebuilding strategy; and supporting the efforts to combat impunity and promote human rights.

In his briefing to the Council, the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region noted that the region faced various security challenges, emanating mainly from the activities of negative forces and armed groups operating in parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic and South Sudan. An independent expert on the Great Lakes region, Dinesh Mahitani, provided a briefing in which he focused on the increasingly interconnected dynamics of insecurity in the region with other parts of the continent. He noted that the Governments of the Great Lakes and East Africa regions had agreed to possibly launch joint military operations against armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo but indicated that, in addition to the regional trust deficit, there were serious challenges to the implementation of any such proposed force. While the use of force should eventually constitute an important component in any exercise to neutralize armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, it was crucial that all interested parties first worked together to help to implement the country's strategy on the demobilization of armed groups and rebuild and consolidate trust among the neighbours of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During the discussion, Council members expressed concern about the security situation in parts of the Great Lakes region, particularly in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. They also noted the impact of the illicit exploitation of natural resources on the security and stability in the region. Several Council members raised the issue of a growing terrorist threat in the region and the connections between armed groups and terrorist organizations.⁹¹ A number of Council members also expressed concern about the increase of human rights violations and abuses.⁹² Among the positive developments, Council members noted the admission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the East African Community. Several Council members also welcomed the establishment of the operational cell of the Contact and Coordination Group on non-military measures,⁹³ as well as the commitment to dialogue that emanated from the meetings of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework.⁹⁴ In addition to Council members, the representatives of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda also

⁹¹ France, Albania, Kenya (also on behalf of Gabon and Ghana), India and Russian Federation.

⁹² Albania, Ireland, United States, Norway and United Kingdom.

⁹³ Albania, India and United States.

⁹⁴ Brazil, China, Ireland, India, Norway, Mexico and Russian Federation.

took part in the discussion and expressed their views on the situation in the Great Lakes region, bilateral relations, regional security and economic cooperation and the challenges that were yet to be overcome.

In his second briefing, on 26 October, the Special Envoy said that the Great Lakes region continued to experience instability due to the militancy of armed groups, whose activities fuelled the rekindling of mistrust and tensions among the countries of the region, in particular between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.⁹⁵ The illicit exploitation of and trade in natural resources continued to fuel the vicious cycle of intercommunal clashes, the activities of armed groups and the use of such resources by cross-border criminal networks. The humanitarian situation continued to be of concern, with more than 4.9 million refugees and asylum-seekers having fled owing to the violence and climate-related issues. In response to and despite such challenges, the countries of the region remained engaged through various initiatives, including the East African Community peace process on the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, involving both military and non-military efforts. Regarding the deployment of the East African Community Regional Force, the Special Envoy recalled the vital importance of effective coordination with MONUSCO. On non-military initiatives, the Special Envoy reported, *inter alia*, that his Office had facilitated the first reconnaissance-and-contact mission of the operational cell of the Contact and Coordination Group to South Kivu Province, the goal of which was to engage with local actors to identify opportunities for contact with armed groups and facilitate their disarmament and voluntary repatriation without political preconditions. He highlighted his joint advocacy mission with the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to Paris and Brussels to increase support for better natural resource governance and announced plans for future missions to the member States of the Conference, aware that national and regional ownership of the Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources was a prerequisite for its effectiveness. The Office also continued to support efforts to promote greater participation of women in electoral processes and bodies and to conduct activities aimed at increasing the participation of youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The Special Envoy appealed to all the signatory countries to step up their efforts to fully implement the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and other regional agreements, solicited the support of Council members, and further appealed to the entire international community to lend more substantial multifaceted support to the regional initiatives and to the United Nations action plan for the Great Lakes region.

In their discussion, Council members deliberated on the security situation in the region, including the threat posed by the activities of the armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the question of illicit trade in natural resources as one of the root causes and contributing factors of conflict in the region. Echoing the Special Envoy, Council members called for the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, as well as other regional agreements. Council members specifically welcomed the progress on the joint road map for peace in the Central African Republic aimed at normalizing the political relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, as well as the increasing coordination with the Nairobi process between the countries of the East African Community. Some Council members⁹⁶ also commended the States members of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on the adoption of the Kinshasa Declaration on Enhancing Regional Judicial Cooperation in the Great Lakes Region in June 2022. On the deployment of the East African Community Regional Force, several Council members⁹⁷ underscored the need for effective coordination of its activities with MONUSCO and the national forces. Among those members, some⁹⁸ encouraged the regional force to comply with obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Council members⁹⁹ also discussed the implementation of non-military measures in the region, notably the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme, with some¹⁰⁰ citing the operationalization of the Contact and Coordination Group, and some¹⁰¹ the need to combat hate speech, disinformation and misinformation. Several Council members¹⁰² further called for the inclusion of women

⁹⁵ See [S/PV.9165](#).

⁹⁶ France, India, Albania and Mexico.

⁹⁷ France, Russian Federation, United States, Norway, United Kingdom, Mexico and Ireland.

⁹⁸ France, United States, United Kingdom and Ireland.

⁹⁹ France, India, Kenya (also on behalf of Gabon and Ghana), Norway, Brazil, United Kingdom, China and Mexico.

¹⁰⁰ France, India, Kenya (also on behalf of Gabon and Ghana), China and Albania.

¹⁰¹ Kenya (also on behalf of Gabon and Ghana), United Arab Emirates, Brazil and Albania.

¹⁰² France, United Arab Emirates, Norway, Brazil, Albania and Ireland.

in political and peace processes and their full, equal and meaningful participation at all levels. In addition to Council members, the representatives of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and South Africa made statements and expressed their views on the situation in the Great Lakes region.

Meetings: the situation in the Great Lakes region, 2022

<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>
S/PV.9023 27 April	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2022/276)		Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, independent expert on the Great Lakes region	13 Council members, ^a all invitees ^b	
S/PV.9165 26 October	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (S/2022/735)		Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General	13 Council members, ^a all invitees	

^a Albania, Brazil, China, France, India, Ireland, Kenya (also on behalf of Gabon and Ghana), Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

^b The Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the independent expert on the Great Lakes region participated in the meeting by videoconference.

4. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

During the period under review, the Council held eight meetings and adopted three resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter and one presidential statement in relation to the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Three meetings were convened to adopt a decision of the Council, and five took the form of briefings.¹⁰³ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in the table below. The Council also held one private (closed) meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001).¹⁰⁴ In addition,

¹⁰³ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

¹⁰⁴ The private meeting was held on 6 December in connection with the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B”; see S/PV.9209. See also A/77/2, part II, chap. 21.