

Meetings: the situation concerning Western Sahara

<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.7684 29 April 2016	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2016/355)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2016/401)			All Council members	Resolution 2285 (2016) 10-2-3 ^a
S/PV.7933 28 April 2017	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2017/307)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2017/362)			13 Council members ^b	Resolution 2351 (2017) 15-0-0

^a For: China, Egypt, France, Japan, Malaysia, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States; against: Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); abstaining: Angola, New Zealand, Russian Federation.

^b Bolivia (Plurinational State of); China, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

2. The situation in Liberia

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings in connection with the situation in Liberia, adopted three resolutions, all under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued one presidential statement. In 2016, the Council held two meetings with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001).¹¹ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During the period under review, the Council considered the improving situation in the country. It heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIL, the Chair of the Liberia country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The Council was also briefed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the

National Coordinator for the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding.

On 25 May 2016, by resolution 2288 (2016), the Council decided to terminate the sanctions measures imposed by resolution 1521 (2003), and further decided to dissolve the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia as well as the Panel of Experts established by the same resolution.¹² Following the unanimous adoption of the resolution, Council members welcomed the decision and commended Liberia for its commitment to peace and stability.¹³ Some Council members pointed out the dedicated effort and the key role that the Council had played in restoring peace in Liberia.¹⁴

On 14 September 2016, by resolution 2308 (2016), the Council, extended the mandate of UNMIL for three months, affirmed its readiness to consider the withdrawal of the Mission, and recalled its request to the Secretary-General to conduct an assessment mission.¹⁵ On 23 December 2016, the Council adopted resolution 2333 (2016), extending the mandate of UNMIL for a final period of 15 months, until 30 March

¹¹ Held on 24 August and 2 December 2016 under 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.7759 and S/PV.7823. For more information on the mandate of UNMIL, see part X, sect. I, “Peacekeeping operations”.

¹² Resolution 2288 (2016), paras. 1 and 2.

¹³ S/PV.7695, p. 3 (United States); p. 3 (Japan); p. 4 (Ukraine); and p. 4 (China).

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 3 (United States); and p. 4 (Ukraine).

¹⁵ Resolution 2308 (2016), paras. 1 and 3.

2018. In the resolution, the Council decided to reduce the military and police presence, and authorized UNMIL to continue to focus on the protection of civilians, reform of justice and security institutions, the protection and promotion of human rights, public information and the protection of United Nations personnel. Noting the potential security challenges during the period leading up to the October 2017 presidential and legislative elections in Liberia, the Council authorized UNMIL to assist the Government with logistical support and voter registration, in particular to facilitate access to remote areas.¹⁶

Speaking after the vote, France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom expressed their objections to the extension of the mandate of the Mission under Chapter VII of the Charter for tasks of a peacebuilding and peace consolidation nature in the context of a situation that no longer posed a threat to

¹⁶ Resolution 2333 (2016), paras. 10. and 12.

international peace and security.¹⁷ Several Council members commended the considerable progress achieved in the country and proclaimed that Liberia was a success story for United Nations peacekeeping.¹⁸

On 24 July 2017, further to the letter dated 4 April 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, in which he set out a peacebuilding plan to direct the role of the United Nations system and other relevant partners in supporting the transition of Liberia,¹⁹ the Council issued a presidential statement welcoming the plan and noting the importance of credible presidential and legislative elections in Liberia in October 2017.²⁰

¹⁷ S/PV.7851, p. 3 (Russian Federation); pp. 3-4 (France); and pp. 4-5 (United Kingdom). For more information concerning threats to international peace and security during the period under review, see part VII, sect. I.

¹⁸ S/PV.7851, pp. 3-4 (France); p. 4 (United Kingdom); p. 5 (Angola); p. 6 (New Zealand); and p. 6 (Spain).

¹⁹ S/2017/282.

²⁰ S/PRST/2017/11, first and fourth paragraphs.

Meetings: the situation in Liberia

<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.7649 17 March 2016	Thirty-first progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) (S/2016/169)		Liberia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (Sweden)	All invitees	
S/PV.7695 25 May 2016	Letter dated 15 April 2016 from the Panel of Experts on Liberia established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) addressed to the President	Draft resolution submitted by Angola, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States (S/2016/472)	Liberia		Four Council members (China, Japan, Ukraine, United States), Liberia	Resolution 2288 (2016) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

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	of the Security Council (S/2016/348)					
S/PV.7761 25 August 2016	Thirty-second progress report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2016/706)		Liberia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIL, representative of the Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (Sweden)	All invitees	
S/PV.7770 14 September 2016		Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2016/772)				Resolution 2308 (2016) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.7824 2 December 2016	Special report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2016/968)		Liberia	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, representative of the Vice-Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, National Coordinator for the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding – Women in Peacebuilding Network in Liberia	One Council member (Uruguay), all invitees	
S/PV.7851 23 December 2016	Special report of the Secretary-General on UNMIL (S/2016/968)	Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2016/1096)	Liberia		Eight Council members, ^a Liberia	Resolution 2333 (2016) 12-0-3 ^b (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.7984 27 June 2017	Letter dated 4 April 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/282)		Liberia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIL	Three Council members (Senegal, Sweden, Uruguay), ^c all invitees	

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S/PV.8010 24 July 2017	Thirty-third progress report of the Secretary- General on UNMIL (S/2017/510)					S/PRST/2017/11

^a China, France, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Spain (President of the Security Council), United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

^b *For*: Angola, China, Egypt, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); *abstaining*: France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom.

^c The representative of Sweden spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Liberia configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

3. The situation in Somalia

During the period 2016–2017, the Security Council held 21 meetings, including one high-level meeting,²¹ adopted 11 resolutions, eight of which were under Chapter VII of the Charter, and issued two presidential statements on the situation in Somalia. Thirteen meetings under the item were convened to adopt a resolution; all others were briefings. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In May 2016, the Council dispatched a mission to the Horn of Africa, including Somalia, to engage in dialogue with the Federal Government of Somalia and to reaffirm its commitment to the people of Somalia as they progressed on their journey towards stability and prosperity.²²

During the period under review, the Council was regularly briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia. Council members discussed developments and challenges in Somalia, in particular the need for the transparent and credible conduct of the presidential and parliamentary electoral process, the threat posed by Al-Shabaab, and the political and security risks posed by famine resulting from the severe drought and

humanitarian situation in Somalia.²³ The Council also addressed the role of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the challenges to the implementation of their respective mandates.²⁴ During the meetings of the Council, speakers highlighted the importance of the support provided by UNSOM and UNSOS to the political process, including United Nations good offices functions to support the peace and reconciliation process of the Federal Government of Somalia.²⁵ The Council also focused on the priorities and activities of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in fulfilling its mandate.²⁶ In addition, the threat posed by piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia

²³ On 9 August 2017, under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, the Council issued a presidential statement in which it expressed its grave concern about the threat of famine in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen (S/PRST/2017/14).

²⁴ For more information on UNSOM, see part X, sect. II, “Special political missions”.

²⁵ See, for example, S/PV.7674, p. 16 (Uruguay); p. 18 (Spain); p. 22 (New Zealand, Malaysia); p. 24 (Angola); and p. 26 (Ukraine).

²⁶ See, for example, S/PV.7905, p. 8 (United Kingdom); pp. 9–10 (Sweden); p. 11 (Ethiopia); p. 12 (Ukraine); p. 13 (Senegal); p. 14 (Italy); p. 15 (Kazakhstan); p. 16 (China); p. 17 (Uruguay); p. 18 (Egypt); p. 19 (United States); p. 20 (Japan); p. 22 (Plurinational State of Bolivia); p.22 (Russian Federation); and pp. 23–24 (France).

²¹ S/PV.7905. For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

²² For more information, see part I, sect. 36, “Security Council mission”.