

25. The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

During the period under review, the Security Council held 26 meetings in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. The Council adopted one resolution, in December 2016, and failed to adopt a draft resolution, in December 2017, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council. During the review period and in accordance with past practice, the Council heard briefings by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on a regular basis and held quarterly open debates under the item. In 2016–2017, the Council also considered developments in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen and the overall political situation in the Middle East.²⁷⁵ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During the period 2016–2017, the Council discussed the question of the continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. On 23 December 2016, following the withdrawal of a draft resolution sponsored by Egypt,²⁷⁶ the Council considered a draft resolution submitted by Malaysia, New Zealand, Senegal and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which was adopted as resolution 2334 (2016). In the resolution, the Council expressed grave concern that continuing Israeli settlement activities were dangerously imperilling the viability of the two-State solution based on the 1967 lines, and reiterated its vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, lived side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders. In that regard, the Council reaffirmed that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 had no legal validity and constituted a flagrant violation under international law, and stressed that the cessation of all Israeli settlement activities was essential for salvaging the two-State solution.²⁷⁷

Following the adoption of resolution 2334 (2016), the Special Coordinator reported to the Council every three months on its implementation, on 24 March, 20 June, 25 September and 18 December

2017.²⁷⁸ At those meetings, some Council members requested that a report be circulated in writing before the meetings of the Council.²⁷⁹ In the briefings, the Special Coordinator also focused on the lack of progress in the negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians towards achieving a two-State solution, the evolution of the intra-Palestinian dialogue and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

In July and August 2017, the Council heard briefings by the Special Coordinator and the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs on the rising tensions created by the closure of the Temple Mount by Israel after the violent incidents between Israelis and Palestinians that occurred on 14 July. The crisis was brought to a conclusion by negotiations between Israel and Jordan at the end of August.²⁸⁰ On 18 October 2017, the Council was briefed on the agreement between Hamas and Fatah of 12 October 2017, which enabled the Palestinian Authority to resume its responsibilities in Gaza.²⁸¹

On 8 December 2017, following the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by the President of the United States, the Council held an emergency meeting, requested by eight Council members,²⁸² at which it heard a briefing by the Special Coordinator.²⁸³ During the meeting, speakers cautioned against unilateral actions that would pose a threat to peace and stability in the region, and expressed concern about the impact of the decision of the United States on the peace process. On 18 December 2017, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council, the Council failed to adopt a draft resolution submitted by Egypt,²⁸⁴ by which it would have affirmed that any decisions and actions which purported to have altered the character, status or demographic composition of the Holy City of Jerusalem had no legal effect, were null and void and had to be rescinded in compliance with relevant resolutions of the Council. In addition, the

²⁷⁵ For more information, see part I, sect. 23, “The situation in the Middle East”.

²⁷⁶ S/PV.7853, p. 4 (Egypt). For more information on the procedural aspects of the withdrawal, see part II, sect. VIII, “Decision-making and voting”.

²⁷⁷ Resolution 2334 (2016), fifth and ninth preambular paragraphs, and paras. 1 and 4.

²⁷⁸ See S/PV.7908, S/PV.7977, S/PV.8054 and S/PV.8138.

²⁷⁹ S/PV.7908, p. 5 (Uruguay); and p. 7 (Bolivia); S/PV.7977, p. 14 (Uruguay); S/PV.8054, p. 5 (Uruguay); and p. 7 (Bolivia); and S/PV.8138, p. 6 (Uruguay); and p. 8 (Bolivia).

²⁸⁰ See S/PV.8011, p. 2 (Special Coordinator), and S/PV.8028, p. 2 (Assistant-Secretary-General for Political Affairs).

²⁸¹ S/PV.8072, pp. 2–4.

²⁸² For more information on meetings requested by Member States, see part II, sect. I, “Meetings and records”.

²⁸³ S/PV.8128, pp. 2–3.

²⁸⁴ S/PV.8139, p. 3.

Council would have called upon all States to refrain from the establishment of diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem, and would have demanded that all States comply with Security Council resolutions

regarding the Holy City of Jerusalem, and not to recognize any action contrary to those resolutions.²⁸⁵

²⁸⁵ S/2017/1060, paras. 1 and 2.

Meetings: the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

<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.7610 26 January 2016			30 Member States ^a	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members, ^b 29 invitees under rule 37, ^c all other invitees	
S/PV.7627 18 February 2016				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator ^d	
S/PV.7657 24 March 2016				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator	
S/PV.7673 and S/PV.7673 (Resumption 1) 18 April 2016			31 Member States ^e	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	Secretary-General, all Council members, ^f all invitees under rule 37, ^g all other invitees	
S/PV.7697 25 May 2016				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator	
S/PV.7729 30 June 2016				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator	

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<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.7736 12 July 2016			23 Member States ^h	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees ⁱ	
S/PV.7762 29 August 2016				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator ^d	
S/PV.7772 15 September 2016					Secretary-General, all Council members ^j	
S/PV.7792 19 October 2016			27 Member States ^k	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	All Council members, ^l all invitees ^m	
S/PV.7820 23 November 2016				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	Two Council members (Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), all invitees	
S/PV.7839 16 December 2016					Secretary-General, all Council members ⁿ	

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

<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.7853 23 December 2016		Draft resolution submitted by Malaysia, New Zealand, Senegal, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (S/2016/1100)	Israel	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine	All Council members, all invitees	Resolution 2334 (2016) 14-0-1 ^o
S/PV.7863 17 January 2017			24 Member States ^p	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	All Council members, all invitees under rule 37, ^q all other invitees ^d	
S/PV.7908 24 March 2017				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Two Council members (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Uruguay), Special Coordinator	
S/PV.7929 20 April 2017	Letter dated 10 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2017/305)		33 Member States ^r	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	All Council members, ^s all invitees under rule 37, ^t all other invitees ^u	
S/PV.7953 26 May 2017				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Two Council members (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Uruguay), Special Coordinator ^d	

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2016–2017

<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.7977 20 June 2017				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute, member of The Elders	All Council members, all invitees ^d	
S/PV.8011 and S/PV.8011 (Resumption 1) 25 July 2017			30 Member States ^v	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Holy See	All Council members, ^w all invitees ^x	
S/PV.8028 22 August 2017				Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Two Council members (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Uruguay), Assistant Secretary-General	
S/PV.8054 25 September 2017				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Three Council members (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Kazakhstan, Uruguay), Special Coordinator ^d	
S/PV.8072 18 October 2017			26 Member States ^v	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the	All Council members, 25 invitees under rule 37, ^z all other invitees	

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

<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>
				Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Holy See		
S/PV.8108 20 November 2017				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Two Council members (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Uruguay), Special Coordinator ^d	
S/PV.8128 8 December 2017			Israel, Jordan	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	All Council members, all invitees ^d	
S/PV.8138 18 December 2017				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Three Council members (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), United States, Uruguay), Special Coordinator	
S/PV.8139 18 December 2017		Draft resolution submitted by Egypt (S/2017/1060)	Israel	Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine	All Council members, all invitees	Draft resolution S/2017/1060 not adopted 14-1-0 ^{aa}

^a Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Lebanon, Maldives, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. The representative of Iran (Islamic Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the representative of Kuwait spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

^b Angola was represented by its Secretary of State for External Relations; Senegal was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad; Uruguay was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Ukraine was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; and the United States was represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet.

^c Argentina and the Netherlands were represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Libya did not make a statement.

^d The Special Coordinator participated in the meeting via videoconference from Jerusalem.

^e Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cuba, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Maldives, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey and Viet Nam. The representative of Iran (Islamic Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

^f New Zealand was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

- ^g Sweden was represented by its Minister for International Development and Cooperation. The representative of Iran (Islamic Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; and the representative of Kuwait spoke on behalf of OIC.
- ^h Bangladesh, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Maldives, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey.
- ⁱ Guatemala was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Iran (Islamic Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; and the representative of Kuwait spoke on behalf of OIC. The Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- ^j New Zealand (President of the Security Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- ^k Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey.
- ^l The representative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- ^m The representative of Kuwait spoke on behalf of OIC. The Special Coordinator participated in the meeting via videoconference from Jerusalem. The Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine.
- ⁿ New Zealand was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- ^o *For*: Angola, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Senegal, Spain, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); *abstaining*: United States.
- ^p Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
- ^q The representative of Uzbekistan spoke on behalf of OIC; and the representative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- ^r Ukraine was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- ^s Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Haiti, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.
- ^t Jordan spoke on behalf of the Group of Arab States; Uzbekistan spoke on behalf of OIC; and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- ^u The Head of the Delegation of the European Union spoke on behalf of the European Union and Albania and Montenegro.
- ^v Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.
- ^w Kazakhstan was represented by its First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- ^x The representative of Uzbekistan spoke on behalf of OIC; and the representative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- ^y Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
- ^z The representative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire did not make a statement.
- ^{aa} *For*: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay; *against*: United States.

26. The situation concerning Iraq

During 2016 and 2017, the Security Council held 12 meetings and adopted four resolutions in connection with the situation concerning Iraq. By resolutions [2299 \(2016\)](#) and [2367 \(2017\)](#) the Council renewed the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) for one year each time, the second time until 31 July 2018.²⁸⁶ Following prior practice, most meetings under this item took the form of briefings

and, except for meetings held on 30 December 2016 and 8 December 2017,²⁸⁷ the meetings held during the period focused on UNAMI and the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and missing Kuwaiti property. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

²⁸⁶ For more information on the mandate of UNAMI, see part X, sect. II, "Special political missions".

²⁸⁷ See [S/PV.7854](#) and [S/PV.8126](#).