

Table 2

Videoconferences: the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
25 June 2020	S/2020/598	Letter dated 29 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
25 June 2020	S/2020/601	Letter dated 26 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution 2528 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/589
6 October 2020	S/2020/987	Letter dated 8 October 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
18 December 2020	S/2020/1265	Letter dated 19 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution 2556 (2020) 14-0-1 ^a (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/1253

^a *For*: Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam; *against*: none; *abstaining*: Russian Federation.

5. The situation in the Central African Republic

During the period under review, the Council held five meetings and adopted three resolutions, all under Chapter VII of the Charter, in connection with the situation in the Central African Republic. Three of the meetings were convened to adopt a decision of the Council and the remaining two took the form of briefings.¹⁰⁰ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below. Council members also held one open videoconference.¹⁰¹ In addition to meetings and videoconferences, Council members held informal consultations of the whole.¹⁰² The Council also held one closed videoconference with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).¹⁰³ More

information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below.

In 2020, the Council heard three briefings on the reports of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic,¹⁰⁴ consistent with the four-month reporting schedule established by the Council in resolution [2387 \(2017\)](#). Two of those briefings were delivered by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA at meetings of the Council and one briefing was delivered by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations at an open videoconference. The Council was also briefed by the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, the Special Envoy of the African Union for the Central African Republic and Head of the African Union Mission for the Central African Republic, the Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

The briefings focused on the political, security, economic and humanitarian situation in the country, in particular developments after the signing of the

¹⁰⁰ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

¹⁰¹ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

¹⁰² See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 13.

¹⁰³ Council members held a closed videoconference on 4 November 2020 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 [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 22.

¹⁰⁴ See [S/2020/124](#), [S/2020/545](#) and [S/2020/994](#).

Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic on 6 February 2019, the issue of the upcoming presidential and legislative elections in 2020 and 2021 and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, in the light of the first anniversary of the peace agreement, in his briefing at the meeting of the Council on 20 February¹⁰⁵ the Special Representative of the Secretary-General stressed that the inclusive Government that had emerged from the Agreement remained valid and operational and that the signatory parties had reaffirmed their commitment to it, notwithstanding numerous difficulties, including the continued violations of the Agreement by some armed groups. He commended the progress made in connection with the reduction of violence against civilians, the extension of State authority, the establishment of the special mixed security units as provided for in the Agreement, the fight against impunity and the promotion of transitional justice.

At the same meeting, both the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations and the Special Envoy of the African Union for the Central African Republic and Head of the African Union Mission for the Central African Republic outlined the areas of progress and remaining challenges in the country. In terms of progress, both briefers highlighted the gradual return of State authority in the country, the ongoing dialogue between the Government and different stakeholders and the formation of special mixed security units. Among the challenges still facing the country, the two briefers emphasized the continued violence and clashes between the different armed groups, shortcomings in the implementation of the peace agreement and the need to step up the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. The Head of the Delegation of the European Union further elaborated on the role of the European Union in the country, in particular its significant support for the upcoming elections. Noting the concerning security and humanitarian situation in Birao, Ndélé and Bria, the African Union Special Envoy stressed that the implementation of all aspects of the peace agreement was the best political framework for stabilizing the situation in the Central African Republic. He added that it was for that reason that the National Assembly had opened an extraordinary session on 19 February 2020 to review and adopt the draft texts envisioned in the peace agreement. Also at the same meeting, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission briefed Council members

¹⁰⁵ See [S/PV.8728](#).

on his visit to Bangui from 11 to 14 February 2020,¹⁰⁶ focusing on the elections, the implementation of the peace agreement and the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan. He also welcomed the verdict of the Bangui Court of Appeal in which the Court condemned the Bangassou militiamen for their abuses against the civilian population and United Nations peacekeepers and said that the Special Criminal Court was pursuing its investigations with the aim of starting trials in early 2021, but was still facing difficulties with recruitment and funding.¹⁰⁷

On 22 June, Council members held a videoconference¹⁰⁸ at which they heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union and the Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service. During the videoconference, the Under-Secretary-General indicated that the political situation was marked by increased mobilization towards the upcoming elections, challenges to legal frameworks and political tensions. He reported that the security situation remained volatile and, despite some progress regarding the implementation of the peace agreement, most notably the adoption of legislation as stipulated therein, some armed groups, including the signatories, continued to use violence for expansionist aims. The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union informed Council members that three months after its suspension due to COVID-19, in May the Executive Monitoring Committee established by the peace agreement had been able to hold its eighth session and the general consensus was that significant progress had been made, in particular with regard to the adoption and enactment of all the laws provided for in the agreement. He also reported on the deployment of the first group of African Union military observers to Bangui. The Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service provided a briefing on the assistance by the European Union to the electoral process in the Central African Republic.

On 19 October,¹⁰⁹ the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on progress 20 months after the signing of the peace agreement in the areas of political reform, the restoration of State authority and transitional justice. He also focused on the electoral assistance provided by MINUSCA and international partners and reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated

¹⁰⁶ For a detailed report on the visit, see [S/2020/131](#), annex.

¹⁰⁷ See [S/PV.8728](#).

¹⁰⁸ See [S/2020/572](#).

¹⁰⁹ See [S/PV.8771](#).

socioeconomic vulnerabilities in the Central African Republic. He underscored that despite the negative impact of the pandemic on the operations of MINUSCA, the Mission had been able to continue to implement its mandate and support the authorities in the fight against COVID-19, in particular by providing logistical and material assistance. He welcomed the establishment of the new European Union Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic to support the country's security sector reform, which would strengthen the work of MINUSCA. The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union welcomed the fact that he would be meeting with the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States and, potentially, the Vice-President of the European Commission to support the Government and other stakeholders from the Central African Republic to assist the country on its path towards peace and development.

In 2020, Council members continued to discuss the critical factors for the successful implementation of the peace agreement, including political support by the Council, regional actors and the international community. Council members also addressed matters relating to the holding of free, peaceful and inclusive elections in 2020 and 2021, including the support of MINUSCA and regional organizations in that regard, as well as the role of sanctions, in particular the establishment of key benchmarks to serve as a road map that could lead to the easing of the arms embargo.¹¹⁰ Council members also addressed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the mandate of MINUSCA and the humanitarian and socioeconomic situation in the country.

During the period under review, the Council adopted three resolutions under the item, two in connection with the sanctions measures regarding the Central African Republic and one relating to the mandate of MINUSCA.

With respect to sanctions measures, the Council twice expanded the list of exemptions to the arms embargo during the reporting period.¹¹¹ First, by resolution [2507 \(2020\)](#) adopted on 31 January, the

Council expanded the list of exempted items to include unarmed ground military vehicles and ground military vehicles mounted with weapons with a calibre of 14.5 mm or less and ammunition specially designed for such weapons.¹¹² Secondly, by resolution [2536 \(2020\)](#) adopted on 28 July, the Council added to the list of exemptions rocket-propelled grenades supplied to the Central African Republic security forces, including state civilian law enforcement institutions, and intended solely for support of or use in the Central African Republic process of security sector reform.¹¹³ The Council also twice renewed the provisions on the asset freeze and travel ban measures, as set out in resolution [2399 \(2018\)](#).¹¹⁴ The Council continued to monitor the progress achieved by the authorities of the Central African Republic on the key benchmarks enumerated in the presidential statement of 9 April 2019.¹¹⁵ In that regard, stressing the importance of the authorities achieving the key benchmarks in order to contribute to the advancement of security sector reform, the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation processes and necessary weapons and ammunition management reforms, the Council continued to request the Central African Republic authorities to report to the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic on the progress achieved in that regard.¹¹⁶ The Council further requested the Secretary-General, in close consultation with MINUSCA, the Mine Action Service and the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic, to conduct assessments on the progress achieved by the authorities on the key benchmarks.¹¹⁷

Following the adoption of resolution [2507 \(2020\)](#),¹¹⁸ the representatives of China and the Russian Federation, in explaining their abstentions on the vote, expressed regret that the appeals of the Central African Republic and others for the easing or lifting of the arms embargo had not been considered. The representative of the Russian Federation further noted that the arms embargo on the Central African Republic might have played a positive role in the early stages, but that it was then effectively an obstacle to the rearming of the national army and security forces, the very institutions that bore the primary responsibility for upholding the peace and security of their own

¹¹⁰ For further details on the discussion, see part II, sect. III.B.

¹¹¹ For more information on the sanctions measures concerning the Central African Republic, see part VII, sect. III. For information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic and the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic, see part IX, sect. I.

¹¹² Resolution [2507 \(2020\)](#), para. 1 (g).

¹¹³ Resolution [2536 \(2020\)](#), para. 1 (g).

¹¹⁴ Resolutions [2507 \(2020\)](#) and [2536 \(2020\)](#), para. 4.

¹¹⁵ [S/PRST/2019/3](#).

¹¹⁶ Resolutions [2507 \(2020\)](#), para. 12, and [2536 \(2020\)](#), fourth preambular paragraph and para. 12.

¹¹⁷ Resolutions [2507 \(2020\)](#) and [2536 \(2020\)](#), para. 13.

¹¹⁸ See [S/PV.8712](#).

citizens. The representative of France, as the penholder, emphasized that the Council was always ready to listen to the legitimate concerns of the Central African Republic, underlining that in order to help equip and strengthen the mobility and security of the Central African forces, from September 2019 to the date of the adoption of the resolution, the Council had twice authorized a significant easing of the arms embargo. The representative of the Niger stated that the adoption of the resolution was indeed a response to the legitimate request of the authorities of the Central African Republic to pursue the definitive lifting of the arms embargo on the basis of progress made in the storing of weapons and preventing their diversion. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, while taking note of the Central African Republic's calls for a complete lifting of the arms component of the sanctions measures and recognizing some merit to that request, primarily as it related to enabling the security forces to reclaim territory from armed groups, did not believe that the time was ripe for a complete lifting of arms measures, as there still remained some shortcomings with regard to weapon and ammunition management in the country. Joined by several other speakers, she recognized the commitment by the Central African Republic to achieving progress on the key benchmarks.¹¹⁹ Some Council members expressed regret that the Council had been unable to reach consensus on the issue and had failed to adopt the resolution unanimously.¹²⁰

On 28 July,¹²¹ the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2536 \(2020\)](#). Following the vote, the representative of France, as the penholder on the resolution, welcomed the unity of the Council on the issue of sanctions measures concerning the Central African Republic and affirmed that the Council remained attentive to the legitimate concerns of the Government. The representative of the United States, speaking also on behalf of Belgium, Estonia and Germany, expressed concern that without better management and tracking of the weapons brought into the country, changes in the sanctions regime would significantly increase the risk of the proliferation of rocket-propelled grenades, both within the Central African Republic and the region. He further expressed

support for the 12-month extension of the sanctions measures, which would allow the Government sufficient time to achieve progress on the key benchmarks. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed concern regarding the further easing of the arms embargo set out in the resolution. The representative of the Russian Federation, while acknowledging that the simplified procedure for supplying grenade launchers to address the needs of the Central African Republic was another small step in support of the Central African people, recalled the demands of the country for lifting of the restrictive sanctions regime, adding that it acted as an obstacle to the rearming of the Central African Republic national army.

During the period under review, the Council extended the mandate of MINUSCA once for a period of one year until 15 November 2021.¹²² By resolution [2552 \(2020\)](#), which was adopted unanimously on 12 November 2020, the Council welcomed the progress in the implementation of the peace agreement and the work carried out by MINUSCA.¹²³ The Council reiterated the priority tasks of MINUSCA concerning the protection of civilians and United Nations personnel, support for the peace process, electoral assistance and humanitarian assistance.¹²⁴ The Council also specifically requested MINUSCA to contribute to alleviating the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹²⁵ The Council reiterated all of the remaining tasks of MINUSCA, bearing in mind that those tasks together with the priority tasks were mutually reinforcing.¹²⁶ The Council recalled its resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#), in which it had demanded a general and immediate cessation of hostilities in all the situations on its agenda and had called upon all parties to armed conflicts to engage immediately in a durable humanitarian pause for at least 90 consecutive days, so as to enable the safe, timely, unhindered and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.¹²⁷

¹¹⁹ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Germany, Estonia, Indonesia, China and United Kingdom.

¹²⁰ France, Estonia and United Kingdom.

¹²¹ See [S/PV.8750](#).

¹²² Resolution [2552 \(2020\)](#), para. 26.

¹²³ *Ibid.*, seventh and eleventh preambular paragraphs.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 31. For more information on the mandate of MINUSCA, see part X, sect. I.

¹²⁵ Resolution [2552 \(2020\)](#), para. 31 (d).

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 32–33.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*, seventeenth preambular paragraph.

Table 1
Meetings: the situation in the Central African Republic

<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.8712 31 January 2020	Letter dated 6 December 2019 from the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to resolution 2454 (2019) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/930)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2020/79)	Central African Republic		13 Council members, ^a invitee	Resolution 2507 (2020) 13-0-2 ^b (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.8728 20 February 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic (S/2020/124)		Central African Republic	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, Special Envoy of the African Union for the Central African Republic and Head of the African Union Mission in the Central African Republic, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	One Council member (Niger), ^c four invitees ^d	

**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.8750 28 July 2020	Letter dated 8 July 2020 from the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to resolution 2507 (2020) addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2020/662)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2020/738)			7 Council members ^e	Resolution 2536 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.8771 19 October 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic (S/2020/994)			Special Representative of the Secretary-General, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Managing Director for Africa, European External Action Service	12 Council members, ^f all invitees	
S/PV.8776 12 November 2020		Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2020/1106)	Central African Republic		2 Council members (Indonesia, Russian Federation)	Resolution 2552 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

^a The representatives of South Africa and Tunisia did not make statements. The representative of the Niger spoke also on behalf of South Africa and Tunisia.

^b *For*: Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam; *against*: none; *abstaining*: China, Russian Federation.

^c The representative of the Niger spoke also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia.

^d The African Union Special Envoy and Head of the African Union Mission in the Central African Republic joined by videoconference from Khartoum. The representative of the Central African Republic did not make a statement.

^e China, Dominican Republic, France, Niger, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States. The representative of the United States spoke also on behalf of Belgium, Estonia and Germany.

^f Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam.

Table 2
Videoconference: 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>
22 June 2020	S/2020/572	Letter dated 24 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

6. The situation in Guinea-Bissau

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings and adopted one resolution in connection with the situation in Guinea-Bissau. One meeting was convened for the adoption of a decision, while two meetings took the form of briefings.¹²⁸ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition to these meetings, in 2020 Council members also held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Guinea-Bissau.¹²⁹

On 14 February,¹³⁰ the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS). She commended Guinea-Bissau for the completion of its electoral cycle despite the challenges facing the outcome of the presidential election. She also commended state institutions for resorting to legal means to resolve political disputes in connection with the presidential election results, with no military interference and no major human rights violations. She noted that there had been progress in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, referring to the national action plan on drug trafficking and transnational organized crime as a road map. She referred to the three-phase transition and drawdown of UNIOGBIS in line with resolution [2458 \(2019\)](#) by 31 December 2020 and mentioned that with the conclusion of the electoral cycle, the Mission had shifted its efforts towards supporting a reform agenda, as envisioned in the Conakry Agreement on the Implementation of the Economic Community of West

African States Road Map for the Resolution of the Political Crisis in Guinea-Bissau and the stability pact.

At the same meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. He congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the successful legislative and presidential elections in 2019, while acknowledging the legal challenge of the election results. He discussed the continued drawdown of the Mission, highlighting that the role of the United Nations would be to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach in support of nationally led efforts to take forward policies and programmes to address the root causes of instability and promote peace and development. He also stated that it would be important for the international community to continue to help the Government to strengthen democratic and inclusive institutions to assist in internal reforms, support the engagement of women and youth in peacebuilding and promote and protect human rights. He affirmed that the Peacebuilding Commission was prepared to assist UNIOGBIS and the Government of Guinea-Bissau by providing a platform for coherence and coordination among stakeholders, as well as for the promotion of shared analysis and understanding of the multidimensional peacebuilding challenges in the country. During the discussion, most Council members¹³¹ commended the progress achieved and many of them pledged their commitment to future initiatives, including support for the drawdown of UNIOGBIS. Most Council members cautioned about the risks posed by the lack of political stability, which could lead to a deterioration of the security situation,

¹²⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

¹²⁹ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 15.

¹³⁰ See [S/PV.8724](#).

¹³¹ Germany, France, Indonesia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, China, South Africa, Estonia and Viet Nam.