

Table 2
Videoconferences: the situation in Libya

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
5 May 2020	S/2020/371	Letter dated 7 May from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
19 May 2020	S/2020/421	Letter dated 21 May from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
5 June 2020	S/2020/509	Letter dated 5 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 2526 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/504
8 July 2020	S/2020/686	Letter dated 10 July 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
2 September 2020	S/2020/879	Letter dated 4 September from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
10 November 2020	S/2020/1108	Letter dated 13 November from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
19 November 2020	S/2020/1129	Letter dated 23 November from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

12. The situation in Mali

During the period under review, the Council held four meetings in connection with the item entitled “The situation in Mali”. Three of the meetings took the form of briefings and one was convened for the adoption of decisions.³⁴⁶ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below. Council members also held four open videoconferences in connection with the item, two of which were devoted to the announcement of the adoption of resolutions.³⁴⁷ More

information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below. In 2020, the Council adopted two resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter and issued one presidential statement. In addition to the meetings and open videoconferences, Council members also held informal consultations of the whole and closed videoconferences,³⁴⁸ including a closed videoconference with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations

³⁴⁶ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

³⁴⁷ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

³⁴⁸ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 39. See also [S/2021/9](#).

Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).³⁴⁹

In 2020, the Council was briefed twice by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of MINUSMA and once by the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and the High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel. Briefings were conducted in connection with the quarterly reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali.³⁵⁰ The Council was also briefed once by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#) concerning Mali.

At the meeting held on 15 January,³⁵¹ the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations informed the Council that the situation in Mali and the wider Sahel region was deteriorating at an alarming rate and referred to the wounding of 18 peacekeepers during an attack on the MINUSMA camp in Tessalit the week before. Politically, the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali of 2015 had been slow and uneven. While important decisions had been postponed, significant progress had been made on the inclusive national dialogue. The Under-Secretary-General was particularly encouraged by the high participation of women and he commended the Coordination des mouvements de l’Azawad for joining the final stages of the dialogue, but also expressed regret at the absence of opposition parties. He also referred to the progress regarding the disarmament and integration of former combatants into the Malian Defence and Security Forces and the creation of a legal framework for the establishment of the Northern Development Zone.

Concerning the mandate of MINUSMA, the Under-Secretary-General highlighted that in recent months, in line with resolution [2480 \(2019\)](#), the Mission had done its utmost to support the stabilization and restoration of State authority in central Mali, while continuing to support the implementation of the peace agreement. The increased presence and activity of MINUSMA in the Mopti region had contributed to preventing a further escalation of intercommunal violence and large-scale massacres. He stated that the Mission’s added focus on central Mali had required it

to divert key capabilities from Gao to Mopti, and that it was not feasible to implement its additional strategic priority in the centre of the country without additional resources. In order to address that challenge, MINUSMA had developed a plan to adapt its uniformed components within the authorized troop and police strength, while taking into account the needs of the civilian component, to effectively implement its mandate in central and northern Mali. The Under-Secretary-General reported that the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel had been unable to take full advantage of MINUSMA operational and logistical support, in line with resolutions [2391 \(2017\)](#) and [2480 \(2019\)](#), as the Force did not have the capacity to transport the essential consumables that MINUSMA provided to all its sectors and contingents.

At an open videoconference on 7 April,³⁵² the Special Representative of the Secretary-General informed Council members that despite the exceptional circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, MINUSMA was continuing to fulfil the mission entrusted to it by the Council in accordance with resolution [2480 \(2019\)](#), in particular the implementation of the peace agreement and supporting the political framework for the management of the crisis in the centre of the country. On the implementation of the peace agreement, he reported that the first reconstituted units of the defence forces had been redeployed to the north and that the Prime Minister’s visit to the northern regions was a demonstration of trust-building among the parties to the agreement. The first round of the legislative elections had been conducted in a peaceful atmosphere and at the national level the 30 per cent quota for women had been respected. On the management of the crisis in the centre of the country, MINUSMA continued to implement its adaptation plan and a hotline had been established in Mopti to serve the civilian population as part of the Mission’s efforts to respond to early warnings. In relation to regional security cooperation, MINUSMA continued to provide logistical support to the Joint Force and, in that context, the construction work on the Joint Force headquarters in Bamako had started.

In his statement at the open videoconference held on 11 June,³⁵³ the Secretary-General stated that the multifaceted crises in Mali and the Sahel continued to take a heavy toll on the people across the region, with terrorist and criminal groups expanding their activities and exploiting long-standing tensions along community lines and with the onset of the COVID-19

³⁴⁹ The closed videoconference was held on 10 June 2021 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.

³⁵⁰ See [S/2019/983](#), [S/2020/223](#), [S/2020/476](#), and [S/2020/952](#).

³⁵¹ See [S/PV.8703](#).

³⁵² See [S/2020/286](#).

³⁵³ See [S/2020/541](#).

pandemic. In spite of protracted delays in the implementation of the peace agreement, he acknowledged that important progress had been made over the previous year and encouraged the signatories to the agreement to strengthen mutual trust and work together to keep up the momentum in the peace process. Efforts to combat impunity remained essential to curbing the violence in the centre of the country and more needed to be done by the authorities to demonstrate their commitment in that regard. The Secretary-General highlighted the need to bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against peacekeepers.

The Secretary-General also expressed concern about the situation in central Mali and stated that he was appalled by allegations of summary killings and executions of civilians. He also mentioned that MINUSMA and the Secretariat had taken important steps to enhance the Mission's presence in central Mali and to better protect civilians, and the adaptation plan remained a viable proposal for a more agile, mobile and flexible operation. The humanitarian situation was equally concerning, with the number of people in need of assistance expected to increase to 5 million over the following months. He called for swift and determined international action to address the most urgent humanitarian needs and mitigate the destabilizing effects of COVID-19. The Secretary-General commended the Malian defence forces, the Joint Force and the French forces for stepping up their operations and improving coordination in the Liptako-Gourma region with the aim of defeating terrorist groups operating in that critical area. He also stressed that support for the Group of Five for the Sahel remained vital and reiterated his call for a comprehensive support package, funded by assessed contributions, to allow for predictable and sustainable support for the Joint Force.

At the same videoconference, the High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel stated that Mali and the Sahel region faced a triple crisis involving health, economic and security factors owing to COVID-19. He noted the drastic deterioration of the security situation in the Liptako-Gourma area with an increase in the number and intensity of terrorist group actions and the continuation of intercommunal conflict. The difficult security situation had exacerbated the humanitarian situation and weakened respect for human rights, resulting in a growing number of displaced persons and a lack of basic social services. In response, Mali had launched a new military initiative, Operation Maliko, which had shown tangible results, the Joint Force had grown in strength and the cooperation and coordination

mechanism set up in Pau, France, seemed to be working properly. He also addressed the political situation and the implementation of the peace agreement and expressed hope that the next Government would be able to create new momentum in the implementation of the agreement by adopting a new timetable for completing the priority actions that had already been identified.

At the meeting held on 8 October,³⁵⁴ the Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted that the period covered by the report of the Secretary-General³⁵⁵ was marked by significant sociopolitical developments. He made reference to his statement during a closed videoconference held on 27 July, in which he had explained that the main causes of the crisis at that time were the weakening of central institutions, the loss of confidence in political actors and the rise of religious leaders; the delay in the implementation of the peace agreement and the worsening socioeconomic situation; and the deterioration of the security situation, in particular in the centre of the country. He highlighted the paralysis in Mali's institutions, notably the Constitutional Court and the National Assembly. It was in that context of deadlock that the mutiny of 18 August 2020 had led to the resignation of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. He noted that the coup de force was condemned by the entire international community. In addition to condemning that unconstitutional change, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had decided to suspend Mali from all of its institutions and had applied sanctions, including the closure of borders, an air embargo and the suspension of financial transactions, until a civil transition was put in place. He also indicated that days of national consultation had been organized from 10 to 12 September, which led to the adoption of a transition charter, complementing the Constitution. As provided for in the charter, a President had been appointed for the transition in the person of Bah N'Daw, a retired Colonel-Major and former Minister of Defence. In addition to the President, a Vice-President and a Prime Minister had been appointed and a Government had been formed on 5 October made up of 25 members, in accordance with the recommendations of the inclusive national dialogue. With the formation of the new Government and the lifting of sanctions, the Special Representative expressed hope for the swift establishment of the national transitional council, which would serve as the legislative body throughout the 18-month transitional period.

³⁵⁴ See [S/PV.8765](#).

³⁵⁵ [S/2020/952](#).

On 17 November the Council held a meeting³⁵⁶ to hear a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#) concerning Mali. The Chair informed the Council about the activities of the Committee in 2020, highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its working methods. He also reported that since the Committee was established, eight individuals had been placed on the sanctions list pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#).

In the discussions in the Council during the period under review, Council members noted the deteriorating security environment in Mali and in the wider Sahel region. Against that backdrop, Council members focused, *inter alia*, on the implementation of the peace agreement, on the role of MINUSMA in support of the agreement and the definition of its mandate and strength and on the use of sanctions to promote peace and security in Mali. Council members noted the positive progress regarding the implementation of the agreement, underscoring that there was no viable alternative for achieving peace and stability in the country. Some Council members emphasized the importance of increasing women's participation in Mali's political process.³⁵⁷ Council members also expressed support for the development of the MINUSMA adaptation plan for central Mali, which was aimed at achieving the mandate priorities laid out in resolution [2480 \(2019\)](#). In addition, Council members expressed different views on the force strength of MINUSMA and concerning the focus of its mandate.³⁵⁸ Regarding the sanctions regime, Council members cautioned that those that hindered the implementation of the peace agreement risked facing sanctions pursuant to resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#).³⁵⁹ Some Council members expressed regret that the Council had failed to seize the opportunity to strengthen the sanctions and to expand the mandate of the Panel of

Experts.³⁶⁰ In addition, Council members highlighted the key role played by ECOWAS in handling the political crisis following the 18 August 2020 coup d'état.³⁶¹

During the period under review, the Council adopted two resolutions in connection with the item, one relating to the mandate of MINUSMA and one in connection with the sanctions measures in Mali. On 29 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2531 \(2020\)](#), acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, extending the mandate of MINUSMA until 30 June 2021 and renewing its authorization to MINUSMA to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate.³⁶² The Council also expressed its full support for the continuation of the implementation of the MINUSMA adaptation plan and encouraged Member States to contribute to the plan by providing the capabilities needed for its success, particularly air assets.³⁶³ While reiterating the first and second strategic priorities of MINUSMA, the Council added new elements and modified some of the existing tasks.³⁶⁴ In addition, the Secretary-General was requested to develop and present to the Council by 31 March 2021 a long-term road map focusing on benchmarks and conditions that would open the way for a possible exit strategy for MINUSMA.³⁶⁵ On 31 August, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2541 \(2020\)](#), extending until 31 August 2021 the asset freeze and travel ban imposed by the Council in resolution [2374 \(2017\)](#).³⁶⁶ The Council also extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 30 September 2021.³⁶⁷

In addition, on 15 October, the Council issued a presidential statement welcoming the establishment of the transitional arrangements in Mali, including the appointment of a transitional president, vice-president,

³⁵⁶ See [S/PV.8777](#).

³⁵⁷ See, in particular, [S/PV.8703](#) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominican Republic, Germany, Estonia, United Kingdom and Viet Nam); [S/2020/286](#) (Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia) and Viet Nam); [S/2020/541](#) (France, Dominican Republic, Tunisia, Estonia, South Africa, United Kingdom and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines); and [S/PV.8765](#) (France, Viet Nam, Estonia, United Kingdom, United States, Belgium and Dominican Republic).

³⁵⁸ See [S/PV.8703](#) (United States and Russian Federation); [S/2020/286](#) (Germany); and [S/2020/541](#) (Niger).

³⁵⁹ See, in particular, [S/PV.8703](#) (France, United States, Belgium and United Kingdom); [S/2020/541](#) (France); and [S/PV.8765](#) (United States and Dominican Republic).

³⁶⁰ See [S/2020/867](#).

³⁶¹ See [S/PV.8765](#) (France, Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), China, Viet Nam (also on behalf of Indonesia), Estonia, United States, Germany, Dominican Republic and Russian Federation).

³⁶² Resolution [2531 \(2020\)](#), paras. 16 and 18. For more information on the mandate of MINUSMA, see part X, sect. I.

³⁶³ Resolution [2531 \(2020\)](#), para. 23.

³⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 28 and 29. For more details, see part X, sect. I.

³⁶⁵ Resolution [2531 \(2020\)](#), para. 64.

³⁶⁶ Resolution [2541 \(2020\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the sanctions measures concerning Mali, see part VII, sect. III.

³⁶⁷ Resolution [2541 \(2020\)](#), para. 3. For more information on the Committee and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.

prime minister and government and the issuance of a transition charter.³⁶⁸ The Council underlined that the transition needed to be conducted in accordance with the transition charter, leading to constitutional order and elections within 18 months.³⁶⁹ In the presidential statement, the Council reiterated the strategic importance of the full, effective and inclusive implementation of the peace agreement and called on the transitional authorities to take ownership of the document and on the signatory armed groups to fulfil

their commitment to its implementation.³⁷⁰ The Council commended the continued commitment of and mediation efforts by ECOWAS over the past months in Mali and encouraged it to accompany Mali in the implementation of the transition road map.³⁷¹ The Council took note of the 5 October 2020 declaration by ECOWAS on the transitional arrangements and the lifting of sanctions and on the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to lift its suspension of Mali from African Union activities.³⁷²

³⁶⁸ S/PRST/2020/10, first paragraph.

³⁶⁹ Ibid., third paragraph.

³⁷⁰ Ibid., fourth paragraph.

³⁷¹ Ibid., second paragraph.

³⁷² Ibid.

Table 1
Meetings: the situation in Mali

<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.8703 15 January 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2019/983)		Mali	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations	13 Council members, ^a all invitees ^b	
S/PV.8765 8 October 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2020/952)		Mali	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	11 Council members, ^c all invitees ^d	
S/PV.8769 15 October 2020						S/PRST/2020/10
S/PV.8777 17 November 2020					Dominican Republic ^e	

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

^b Mali was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, who participated in the meeting by videoconference from Bamako.

^c Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Niger (also on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia), Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam (also on behalf of Indonesia, the other member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the Council).

^d The Special Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference from Bamako.

^e The representative of the Dominican Republic spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) concerning Mali.