

conditions, and those conditions included a comprehensive ceasefire, unfettered access for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and the withdrawal of foreign troops.

Also participating in the meeting, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine said that his Government looked forward to holding local elections

throughout the territory of Ukraine, including its temporarily occupied parts, once the security and political conditions allowed in accordance with Ukrainian legislation and the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of OSCE and under Ukraine's control of its internationally recognized borders.

Meeting: letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/264)

<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.8726 18 February 2020			Ukraine ^a	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Special Representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Chairperson-in-Office, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission	All Council members, ^b all invitees ^c	

^a Ukraine was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^b The representatives of Germany and the Russian Federation took the floor more than once in order to make further statements.

^c The Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission participated in the meeting by videoconference from Kyiv. The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine took the floor more than once in order to make a further statement.

Middle East

20. The situation in the Middle East

During the period under review, the Council held 17 meetings in relation to the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”. Consistent with prior practice, most meetings held under the item took the form of briefings.⁵¹⁷ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in tables 1 and 3 below. In addition, the Council held a total of 31 open videoconferences in connection

with the item.⁵¹⁸ More information on the videoconferences is given in tables 2 and 4 to 6 below. Under the item, both at the meetings and the videoconferences, Council members considered a variety of topics, principally the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic; the conflict in Yemen; the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF); and the mandate of the United Nations

⁵¹⁷ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁵¹⁸ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). In 2020, the Council also held three closed videoconferences with countries contributing troops and police to UNDOF and UNIFIL.⁵¹⁹ In addition to the meetings and videoconferences, Council members held informal consultations of the whole and an informal interactive dialogue to discuss the item.⁵²⁰

In 2020, the Council adopted eight resolutions in connection with the item. The Council twice extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA), on 13 January for six months until 15 July 2020⁵²¹ and on 14 July for one year until 15 July 2021.⁵²² On 25 February, the Council renewed the sanctions measures in relation to the situation in Yemen until 26 February 2021 and extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Yemen for 13 months until 28 March 2021.⁵²³ The Council also twice renewed the mandate of UNDOF for periods of six months each,⁵²⁴ and extended the mandate of UNIFIL once for a period of 12 months, while also authorizing a reduction in the maximum number of authorized troops from 15,000 to 13,000.⁵²⁵ The Council failed to adopt four draft resolutions in relation to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.⁵²⁶ As described below, two draft resolutions were not adopted owing to the negative vote of one or more permanent members of the Council and the remaining two were not adopted owing to the failure to obtain the required number of votes.

During the period under review, the meetings and videoconferences held by the Council in relation to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to focus on three main aspects: the political process to end the conflict; the humanitarian situation in the country; and the proliferation and use of chemical weapons. Following the practice in 2019, briefings concerning the political process and the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic were sometimes addressed

jointly during the same meeting or videoconference, whereas the proliferation and use of chemical weapons was addressed separately in dedicated meetings and open videoconferences.⁵²⁷

Regarding the political process, Council members heard regular monthly briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, the Deputy Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs on the efforts to reach a political solution to the conflict and the implementation of resolution 2254 (2015). In that connection, in 2020 the briefings and discussions focused on the progress on the Constitutional Committee, the Special Envoy's continued engagement with key international stakeholders and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the socioeconomic and political situations in the Syrian Arab Republic.⁵²⁸ In February, against the backdrop of the military hostilities in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic and the escalation of violence in Idlib, the Special Envoy reported that despite the ceasefire, heavy clashes and mutual shelling continued between Turkish forces and Syrian Government forces inside the Syrian Arab Republic. Reiterating the Secretary-General's strong appeal for a cessation of hostilities, he called for an end to the hostilities and called on everyone to engage in a serious international effort to cooperate on Idlib and on all major players and the members of the Council to put their full weight behind that logic.⁵²⁹ At the meeting held on 28 February, the Secretary-General expressed deep concerns about the changing nature of the conflict in Idlib and reiterated the need for a ceasefire.⁵³⁰ Following the Secretary-General's call for an immediate global ceasefire, the Special Envoy said that since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic different ceasefire arrangements broadly continued to hold across the Syrian Arab Republic.⁵³¹ He also reported on the progress of his engagements with the Co-Chairs of the Constitutional Committee and with the Syrian Women's Advisory Board. On the issue of detainees, abductees and missing persons, he appealed

⁵¹⁹ 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", Council members held closed videoconferences on 15 June and 8 December in relation to UNDOF and on 10 August in relation to UNIFIL; see [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 22. See also [S/2020/789](#) and [S/2020/1045](#).

⁵²⁰ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 2.B. See also [S/2020/258](#), [S/2020/1142](#), [S/2020/344](#), [S/2020/1102](#) and [S/2021/9](#).

⁵²¹ Resolution 2505 (2020), para. 1.

⁵²² Resolution 2534 (2020), para. 1.

⁵²³ Resolution 2511 (2020), paras. 2 and 7.

⁵²⁴ Resolutions 2530 (2020) and 2555 (2020), para. 15.

⁵²⁵ Resolution 2539 (2020), paras. 1 and 29.

⁵²⁶ See [S/2020/654](#), [S/2020/658](#), [S/2020/667](#) and [S/2020/683](#).

⁵²⁷ For more information on the format of the meetings in relation to this item, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2018 and 2019*.

⁵²⁸ See [S/PV.8708](#), [S/PV.8715](#), [S/PV.8727](#) and [S/PV.8738](#).

⁵²⁹ See [S/PV.8715](#).

⁵³⁰ See [S/PV.8738](#). Following the meeting, the representatives of the Russian Federation and Turkey transmitted the Additional Protocol to the Memorandum on the Stabilization of the Situation in the Idlib De-escalation Area, signed by the Russian Federation and Turkey on 5 March 2020, agreeing to cease all military actions in the Idlib De-escalation Area ([S/2020/187](#)).

⁵³¹ See [S/2020/353](#).

to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and all other Syrian parties to unilaterally release detainees and abductees.⁵³² Concerning the progress on the Constitutional Committee and its agenda, the focus was on constitutional reform and gradually developing a wider political process to implement resolution 2254 (2015). Two civil society representatives briefed Council members at two separate videoconferences on the topic of detainees and missing persons, particularly women and children.⁵³³

In relation to the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, Council members heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator on the findings of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of relevant resolutions, including resolution 2165 (2014) by which the Council authorized cross-border humanitarian operations.⁵³⁴ The briefers provided regular updates on the humanitarian conditions in various parts of the country, in particular Idlib in north-western Syrian Arab Republic and the Rukban and Hawl refugee camps, on the efforts with regard to cross-border humanitarian assistance and on the COVID-19 preparedness and response measures across the Syrian Arab Republic. In connection with the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, Council members were also briefed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund⁵³⁵ and by two civil society representatives in two separate videoconferences.⁵³⁶

With respect to the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, Council members heard regular briefings by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and her Deputy on progress in the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013) on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. Starting in September, the Council was briefed by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs in open videoconferences and public

meetings,⁵³⁷ while earlier in the year those briefings took place in informal consultations of the whole, closed videoconferences and, in May, an informal interactive dialogue.⁵³⁸ In her briefings, the High Representative reported on the activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), including on the investigations into the alleged use of chemical weapons in Aleppo in 2018 and in Saraqib in 2016, as well as on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of OPCW. At its meeting on 5 October, prior to the briefing by the High Representative, Council members disagreed on whether to invite the former Director-General of OPCW, José Bustani, to brief the Council in accordance with rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure. Further to those exchanges, the Council held a procedural vote, resulting in the rejection of the proposal to invite Mr. Bustani to brief the Council.⁵³⁹ In the monthly briefing for December,⁵⁴⁰ Council members heard a briefing from the Director-General of OPCW, who reported on the progress of the Syrian chemical weapons dossier following the issuance of the first report of the Investigation and Identification Team in April 2020.

In 2020, in its meetings in relation to the conflict in Yemen the Council continued to focus on three distinct areas, namely, the political process to find a solution to the conflict, the humanitarian situation in the country, and the sanctions measures in place against individuals and entities designated as engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened peace, security and stability in Yemen.

Regarding the political process, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen on the progress in the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement. During his briefings, both in the meetings and the videoconferences, he updated the Council on the status of the Agreement on the City of Hudaydah and the

⁵³² See S/2020/353, S/2020/420, S/2020/551, S/2020/823, S/2020/936 and S/2020/1049.

⁵³³ The Council heard briefings by a human rights lawyer and activist on 16 June (see S/2020/551) and by the representative of Families for Freedom on 23 July (see S/2020/743).

⁵³⁴ Resolution 2165 (2014), para. 2.

⁵³⁵ See S/PV.8734.

⁵³⁶ The Council heard briefings by the Director of Policy and Senior Adviser at Physicians for Human Rights on 29 June (see S/2020/635) and by the Regional Director of Syria Relief and Development on 29 July (S/2020/758).

⁵³⁷ See S/2020/902, S/PV.8764, S/2020/1088 and S/2020/1202.

⁵³⁸ See S/2020/258, S/2020/1142, S/2020/344, S/2020/558, S/2020/1102, S/2020/789, S/2021/9 and S/2020/1045. For the practice in 2019, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2019*, part I, sect. 22.

⁵³⁹ See S/PV.8764. The result of the vote on the procedural motion concerning whether the Council agreed to invite Mr. Bustani to brief the Council was as follows: *for*: China, Russian Federation, South Africa; *against*: Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, United States; *abstaining*: Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Viet Nam. For more details, see part II, sect. VIII.

⁵⁴⁰ See S/2020/1202.

Ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa, including on the outcomes of consultations between the parties. He also addressed the evolution of the hostilities in the country, as well as the United Nations-brokered negotiations between the Government of Yemen and Ansar Allah to reach agreement on a joint declaration that would include a nationwide ceasefire, economic and humanitarian measures and the resumption of the political process aimed at comprehensively resolving and ending the conflict. The Special Envoy made reference to gender inclusion as a high priority in the context of the joint declaration.⁵⁴¹ In his briefings, the Special Envoy also reported on the progress made in prisoner and detainee exchanges and the operation of a medical air bridge facilitated by the World Health Organization to transport patients from Sana'a for medical assistance abroad. The Special Envoy continued to sound the alarm on the lack of progress in addressing the threat posed by the floating storage and offloading vessel FSO *Safer*, which was threatening to cause an environmental and economic catastrophe for Yemen and the neighbouring countries, and emphasized that the threat had to be dealt with on a purely technical basis, without politicization.⁵⁴² At the meeting on 15 October, the Special Envoy reported that over 1,000 prisoners were being released as agreed during the talks held in Switzerland in September 2020, which was the largest such operation in the history of the conflict in Yemen.⁵⁴³

Regarding the humanitarian situation in Yemen, the Council heard briefings⁵⁴⁴ by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, his Deputy and the Director of the Coordination Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, often in conjunction with the Special Envoy. The briefers reported on the dire humanitarian situation in the country, exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued economic instability. The briefers also focused on public health concerns, the displacement resulting from the escalation of the conflict in various parts of the country and the disproportionate impact of the war on children and women. In that regard, on 28 July the Council heard briefings from the General Coordinator in Yemen of Médecins du Monde and the Chairwoman of the Arab Human Rights Foundation, who focused on the grave human rights violations against children in Yemen,

including their widespread recruitment and maiming.⁵⁴⁵ On 15 July, the Council heard a briefing by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the serious implications of the oil leakage from the FSO *Safer*. She reported that UNEP had been working to develop a response plan with the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Office of the Special Envoy, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Mutual Aid Centre for Environmental Emergencies of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA). She said that it was imperative that access be granted to the FSO *Safer* to assess and inspect the current state of the vessel so as to safely evacuate the oil and prevent environmental and human catastrophe.⁵⁴⁶ Against a backdrop of growing concerns over the risk of widespread famine in Yemen, on 11 November the Council also heard briefings from the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Founder and Executive Director of Solutions for Sustainable Society. During the briefing, the Executive Director of WFP called on the major donors to step up with additional funds and urged the Council to seize the opportunity to avoid the looming famine in Yemen.⁵⁴⁷

Regarding the sanctions in Yemen, at a meeting on 18 February the Council heard a briefing by the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in her capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) on the Committee's activities since 16 May 2019.⁵⁴⁸ She reported that the Committee had received two implementation reports, from Panama and Portugal, and continued to receive vessel inspection reports from the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen. She also noted that the Committee had agreed to call on all parties to the conflict in Yemen to adhere strictly to international humanitarian law and to investigate and prosecute members who had committed violations of international humanitarian law, pursuant to the recommendation contained in the final report of the Panel of Experts on Yemen under resolution 2456 (2019).⁵⁴⁹

In its decisions in 2020, the Council addressed the matters outlined above concerning the conflicts in

⁵⁴¹ See [S/PV.8753](#).

⁵⁴² See [S/PV.8725](#), [S/PV.8753](#) and [S/PV.8757](#).

⁵⁴³ See [S/PV.8770](#).

⁵⁴⁴ See [S/PV.8704](#), [S/PV.8725](#), [S/PV.8745](#), [S/PV.8753](#), [S/PV.8757](#), [S/PV.8770](#), [S/2020/313](#), [S/2020/411](#), [S/2020/721](#) and [S/2020/1109](#).

⁵⁴⁵ See [S/PV.8753](#).

⁵⁴⁶ See [S/2020/721](#).

⁵⁴⁷ See [S/2020/1109](#).

⁵⁴⁸ See [S/PV.8725](#).

⁵⁴⁹ [S/2020/326](#). See also [S/2020/70](#) and [S/2020/70/Corr.1](#).

the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen and the mandates of UNDOF and UNIFIL.

In connection with the Syrian Arab Republic and against the backdrop of the expiration of the authorization for the mechanism for cross-border operations, which had been last renewed in December 2018 by resolution [2449 \(2018\)](#),⁵⁵⁰ the Council held a meeting on 10 January to consider two competing draft resolutions to extend the mechanism. The two drafts were submitted by Belgium and Germany⁵⁵¹ and by the Russian Federation,⁵⁵² respectively.⁵⁵³ At the outset of the meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation proposed an oral amendment to paragraph 6 of the draft resolution submitted by Belgium and Germany.⁵⁵⁴ Taking the floor before the vote on the oral amendment, the representative of Belgium stated that the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation was not acceptable because it contradicted the very system of the cross-border mechanism that needed to be preserved and asked the Council to approve the draft resolution as presented by the co-penholders and to vote in favour of it. The oral amendment failed to garner the sufficient number of votes and the Council subsequently voted and adopted the draft resolution as originally proposed, as resolution [2504 \(2020\)](#).⁵⁵⁵ By resolution [2504 \(2020\)](#), the Council extended the authorization for humanitarian agencies to use two out of the four border crossings authorized in resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#) to deliver humanitarian assistance for a period of six months, until 10 July 2020, excluding the border crossings of Al-Ramtha and of Al Yarubiyah.⁵⁵⁶ The representative of China, noting his active engagement in the negotiations process, said that given the current situation extending the mandate for two crossing points for six months was realistic and feasible as they were the most important and served the humanitarian needs of the Syrian Arab Republic.⁵⁵⁷ The representative of the Russian Federation explained that it had abstained for the sole purpose of not blocking cross-border

assistance to the Syrian province of Idlib, which was the only one that still really needed that method of delivering supplies. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that the Council should be prepared to take action, including restoring cross-border access in the north-east, if the Secretary-General's review concluded that alternative humanitarian access routes were inadequate to meet the humanitarian needs of the population. The representative of the United States explained its abstention by saying that the text of resolution [2504 \(2020\)](#) was the only path forward that would reasonably allow for the delivery of any aid at all to the Syrian people. She also emphasized that the resolution was "watered down" and inadequate to the needs of the Syrian people owing to the unwillingness of the Russian Federation to maintain the then current levels of aid flows. At the end of the meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation announced that in the light of the adoption of resolution [2504 \(2020\)](#), the Russian Federation would withdraw the draft resolution contained in document [S/2020/24](#).

With the authorization for the mechanism for cross-border operations again expiring in July, the Council voted on five competing draft resolutions between 7 and 11 July. In the first round of consideration of the competing drafts,⁵⁵⁸ on 7 July the Council failed to adopt a draft resolution submitted by Belgium and Germany owing to the negative votes of two permanent members, China and the Russian Federation.⁵⁵⁹ In addition, the Council failed to adopt a draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation because it did not receive the required number of votes.⁵⁶⁰ On 10 July, in two separate votes following the written procedure, the Council again failed to adopt either of the two draft resolutions before it. The draft resolution submitted by Belgium and Germany was not adopted owing to the negative vote of two permanent members, China and the Russian Federation.⁵⁶¹ The draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation was not adopted owing to an insufficient number of votes.⁵⁶² On 11 July, following a vote on three possible amendments, two submitted by the Russian Federation

⁵⁵⁰ Resolution [2449 \(2018\)](#), para. 3.

⁵⁵¹ [S/2020/24](#).

⁵⁵² Since the draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation was withdrawn, there is no record available.

⁵⁵³ See [S/PV.8700](#).

⁵⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵⁵ The result on the vote on the oral amendment to the draft resolution ([S/2020/24](#)) was as follows: *for*: China, Russian Federation, Viet Nam; *against*: Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom and United States; *abstaining*: Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa and Tunisia.

⁵⁵⁶ Resolution [2504 \(2020\)](#), para. 3.

⁵⁵⁷ See [S/PV.8700](#).

⁵⁵⁸ The vote followed the procedure provided for in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council ([S/2020/253](#)). For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁵⁵⁹ See [S/2020/654](#). See also [S/2020/657](#) and [S/2020/661](#).

⁵⁶⁰ See [S/2020/658](#). See also [S/2020/664](#) and [S/2020/671](#).

⁵⁶¹ See [S/2020/667](#). See also [S/2020/681](#) and [S/2020/693](#).

⁵⁶² See [S/2020/683](#). See also [S/2020/688](#) and [S/2020/694](#).

and one by China,⁵⁶³ the Council voted on a fifth draft resolution, submitted by Belgium and Germany,⁵⁶⁴ which was adopted as resolution 2533 (2020).⁵⁶⁵ By resolution 2533 (2020), the Council decided to renew the cross-border humanitarian mechanism established in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Council resolution 2165 (2014) for a period of 12 months, until 10 July 2021, excluding the border crossings of Al-Ramtha, Al Yarubiyah and Bab al-Salam, three of the four border crossings authorized in resolution 2165 (2014).⁵⁶⁶ In the explanation of votes submitted to the Council,⁵⁶⁷ the representative of Belgium indicated that, after many rounds of discussion and votes and given the divergent positions among the members of the Council, the Council had no choice but to make yet another decision that did not reflect the humanitarian needs on the ground, in order to find a compromise. He added that in the interest of the almost three million civilians who depended on the Bab al-Hawa border crossing, the Council had to make the decision to compromise, allowing for Bab al-Hawa to stay open for 12 months, which would allow for better planning and greater predictability for the many non-governmental organizations that guaranteed the survival of the people suffering in and around Idlib. Addressing his country's abstention, the representative of China said that the cross-border mechanism should be adjusted in the light of the developments on the ground and noted that resolution 2533 (2020), presented by Belgium and Germany, reaffirmed the commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and included further adjustment to the cross-border mechanism. Explaining his country's abstention, the representative of the Dominican Republic stated that although the Council had renewed the mechanism, the failure to reopen the border crossing of Al Yarubiyah and the decision to close the Bab al-Salam crossing would have terrible consequences and that the flagrant

politicization of the decision was not something for which the Council should be proud. He expressed hope that the Council would be able to overcome the many differences, divisions and fears that prevented it from taking principled, people-centred humanitarian decisions. Explaining the abstention by the Russian Federation, the Permanent Mission indicated that the vote reflected the Russian Federation's principled position on the cross-border mechanism and that the cross-border mechanism in the Syrian Arab Republic did not reflect the minimal requirements of international humanitarian law as it was impossible to monitor how humanitarian assistance was delivered and who were its final beneficiaries on the ground. The co-penholders of the resolution had ignored the Russian Federation's principled concerns, which had forced it to block the draft resolution sponsored by Germany and Belgium twice and present alternative texts. The Russian Federation reminded the authors of the resolution, as well as the penholders of other dossiers in the Council, that the "so-called penholdership" was not a privilege but rather a special responsibility vis-a-vis other members of the Council, as well as the whole international community.

With regard to the conflict in Yemen, the Council adopted resolutions 2505 (2020) of 13 January and 2534 (2020) of 14 July concerning UNMHA. The Council extended the mandate of the Mission twice, for a period of six months by resolution 2505 (2020) until 15 July 2020,⁵⁶⁸ and for one year by resolution 2534 (2020) until 15 July 2021.⁵⁶⁹ By both resolutions, the Council reiterated the existing mandate of the Mission, which included leading and supporting the functioning of the Redeployment Coordination Committee to oversee the governorate-wide ceasefire, redeployment of forces and mine action operations; monitoring the compliance of the parties to the ceasefire and the mutual redeployment of forces from the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa; working with the parties so that the security of the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa was assured by local security forces in accordance with Yemeni law; and facilitating and coordinating United Nations support to assist the parties to fully implement the Hudaydah Agreement.⁵⁷⁰ Taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to fully deploy UNMHA expeditiously and called on the parties to the Hudaydah Agreement to

⁵⁶³ The three amendments were submitted by the Russian Federation (S/2020/690 and S/2020/691) and China (S/2020/692), respectively. Having failed to obtain the required number of votes, the amendments were not adopted (see S/2020/695, S/2020/696 and S/2020/697).

⁵⁶⁴ S/2020/684.

⁵⁶⁵ The result of the vote on the draft resolution (S/2020/684) was as follows (see S/2020/698):
for: Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam;
against: none; *abstaining*: China, Dominican Republic, Russian Federation).

⁵⁶⁶ Resolution 2533 (2020), para. 2.

⁵⁶⁷ See S/2020/702. For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁵⁶⁸ Resolution 2505 (2020), para. 1.

⁵⁶⁹ Resolution 2534 (2020), para. 1.

⁵⁷⁰ Resolutions 2505 (2020) and 2534 (2020), para. 2 (a)–(d). For more information on the mandate of UNMHA, see part X, sect. II.

support the United Nations by ensuring the safety, security and health of UNMHA personnel and the unhindered and expeditious movement into and within Yemen of UNMHA personnel and equipment, provisions and essential supplies.⁵⁷¹ In addition, by both resolution 2505 (2020) and resolution 2534 (2020) the Council reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to report on a monthly basis on progress regarding the implementation of the resolutions and requested the Secretary-General to present to the Council a further review of UNMHA at least one month before the expiration of the Mission's mandate.⁵⁷²

Regarding the sanctions measures imposed in connection with the conflict in Yemen, on 25 February the Council adopted resolution 2511 (2020) under Chapter VII of the Charter, with the abstentions of China and the Russian Federation. By resolution 2511 (2020), the Council renewed the sanctions measures in place until 26 February 2021 and extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts for 13 months, until 28 March 2021.⁵⁷³ At the same meeting,⁵⁷⁴ explaining his abstention the representative of the Russian Federation said that he was not in a position to support resolution 2511 (2020), penned by the United Kingdom, as not all of the concerns expressed during the consultations had been taken into account. Emphasizing that there was no unity during the discussions on the report of the Panel of Experts, the representative of the Russian Federation noted that many delegations did not have an opportunity to participate on an equal footing in efforts to achieve a balanced text and that what transpired during the voting attested to the non-constructive working methods of the sponsors of the draft. The representative of China explained his delegation's decision to abstain in the voting, stating that the resolution failed to address his country's concerns, including the broad mandates of the Panel of Experts and the unnecessary amendments to the designation criteria. He added that the recruitment of child soldiers and sexual violence in conflict were already included in the existing resolution under the criteria of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and the separate listing of those two acts had not been fully discussed by the Committee and was not in accordance with its practice.

⁵⁷¹ Resolution 2534 (2020), para. 5.

⁵⁷² Resolutions 2505 (2020) and 2534 (2020), paras. 7–8.

⁵⁷³ Resolution 2511 (2020), paras. 2 and 7. For more information on the sanctions measures, see part VII, sect. III. For more information on the Committee and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.

⁵⁷⁴ See S/PV.8732.

In 2020, the mandate of UNDOF was renewed twice, by resolutions 2530 (2020) of 29 June and 2555 (2020) of 18 December, for periods of six months each, until 31 December 2020 and 30 June 2021, respectively.⁵⁷⁵ By resolution 2530 (2020), the Council requested UNDOF to take all appropriate steps to protect the safety, security and health of all UNDOF personnel, in line with resolution 2518 (2020), taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁷⁶ By resolution 2555 (2020), the Council requested the Secretary-General and countries contributing troops and police to seek to increase the number of women in UNDOF and to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of uniformed and civilian women at all levels and in all positions, including senior leadership positions, and to implement other relevant provisions of resolution 2538 (2020).⁵⁷⁷

In connection with Lebanon, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2539 (2020) extending the mandate of UNIFIL for one year until 31 August 2021.⁵⁷⁸ Against the backdrop of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Council commended UNIFIL for the preventive measures taken to fight the pandemic and recalled resolution 2532 (2020) and its request to the Secretary-General to instruct peacekeeping operations to provide support to host country authorities in their efforts to contain the pandemic and take all appropriate steps to protect the safety, security and health of all United Nations personnel in its peace operations.⁵⁷⁹ Furthermore, in the aftermath of the Beirut explosions on 4 August 2020, the Council expressed its solidarity with Lebanon and its people and welcomed the International Conference on Assistance and Support to Lebanon and Beirut organized on 9 August 2020 by France and the United Nations, further calling on the international community to reinforce its support.⁵⁸⁰ Recognizing that UNIFIL had successfully implemented its mandate since 2006 and allowed for maintaining peace and security, the Council decided to authorize the reduction of the troop-ceiling set out in

⁵⁷⁵ Resolutions 2530 (2020) and 2555 (2020), para. 15. For more information on the mandate of UNDOF, see part X, sect. I.

⁵⁷⁶ Resolution 2530 (2020), para. 8.

⁵⁷⁷ Resolution 2555 (2020), para. 13.

⁵⁷⁸ Resolution 2539 (2020), para. 1. See also part I, sect. 23. For more information on the mandate of UNIFIL, see part X, sect. I.

⁵⁷⁹ Resolution 2539 (2020), fifth preambular paragraph. See also resolution 2532 (2020).

⁵⁸⁰ Resolution 2539 (2020), second preambular paragraph. See also S/2020/1045.

paragraph 11 of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) from 15,000 to 13,000 authorized troops.⁵⁸¹

⁵⁸¹ Resolution [2539 \(2020\)](#), para. 29.

For the purposes of facilitating the coverage of the item on the situation in the Middle East, information on meetings and videoconferences is set out below under six separate tables and under four separate headings, namely, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, UNDOF and UNIFIL.

Table 1
Meetings: the situation in the Middle East – Syrian Arab 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.8700 10 January 2020		Draft resolution submitted by Belgium and Germany S/2020/24	Syrian Arab Republic		13 Council members, ^a invitee	Resolution 2504 (2020) 11-0-4 ^b
S/PV.8707 29 January 2020			Syrian Arab Republic	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	14 Council members, ^c all invitees	
S/PV.8708 29 January 2020			Syrian Arab Republic	Deputy Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8715 6 February 2020			Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	14 Council members, ^d all invitees ^e	
S/PV.8727 19 February 2020			Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees ^f	

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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.8734 27 February 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of alternative modalities for the border crossing of Ya'rubiyah (S/2020/139) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) , 2165 (2014) , 2191 (2014) , 2258 (2015) , 2332 (2016) , 2393 (2017) , 2401 (2018) , 2449 (2018) and 2504 (2020) (S/2020/141)		Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Executive Director of United Nations Children's Fund	All Council members, ^g all invitees	
S/PV.8738 28 February 2020			Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	Secretary-General, 14 Council members, ^h all invitees	
S/PV.8764 5 October 2020	Letter dated 29 September 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council		Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey	High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, former Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	All Council members, 4 invitees (Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs)	Procedural vote (rule 39) 3-6-3 ⁱ

^a The representatives of the Niger and South Africa did not make statements.

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

^c The representative of Germany did not make a statement. The representative of Belgium spoke on behalf of the co-penholders on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (Belgium and Germany).

^d The representative of the Niger did not make a statement.

^e The Special Envoy and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator participated in the meeting by videoconference from Geneva.

^f The Special Envoy participated in the meeting by videoconference from Geneva.

^g Belgium was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Development and Germany was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^h The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines did not make a statement.

ⁱ *For*: China, Russian Federation, South Africa; *against*: Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, United States; *abstaining*: Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Viet Nam.

Table 2

Videoconferences: the situation in the Middle East – Syrian Arab Republic

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
30 March 2020 ^a	S/2020/254	Letter dated 31 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
29 April 2020	S/2020/353	Letter dated 1 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
29 April 2020	S/2020/354	Letter dated 1 May 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 May 2020	S/2020/420	Letter dated 20 May 2020 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/2020/427	Letter dated 21 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
16 June 2020	S/2020/551	Letter dated 18 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	
29 June 2020	S/2020/635	Letter dated 1 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	
7 July 2020	S/2020/657	Letter dated 7 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	Draft resolution S/2020/654 (not adopted) 13-2-0 ^b S/2020/661
8 July 2020	S/2020/664	Letter dated 8 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	Draft resolution S/2020/658 (not adopted) 4-7-4 ^c S/2020/671

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<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
10 July 2020	S/2020/681	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	Draft resolution S/2020/667 (not adopted) 13-2-0 ^d S/2020/693
10 July 2020	S/2020/688	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	Draft resolution S/2020/683 (not adopted) 4-7-4 ^e S/2020/694
11 July 2020	S/2020/702	Letter dated 12 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	Resolution 2533 (2020) 13-0-2 ^f S/2020/698
23 July 2020	S/2020/743	Letter dated 27 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	
29 July 2020	S/2020/758	Letter dated 4 August 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
19 August 2020	S/2020/823	Letter dated 21 August 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
27 August 2020	S/2020/866	Letter dated 31 August 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
10 September 2020	S/2020/902	Letter dated 14 September 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
16 September 2020	S/2020/915	Letter dated 18 September 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 September 2020	S/2020/936	Letter dated 22 September 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
27 October 2020	S/2020/1049	Letter dated 29 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	
5 November 2020	S/2020/1088	Letter dated 9 November 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

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<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
25 November 2020	S/2020/1147	Letter dated 27 November 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
11 December 2020	S/2020/1202	Letter dated 16 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	
16 December 2020	S/2020/1257	Letter dated 23 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	

^a Owing to technical difficulties, the videoconference was closed instead of open. For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

^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*: China, Russian Federation; *abstaining*: none.

^c *For*: China, Russian Federation, South Africa, Viet Nam; *against*: Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, United States; *abstaining*: Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia.

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

^e *For*: China, Russian Federation, South Africa, Viet Nam; *against*: Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, United States; *abstaining*: Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia.

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

Table 3
Meetings: the situation in the Middle East – Yemen

<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.8701 13 January 2020	Letter dated 14 October 2019 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/823)	Draft resolution submitted by United Kingdom (S/2020/27)				Resolution 2505 (2020) 15-0-0

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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.8704 16 January 2020			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Director of the Coordination Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	All Council members, all invitees ^a	
S/PV.8725 18 February 2020			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, ^b all invitees ^c	
S/PV.8732 25 February 2020	Letter dated 27 January 2020 from the Panel of Experts on Yemen addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2020/70) ^f	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom (S/2020/146)	Yemen		Eight Council members, ^d invitee	Resolution 2511 (2020) 15-0-2 ^e (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.8745 12 March 2020			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees ^g	
S/PV.8747 14 July 2020	Letter dated 15 June 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom (S/2020/679)				Resolution 2534 (2020) 15-0-0

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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>
	Security Council (S/2020/524)					
S/PV.8753 28 July 2020			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, General Coordinator in Yemen of Médecins du Monde, Chairwoman of the Arab Human Rights Foundation	All Council members, all invitees ^b	
S/PV.8757 15 September 2020			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8770 15 October 2020			Yemen	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees	

^a The Director of the Coordination Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs participated in the meeting by videoconference from Geneva.

^b The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines spoke in her national capacity and in her capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014).

^c The Special Envoy participated in the meeting by videoconference from Geneva.

^d Belgium, China, France, Indonesia, Niger, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

^e *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.

^f The final report of the Panel of Experts was subsequently issued as document S/2020/326 (see S/2020/70/Corr.1).

^g The Special Envoy participated in the meeting by videoconference from Amman.

^h The Special Envoy participated in the meeting by videoconference from Geneva and the Under-Secretary-General participated in the meeting by videoconference from New York. The General Coordinator in Yemen of Médecins du Monde and the Chairwoman of the Arab Human Rights Foundation participated in the meeting by videoconference from Sana'a.

Table 4
Videoconferences: the situation in the Middle East – Yemen

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
16 April 2020	S/2020/313	Letter dated 21 April 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
14 May 2020	S/2020/411	Letter dated 18 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
15 July 2020	S/2020/721	Letter dated 17 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	
11 November 2020	S/2020/1109	Letter dated 13 November 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

Table 5
Videoconferences: the situation in the Middle East – United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
29 June 2020	S/2020/612	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	Resolution 2530 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/624
18 December 2020	S/2020/1252	Letter dated 18 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 2555 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/1263

Table 6

Videoconference: the situation in the Middle East – United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
28 August 2020	S/2020/853	Letter dated 28 August 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 2539 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/857

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

During the period under review, the Council held four meetings in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. No decisions were adopted during the period under review. In 2020, during the meetings under the item, the Council continued its practice of holding monthly briefings and quarterly open debates.⁵⁸² More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below. In addition, Council members held a total of nine open videoconferences in connection with the item.⁵⁸³ More information on the open videoconferences is provided in table 2 below. In addition to the meetings and videoconferences, in 2020 Council members held informal consultations of the whole.⁵⁸⁴ Under the item, whether in the context of meetings or videoconferences, Council members also considered developments in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the Middle East region, including the implementation of resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#) and the agreements between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.⁵⁸⁵

In 2020, in most meetings and videoconferences in connection with the item Council members heard briefings by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority. Council members also heard one briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and one briefing by the Assistant Secretary-

General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator,⁵⁸⁶ and twice heard remarks by the Secretary-General, in February and June.⁵⁸⁷ In January, Council members also heard a briefing by the Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and one by the Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the United Nations.⁵⁸⁸ In addition, in a videoconference held on 21 July, Council members heard briefings by a Professor of Political Science and Director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research and the President of the US/Middle East Project.⁵⁸⁹

On 11 February, in an extraordinary meeting⁵⁹⁰ following the release by the United States of its “Peace to Prosperity” vision for Israelis and Palestinians, the Secretary-General affirmed the full commitment of the United Nations to a just and comprehensive peace between Palestinians and Israelis. At that meeting, the Special Coordinator briefed the Council and reported that in the days since the United States’ proposal was unveiled, sporadic violent incidents in the Palestinian territory had been witnessed, including in East Jerusalem. He also mentioned that the United States had announced that it would establish a joint committee with Israel to produce a more detailed version of the conceptual maps included in the proposal, which would allow it to recognize an Israeli decision to apply its laws in specified areas in the West Bank. The Special Coordinator cautioned that the possible annexation of territory in the West Bank would have a devastating impact on the prospects for a

⁵⁸² For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁵⁸³ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁵⁸⁴ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 2. See also [S/2020/1142](#).

⁵⁸⁵ See also part I, sect. 20.

⁵⁸⁶ See [S/PV.8706](#).

⁵⁸⁷ See [S/PV.8717](#) and [S/2020/596](#).

⁵⁸⁸ See [S/PV.8706](#).

⁵⁸⁹ See [S/2020/736](#).

⁵⁹⁰ See [S/PV.8717](#).