

considerate of the views of Member States, particularly of African Member States, that were excluded from the Group of Friends. South Africa further indicated that there had been no real attempt to reach a compromise on the contentious paragraphs. Regarding the substance of resolution 2548 (2020), South Africa raised several points. The text did not reflect the current realities on the ground, or adequately reflect the urgency for the United Nations to find a personal envoy to resume the stalled United Nations-led political process, and the text could have been more balanced, including returning to a six-month mandate renewal cycle instead of one year, so as to send a positive signal to all parties. South Africa also noted various concrete comments on the text of the resolution, as well as the need for an explicit reference or responsibility to be given to MINURSO to monitor the human rights situation on the ground.

Among the Council members voting in favour, many welcomed or expressed support for the work of MINURSO¹⁴ and stressed the need for a swift appointment of a new personal envoy of the Secretary-

¹⁴ Belgium, China, Estonia, France, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa, United States and Viet Nam.

General.¹⁵ According to its statement, Indonesia noted that the text reflected a delicate balance, considering the sensitivity of the issue, the absence of a personal envoy and the lack of an active political process. In its statement, Viet Nam stressed the importance of considering the legitimate views of the parties concerned with a balanced and impartial approach. In its statement, China expressed hope for more thorough consultations on draft resolutions on the mandate renewal for MINURSO in the future to make the text more balanced, achieve consensus through consultation and send a positive signal.

In a letter dated 15 December 2020 addressed to the President of the Council, the United States submitted a letter enclosing the President of the United States' Proclamation on Recognizing the Sovereignty of the Kingdom of Morocco over the Western Sahara, dated 10 December 2020, recognizing that the entire Western Sahara territory was part of the Kingdom of Morocco and expressing that Morocco's autonomy proposal was "the only basis for a just and lasting solution to the dispute over the Western Sahara territory".¹⁶

¹⁵ Belgium, China, Estonia, France, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa and United States.

¹⁶ See [S/2020/1210](#).

Videoconference: the situation concerning Western Sahara

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
30 October 2020	S/2020/1075	Letter dated 30 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	Resolution 2548 (2020) 13-0-2 ^a S/2020/1063

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

2. The situation in Somalia

During the year under review, the Council held four meetings and adopted six decisions on the situation in Somalia, three of which were under Chapter VII of the Charter. Three meetings took the form of briefings, while one was convened to adopt a decision.¹⁷ More information on the meetings,

¹⁷ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

including on participants and speakers, is provided in table 1 below. In addition, Council members held nine videoconferences in connection with the item, four of which were held for the announcement of the vote on the various resolutions adopted.¹⁸ More information on

¹⁸ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below. In addition to the meetings and videoconferences, in 2020 Council members held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Somalia.¹⁹

In 2020, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia. In addition, Council members also heard briefings by the Director of the Mine Action Service, by the Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and by the Founder and Chair of Somali Gender Equity Movement.

The Special Representative provided briefings to Council members in connection with the quarterly reports of the Secretary-General.²⁰ He focused on the preparations for the 2020/21 elections, and informed the Council about the persistent attacks by Al-Shabaab, which remained the primary threat to Somalia's security, as well as about the acute humanitarian situation, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, flooding and locust infestations. At a meeting of the Council held on 24 February,²¹ the Special Representative described 2020 as a potentially transformative year for Somalia, with the main priorities being achieving debt relief, holding elections, finalizing the federal constitution, making progress in the fight against Al-Shabaab and consolidating the federal State. He informed the Council about the enactment of the new electoral code on 21 February 2020 and expressed regret that, while an important step, the new law did not address many outstanding questions such as the location of constituencies, guaranteeing 30 per cent of seats for women and finding modalities for Somalis from across the country to vote. Regarding the security situation, he expressed regret that despite the efforts of the Somali National Army, AMISOM and international partners, Al-Shabaab retained the ability to conduct large-scale attacks in Mogadishu, including against the United Nations and the international community. In a videoconference held on 21 May,²² the Special Representative focused on the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that it had also slowed the training by international partners needed to

generate forces for the fight against Al-Shabaab. Furthermore, he urgently called for a commitment to dialogue and improved cooperation between the Federal Government and all of the federal member states, noting that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) had supported those efforts, as directed by the Council in resolution 2461 (2019). The Special Representative reassured Council members that the United Nations forces in Somalia remained present, active and committed to delivering their mandate, despite the limitations and additional challenges resulting from the global pandemic and the ongoing security threats. At the meeting of the Council held on 20 August,²³ the Special Representative provided additional information on electoral preparations, noting that according to the Chair of the National Independent Electoral Commission, one person, one vote elections could take place no earlier than March 2021, and then only if manual voter registration was used, or in August 2021 if the Commission used biometric registration. Affirming that it was up to Somali stakeholders to determine the model that would guide the electoral process, the Special Representative also urged that such a model be arrived at through inclusive dialogue and compromise. In his last briefing of the year, at a videoconference held on 23 November,²⁴ the Special Representative told Council members that the Somali leadership had agreed on an indirect electoral model, which he regretted had fallen short of the constitutional requirement for direct universal suffrage. He further announced that UNSOM planned to contribute to the implementation of the electoral agreement and urged Somali leaders to prepare consensually a road map to ensure that one person, one vote elections would take place in the period 2024–2025. The Special Representative also noted that Mohamed Hussein Robleh had been appointed Prime Minister in September, whose new Government had the challenging task of steering the country through the electoral process and pursuing the reform agenda across the political, security and economic spectrums. In his briefings on 21 May and 23 November,²⁵ the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission informed the Council about the progress with regard to the AMISOM transition plan, announcing that the Mission had completed its drawdown of 1,000 troops by 28 February 2020, as mandated by the Council in resolution 2472 (2019). He also briefed the Council on

¹⁹ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 5. See also [S/2020/1142](#) and [S/2020/1045](#).

²⁰ [S/2020/121](#), [S/2020/398](#), [S/2020/798](#) and [S/2020/1113](#).

²¹ See [S/PV.8731](#).

²² See [S/2020/436](#).

²³ See [S/PV.8755](#).

²⁴ See [S/2020/1136](#).

²⁵ See [S/2020/436](#) and [S/2021/203](#).

the role of AMISOM related to election security and counter-terrorism.

In 2020, the Council also heard three briefings by the Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia. On 27 February,²⁶ the Chair reported on his visit to Mogadishu conducted from 21 to 23 January 2020. He noted that the visit was an important opportunity to help raise awareness of the purpose and scope of the sanctions measures, stressing that the sanctions regime was not static, was regularly reviewed and had evolved over the years to reflect changing circumstances. At a videoconference held on 9 June,²⁷ the Chair of the Committee informed Council members about the Committee's meeting with the Mine Action Service regarding the implementation of the ban on components of improvised explosive devices. In that context, the Committee had tasked the Panel of Experts with preparing an implementation assistance notice aimed at providing guidance to all Member States on the implementation of the ban on components of improvised explosive devices, which had been adopted by the Committee on 3 August.²⁸

In 2020, discussions among Council members centred on Somalia's preparation for one person, one vote elections, relations between the Federal Government and federal member states, the security situation in the country and concerns about the worsening human rights and humanitarian conditions.

Concerning elections, Council members²⁹ welcomed the adoption of the electoral law in February 2020, underlining the need to address unresolved questions with a view to making the law implementable and to organize free and fair elections. Council members further noted the importance of respecting the principles agreed to in the Mutual Accountability Framework, including the issue of women's participation in the electoral process. In addition, Council members³⁰ mentioned the importance of holding timely and inclusive elections based on a broad agreement among all relevant stakeholders. Regarding the overall political situation in the country,

Council members³¹ welcomed the resumption of dialogue between the Federal Government and federal member states in August 2020, further calling on all stakeholders to work together to reach an agreement on the constitutional review.

With regard to the security situation in Somalia, Council members³² deliberated on the post-2021 security model, noting the importance of a Somali-led transition plan and expressing concern about Al-Shabaab as the main source of violence and primary threat to the country's security. In that context, several members³³ noted the use of improvised explosive devices by Al-Shabaab in its terrorist attacks. In relation to AMISOM, several Council members³⁴ underscored the importance of its drawdown taking place in line with threat assessments on the ground and the established plan to transition from AMISOM to the Somali security forces. During the meetings held in February and August,³⁵ the representative of France noted that it was necessary to continue to implement the transition plan with a view to transferring security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security forces by the end of 2021. At the same meetings, the representatives of the three African members and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines³⁶ stated their position that any reconfiguration or drawdown of AMISOM had to be condition-based and not lead to a security vacuum. At the meeting held in August,³⁷ the representative of the Russian Federation objected to attempts by a number of countries to forcibly expedite the drawdown of AMISOM.

In February, May and August,³⁸ Council members discussed the impact of climate on the security and

²⁶ See [S/PV.8735](#).

²⁷ See [S/2020/529](#).

²⁸ See [S/2020/529](#) and [S/2020/1079](#). For more information on the mandate of the Committee, see part IX, sect. I.B.

²⁹ See [S/PV.8731](#) (United Kingdom, United States, Dominican Republic and Russian Federation).

³⁰ See [S/PV.8755](#) (United Kingdom, Belgium, Dominican Republic, United States, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Estonia, Viet Nam, Germany, China and France).

³¹ See [S/PV.8755](#) (United Kingdom, Belgium, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Estonia, China and Indonesia).

³² See [S/PV.8731](#) (United States, Dominican Republic, Russian Federation, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and Belgium); and [S/PV.8755](#) (Belgium and United States).

³³ See [S/2020/436](#) (Estonia, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia) and United Kingdom); and [S/PV.8755](#) (Dominican Republic, Russian Federation and Indonesia).

³⁴ See [S/PV.8731](#) (United Kingdom, Indonesia, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa) and Estonia).

³⁵ See [S/PV.8731](#) and [S/PV.8755](#).

³⁶ See [S/PV.8731](#) (Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa)); and [S/PV.8755](#) (South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia)).

³⁷ See [S/PV.8755](#).

³⁸ See [S/PV.8731](#), [S/2020/436](#) and [S/PV.8755](#).

humanitarian situation in the country. They noted that humanitarian challenges were compounded by the triple threat of desert locust infestation, flood and drought cycles and the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the human rights front, several Council members³⁹ expressed concern over the new bill on sexual intercourse-related crimes and called for the protection of children, women and girls and the respect of Somalia's international obligations. In addition, several Council members⁴⁰ raised concerns about freedom of expression, and the representative of Estonia called on the Federal Government of Somalia to take steps to establish a national human rights commission.

In 2020, the Council adopted six resolutions in connection with the item, three of which were under Chapter VII of the Charter. By its resolutions [2516 \(2020\)](#) and [2527 \(2020\)](#), adopted unanimously on 30 March and 22 June, respectively, the Council provided for two sequential technical rollovers of the mandate of UNSOM for periods of three and two months, until 30 June 2020 and 31 August 2020 respectively.⁴¹ On 28 August, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2540 \(2020\)](#), extending the mandate of UNSOM for a period of one year until 31 August 2021.⁴² In addition to reiterating the existing mandate, the Council decided that UNSOM would continue to coordinate the United Nations efforts, with a particular focus, *inter alia*, on providing support, through the exercise of its good offices and technical, operational and logistical assistance, for the delivery of elections, enabling as many citizens as possible to vote in 2020–2021.⁴³ It further mandated UNSOM to provide support to the Federal Government of Somalia in the implementation of the Mutual Accountability Framework for Somalia of 2019.⁴⁴ The Council urged the Somali authorities to create a conducive political and security climate for inclusive elections across Somalia and called upon all federal member states to allow the National Independent Electoral Commission to operate freely to deliver an agreed electoral model.⁴⁵ The Council also underlined the need for the Federal Government of Somalia to establish and operationalize

the National Human Rights Commission and urged the Federal Government, with the support of the United Nations, to accelerate the implementation of the Joint Communiqué and the adoption and implementation of the new national action plan on ending sexual violence in conflict.⁴⁶ In addition, the Council requested the United Nations, the Federal Government of Somalia and the federal member states to consider the adverse implications of climate change, other ecological changes and natural disasters, among other factors, in their programmes in Somalia.⁴⁷

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, on 29 May the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2520 \(2020\)](#), authorizing the member States of the African Union to maintain the deployment of 19,626 uniformed AMISOM personnel until 28 February 2021, inclusive of a minimum of 1,040 AMISOM police personnel, including five formed police units, to support security preparations for elections due at the end of 2020 or the beginning of 2021 and to conduct tasks in line with an updated Somali-led transition plan and the handover of security to Somali security forces by 2021. It also decided that AMISOM would be authorized to take all necessary measures to carry out its mandate.⁴⁸ By the same resolution, the Council also urged the Federal Government of Somalia and federal member states to take concrete action to fulfil the priority measures in the Mutual Accountability Framework essential to Somali security and underlined its intention to assess the security support needed to prepare Somalia towards taking on the leading role on security by the end of 2021 and afterwards.⁴⁹

On 12 November, the Council adopted resolution [2551 \(2020\)](#) under Chapter VII of the Charter, with the abstentions of China and the Russian Federation. By that resolution, the Council reaffirmed the arms embargo and renewed the exemptions on deliveries of weapons and military equipment and on the provision of technical advice, financial and other assistance and training related to military activities intended solely for the development of the Somali national security forces or Somalia security sector institutions.⁵⁰ For the first time, the Council renewed the humanitarian exemption to the assets freeze without specifying an expiry date.⁵¹ The Council also recalled previous decisions regarding the asset freeze, travel ban measures and the ban on

³⁹ See [S/PV.8755](#) (United Kingdom, Belgium, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), Estonia, Germany and France).

⁴⁰ See [S/PV.8731](#) (United Kingdom, Germany and France); and [S/PV.8755](#) (United Kingdom, Belgium and Estonia).

⁴¹ Resolutions [2516 \(2020\)](#) and [2527 \(2020\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of UNSOM, see part X, sect. II.

⁴² Resolution [2540 \(2020\)](#), para. 1.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, para. 5 (c).

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 5 (i).

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 7.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 12.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 13.

⁴⁸ Resolution [2520 \(2020\)](#), paras. 9, 10 and 11. For more information on the mandate of AMISOM, see part VIII, sect. IV.

⁴⁹ Resolution [2520 \(2020\)](#), paras. 2 and 5.

⁵⁰ Resolution [2551 \(2020\)](#), paras. 6–8 and 9–18.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, para. 22.

charcoal.⁵² By the same resolution, the Council also renewed the maritime interdiction of charcoal, weapons and military equipment until 15 November 2021,⁵³ and reaffirmed the ban on components of improvised explosive devices imposed by resolution 2498 (2019).⁵⁴ In addition, the Council renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Somalia until 15 December 2021.⁵⁵ At the meeting,⁵⁶ explaining their abstentions the representatives of China and the Russian Federation stated that their concerns and observations were not taken on board during the consultations on the draft resolution. Specifically, the representative of China noted that the proposal to explore benchmarks for assessing the appropriateness of lifting the arms embargo were not taken on board in the resolution and that the text failed to duly respond to the strong desire of the Federal Government of Somalia to have the arms embargo lifted. In addition, he said that the text failed to effectively address the concerns of Djibouti and Eritrea and encouraged both countries to improve their ties through bilateral consultations. Similarly, the

representative of the Russian Federation deemed inappropriate the inclusion of paragraphs on Djibouti and Eritrea in a document focusing on Somalia. She also expressed regret concerning the continued practice of using Council resolutions to promote human rights-related aspects of the Somalia dossier, stressing that there was a separate body – the Human Rights Council – that existed to address those issues. In response, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that given the divergent views between the parties and among Council members regarding the relations between Djibouti and Eritrea, the text of the resolution was the fairest outcome and the best way to ensure that the Council could support further progress towards resolving those outstanding issues.

On 4 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2554 (2020) under Chapter VII of the Charter, renewing for a further period of 12 months the authorizations set out in paragraph 14 of resolution 2500 (2019) granted to States and regional organizations cooperating with Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia.⁵⁷

⁵² Ibid., paras. 20–22 and 23–25.

⁵³ Ibid., para. 23.

⁵⁴ Ibid., para. 26. For more information on the sanctions measures concerning Somalia, see part VII, sect. III. See also *Repertoire, Supplement 2019*.

⁵⁵ Resolution 2551 (2020), para. 30. For more information on the mandate of the Panel, see part IX, sect. I.

⁵⁶ See [S/PV.8775](#).

⁵⁷ Resolution 2554 (2020), para. 14. See also resolutions 1846 (2008), para. 10, and 2246 (2015), para. 14. For more information, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2008–2009 to Supplement 2019*.

Table 1
Meetings: the situation in Somalia

<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.8731 24 February 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia (S/2020/121)		Somalia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute	12 Council members, ^a all invitees ^b	

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2020

<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.8735 27 February 2020			Somalia		10 Council members, ^c Somalia	
S/PV.8755 20 August 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia (S/2020/798)		Somalia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission	12 Council members, ^d all invitees ^e	
S/PV.8775 12 November 2020	Letter dated 28 September 2020 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2020/949)	Draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom (S/2020/1100)	Somalia		Four Council members (China, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States), Somalia	Resolution 2551 (2020) 13-0-2 ^f (adopted under Chapter VII)

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

^b The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission participated in the meeting by videoconference from Addis Ababa.

^c China, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and South Africa), United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam. The representative of Belgium spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolution [751 \(1992\)](#) concerning Somalia.

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

^e The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission participated in the meeting by videoconference from Mogadishu.

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

Table 2
Videoconferences: the situation in Somalia

<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/2020/247	Letter dated 30 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	Resolution 2516 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/266
21 May 2020	S/2020/436	Letter dated 27 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	

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against- abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
29 May 2020	S/2020/459	Letter dated 29 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	Resolution 2520 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/466
9 June 2020	S/2020/529	Letter dated 11 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	
22 June 2020	S/2020/569	Letter dated 22 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 2527 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/573
28 August 2020	S/2020/854	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 2540 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/858
28 October 2020	S/2020/1079	Letter dated 30 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	
23 November 2020	S/2020/1136	Letter dated 25 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	
4 December 2020	S/2020/1170	Letter dated 4 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 2554 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/1173

^a Owing to technical difficulties, instead of an open videoconference to announce the vote on resolution [2516 \(2020\)](#), the videoconference was closed. For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

3. The situation in the Great Lakes region

During the period under review, the Council held one meeting on the situation in the Great Lakes region, which took the form of a briefing.⁵⁸ In addition, Council members held one videoconference in 2020 but did not adopt any decisions in connection with the item.⁵⁹ More information on the meetings and videoconferences is provided in tables 1 and 2.

In connection with two reports of the Secretary-General,⁶⁰ during his briefings the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region focused on the activities of his office in supporting the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.

In a videoconference held on 22 April,⁶¹ the Special Envoy informed the Council about the public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,

⁵⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁵⁹ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁶⁰ [S/2020/272](#) and [S/2020/951](#).

⁶¹ See [S/2020/325](#).