

# UN Security Council in Review

December 2023



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## December 2023 at a Glance



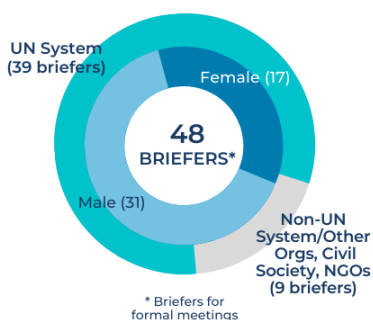
**Most frequently discussed topics (open & closed)**

Middle East, including the Palestinian question

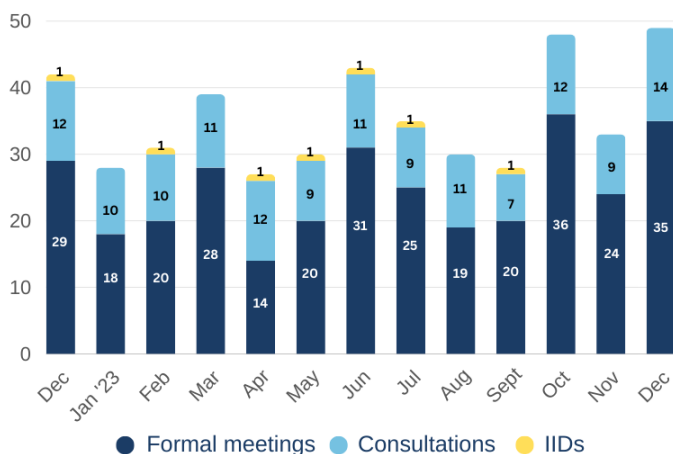
Sudan and South Sudan Middle East

Democratic Republic of Congo

Ukraine Afghanistan



DECEMBER 2022 - DECEMBER 2023



Under the **Presidency of Ecuador**, the Security Council held **two signature events**:

- A high-level open debate on **Threats to international peace and security** (7 December), focusing on transnational organized crime (S/2023/933). The President of Ecuador presided over the meeting and the Secretary-General briefed.
- A high-level open debate on **Small arms** (15 December), focusing on addressing the threat posed by diversion, illicit trafficking and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition to peace and security (S/2023/954). The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador presided over the meeting.

## Key Topics

The **Middle East, including the Palestinian Question** (4, 8, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 29 Dec) was the most frequently considered country- or region-specific item in open and closed discussions. The **Middle East** (6, 12, 13, 21 and 22 Dec), **Sudan and South Sudan** (1, 12, 14 and 21 Dec), **Ukraine** (6, 11, 29 and 30 Dec), the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (6, 11 and 19 Dec) and **Afghanistan** (20 and 29 Dec) were also considered more than once. Other issues considered included: **Central African region, a letter from the Permanent Representative of Guyana** (S/2023/961), **Haiti, Libya, Non-Proliferation/DPRK, Peace and security in Africa and Somalia**.

In addition to the signature events, the Council held thematic meetings on **Threats to international peace and security** (4 Dec), **International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals** (12 Dec), **Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts** (14 Dec), **Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security**

**Council** (14 Dec), **Non-proliferation** (18 Dec) and **Cooperation with regional and subregional organizations** (21 Dec). Under other matters (AOB), Council members also discussed **Houthi threats to security at sea**, the **protection of UN personnel and premises in conflict areas** and a **prospective Council mission to Colombia**.

## Procedural notes

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On **1 December**, the Council issued a note by the President ([S/2023/945](#)) on penholdership.

On **8 December**, the Council convened a meeting on **“The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question”** further to a letter dated 6 December from the Secretary-General ([S/2023/962](#)) submitted in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter (see [S/PV.9498](#)).

Also in relation to **“The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”**, respectively on **8 and 22 December**, the Council failed to adopt a **draft resolution** ([S/2023/970](#)) and an **oral amendment** to a draft resolution, owing to vetoes cast by the United States (see [S/PV.9499](#) and [S/PV.9520](#)). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/262](#), on 11 and 26 December, the Council submitted special reports on the use of the veto in those two instances (see [A/78/667](#) and [A/78/691](#)). On 21 December, the Council non-unanimously **adopted an amendment** to a draft resolution regarding the financing of African Union-led peace support operations (see [S/2023/1023](#)).

On 22 December, the Presidency (Ecuador) held a **wrap-up session** with the participation of the outgoing Council members (Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates).

## Decisions and press statements

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In December, the Council adopted **nine resolutions** and **one presidential statement** and issued **five press statements**. **Five** of the nine resolutions were adopted **unanimously**: resolution [2714 \(2023\)](#), lifting the **arms embargo on the Federal Government of Somalia**; resolution [2716 \(2023\)](#), deciding that the **Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team** would continue to support the 1988 Committee for an additional year; resolution [2717 \(2023\)](#), renewing the mandate of **MONUSCO** until 20 December 2024; resolution [2718 \(2023\)](#), renewing the mandate of **UNDOF** until 30 June 2024; and resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) on the **financing of African Union-led peace support operations**.

The **four** resolutions adopted **non-unanimously** included: resolution [2713 \(2023\)](#), adopted with the abstention of France (see [S/PV.9490](#)), renewing the **sanctions measures against Al-Shabaab** and extending the mandate of the **Panel of Experts** until 15 January 2025; resolution [2715 \(2023\)](#), with the abstention of the Russian Federation (see [S/PV.9492](#)), terminating the mandate of **UNITAMS**; resolution [2720 \(2023\)](#), adopted with abstentions by the Russian Federation and the United States (see [S/PV.9520](#)), requesting the **appointment of a Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for the Gaza Strip**; and resolution [2721 \(2023\)](#), adopted with abstentions by China and the Russian Federation (see [S/PV.9521](#)), requesting the **appointment of a Special Envoy for Afghanistan**.

The Council adopted a presidential statement ([S/PRST/2023/6](#)) on **transnational organized crime**. The Council also issued **five press statements** on: **Houthi threats to security at sea** ([SC/15513](#)), **violence in South Sudan and Abyei** ([S/15523](#)), **a terrorist attack in Pakistan** ([SC/15529](#)), **a terrorist attack in Iran** ([SC/15534](#)) and the **humanitarian situation in Sudan** ([SC/15547](#)).

## Other activities

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In December, Council members convened **four Arria-formula meetings**: **“Women's perspectives on Afghanistan”** (11 December), organized by Switzerland, Japan and the United Arab Emirates; **“Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on hate speech, disinformation and misinformation”** (19 December), organized by the United Arab Emirates and Albania; **“Mind the gap: enhancing the dialogue and cooperation between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission”** (20 December), organized by Brazil; and **“10 years of Euromaidan in Ukraine: A step into abyss”** (27 December), organized by the Russian Federation.

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