

29. Briefings

As with previous Supplements, briefings by different speakers not explicitly connected to a specific item on the agenda of the Security Council are featured in this section. In 2021, the Council held four such meetings. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is provided in tables 2, 3 and 4 below. In addition, Council members held one open videoconference to hear a briefing that was not explicitly connected to any specific item on the agenda of the Council. More information on the videoconference is provided in table 1 below.

In 2021, Council members held one videoconference in connection with the item “Briefing by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe”. On 10 March 2021, the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden provided a briefing to Council members outlining her priorities. She explained that her first priority was to focus on the basic commitments and principles on which the OSCE was founded, notably the sanctity of sovereignty, territorial integrity, the freedom from threat or use of force and the right of all States to choose their own security policy path. She further noted that Sweden would seek to strengthen the OSCE’s comprehensive concept of security, linking security and respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, adding that the women and peace and security agenda was a guiding theme for their chairpersonship.¹⁰¹⁸ She also noted that one of her main priorities as Chairperson-in-Office would be to seek continued engagement at the highest levels towards sustainable solutions to crises and conflicts in the region, in line with international law and with full respect for the OSCE principles and commitments. In that regard, she briefed on her engagement in the conflicts in Ukraine and Georgia as well as on the Transnistrian settlement process in Moldova and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.¹⁰¹⁹ In relation to the developments in Belarus, she stated that the offer that she and the previous Chairperson-in-Office had extended in 2020 to facilitate a genuine dialogue between the Government and the opposition, still stood.¹⁰²⁰ Turning to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chairperson-in-Office noted

¹⁰¹⁸ See [S/2021/256](#).

¹⁰¹⁹ For more information about the discussions relating to Ukraine, see part I, sect. 18.

¹⁰²⁰ See [S/2021/256](#).

that the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire during the pandemic was much needed, adding that the adoption of resolutions [2532 \(2020\)](#) and [2565 \(2021\)](#) showed the importance that the Council attached to combatting the pandemic and resolving conflicts. Observing a backsliding of democracy and respect for human rights in the OSCE region during the previous year, she further announced that the Swedish chairpersonship would emphasize the right to freedom of expression and freedom of the media, as well as other democratic rights, also drawing on the expertise of civil society to ensure that their contributions informed all aspects of security.

During the discussion, Council members pointed to the role of regional and subregional organizations and their cooperation with the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter.¹⁰²¹ Several Council members expressed support for Sweden's focus on the women and peace and security agenda during its chairpersonship of the OSCE.¹⁰²² In that regard, the representative of the Russian Federation noted that his delegation supported the plans of the Chairperson-in-Office to promote the participation of women in economic activity, however, without a linkage to resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) that addressed women's involvement in peace processes.

In accordance with previously established practice, the Council heard one briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice at a private (closed) meeting held on 2 November 2021.¹⁰²³

In addition, on 7 December 2021, the Council heard the yearly briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.¹⁰²⁴ During his briefing, the High Commissioner made reference to the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons in connection with many of the conflicts on the Council's agenda. Citing the example of the Sahel, he noted a direct correlation between the climate emergency, conflict over scarce resources and forced displacement. He added that forced displacement continued to be subject to political

¹⁰²¹ Estonia, France, India, Kenya, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, Tunisia and Viet Nam.

¹⁰²² Estonia, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United States and Viet Nam.

¹⁰²³ See [S/PV.8894](#). For further information on the relations with the International Court of Justice, see part IV, sect. III.

¹⁰²⁴ See [S/PV.8919](#). The previous briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Council was held on 18 June 2020, see [S/2020/560](#). See also *Repertoire, Supplement 2020*, part I, sect. 30.

manipulation and in that context referred to the crisis on the border between Belarus and some European Union countries.¹⁰²⁵ The High Commissioner told the Council that humanitarian workers often faced situations that had been made more complicated by political difficulties, the existence of sanctions and other restrictions to the necessary dialogue and engagement, leaving them to work alone amid an increasing set of expectations. In that regard, he cited the examples of Myanmar, Yemen and to a certain extent the Sudan and Afghanistan. With regard to Afghanistan, the High Commissioner also appealed to the Council to ensure the widest scope for humanitarian exception for the sanctions regime in order to be able to function properly. He also warned Council members that humanitarian agencies could not replicate the role of States and that they were not a replacement for real engagement and political solutions. Referring to the politicization of humanitarian work, he noted that the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic was worsening as a result of conflict, lack of resources, the effects of sanctions and the political and economic crisis in Lebanon. On Ethiopia, the High Commissioner stressed the need to impress upon the parties that they needed to respect the neutrality of United Nations humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations working in the humanitarian field and ensure their safety. Finally, and directly related to the Council's core work, he pointed out that the growing inability of the international community to make and build peace obliged humanitarian and refugee organizations to work more and more in situations of active conflict and rampant crisis, with rising expectations of what they could deliver but in circumstances that in reality offered decreasing possibilities to actually do so.

Following the briefing, Council members affirmed that the work on preventing and addressing root causes of conflict, as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes was important in tackling the issue of forced migration and displacement. Several speakers raised climate change as a factor affecting displacement.¹⁰²⁶ Most Council members also noted how the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the challenges faced by refugees and internally displaced persons.¹⁰²⁷ During the discussion, several Council members pointed to the need to respect the principle of

¹⁰²⁵ See [S/PV.8919](#).

¹⁰²⁶ Norway, Estonia, United Kingdom, Mexico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Kenya, Ireland, Tunisia and Niger.

¹⁰²⁷ Norway, India, Estonia, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, Mexico, China, United States, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Niger.

sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs when addressing the issues of displacement and refugees.¹⁰²⁸ In response to some of the questions raised by Council members, the High Commissioner took the floor a second time.¹⁰²⁹

In 2021, Council members held two meetings under the item entitled “Briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council”.¹⁰³⁰ On 2 December 2021, Council members heard a joint briefing by the Chairs of the three committees related to counterterrorism and non-proliferation, namely, the Committee established pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#), the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). At the meeting, the Chairs provided an overview of the work of the three committees, noting that the three subsidiary bodies continued to attach great importance to the coordination and cooperation among them and to raise awareness of Member States’ obligations to effectively implement relevant Council resolutions.¹⁰³¹ During the discussion, several Council members noted the rise of terrorism in Africa.¹⁰³² Council members also emphasized the importance of implementing sanctions measures in the fight against terrorism,¹⁰³³ as well as the comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), the initial timeline of which had been delayed due to the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰³⁴

Following the established practice, on 13 December 2021, the Council heard the end-of-year briefing by the outgoing Chairs of the various subsidiary bodies who were concluding their terms in December 2021.¹⁰³⁵ At the briefing, they presented the key activities undertaken during

¹⁰²⁸ India, Viet Nam, China, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Russian Federation and Tunisia.

¹⁰²⁹ For more information about invitees under rule 39 and their interventions, see part II, sect. VIII, subsect. B.

¹⁰³⁰ See also [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 22.

¹⁰³¹ See [S/PV.8915](#).

¹⁰³² Norway, Viet Nam, Ireland, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom, India, Niger.

¹⁰³³ United States, Kenya, China, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Norway, France, Estonia, India.

¹⁰³⁴ Viet Nam, China, Tunisia, Russian Federation, Norway, Mexico, France, Estonia, United Kingdom, India.

¹⁰³⁵ See [S/PV.8928](#). The Chairs of the following subsidiary organs provided briefings: Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism, Committee established pursuant to resolution [2048 \(2012\)](#) concerning Guinea-Bissau, Informal Working Group on Documentation and other Procedural Questions, Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#), Committee established pursuant to resolution [1518 \(2003\)](#) concerning Iraq, Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan, Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the

their tenure. The Chairs informed the Council about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the functioning of their respective committees and working groups, mostly in relation to their working methods and conduct of field visits. In that regard, the representative of Niger, as the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic, noted that visits were essential, as they allowed the committees to obtain first-hand information on the implementation of sanctions measures and to interact in person with a wide range of stakeholders. In addition to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the representative of Tunisia, as the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2048 \(2012\)](#) concerning Guinea-Bissau, also raised the impact of the austerity measures implemented by the United Nations. In that context, the Chair noted that while the good stewardship of United Nations resources had to be a priority, it could not come at the expense of the efficient and meaningful work of the Council. Furthermore, several Chairs discussed the role of sanctions more broadly, with some underscoring the importance of raising awareness about the objectives of the United Nations sanctions and addressing any misconceptions or misunderstandings in this regard.¹⁰³⁶ Other topics addressed during the briefing included the transparency of the work of the Committees and the role of the Panels and Groups of Experts.

Central African Republic and Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan. For further details on the above subsidiary organs, see part IX.

¹⁰³⁶ Estonia and Niger.

Table 1
Videoconferences: briefings by the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
10 March 2021	S/2021/256	Letter dated 12 March 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

Table 2
Meetings: briefings by the President of the International Court of Justice

<i>Meeting 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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8894 2 November 2021 (closed)				President of the International Court of Justice	Council members, invitee	

Table 3
Meetings: briefings by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

<i>Meeting 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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8915 2 December 2021					Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) , 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and Chair of	

<p>S/PV.8928 13 December 2021</p>	<p>the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004),^a all other Council members</p> <p>Chairs of eight Committees and two Working Groups^b</p>
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^a Before his briefing as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), the representative of Mexico delivered a joint statement, on behalf of that Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter terrorism.

^b Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2048 \(2012\)](#) concerning Guinea-Bissau and the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations; Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1518 \(2003\)](#) concerning Iraq and of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan; Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2127 \(2013\)](#) concerning the Central African Republic; Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) and of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions; and Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan.

Table 4
Meetings: briefings by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

<i>Meeting 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>Decisions and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8919 7 December 2021				United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ^a	All Council members, ^b invitee	

^a The High Commissioner participated in the meeting via videoconference from Geneva.

^b Norway was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.