

B. Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)

In 2021, the Security Council held one meeting in connection with Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#), which took the form of a briefing.⁶⁴⁸ More information on the meeting, including participants and speakers is given in table 1 below. The members of the Council also held one videoconference in connection with this item.⁶⁴⁹ More information on the videoconference is given in table 2 below.⁶⁵⁰ No decisions were adopted in connection with this item during the period under review.

In 2021, Council members heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), further to the Secretary-General's reports pursuant to resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).⁶⁵¹ In line with established practice, statements were also delivered by the representatives of Serbia and Kosovo during the meeting as well as during the open videoconference.

On 13 April 2021, at the open videoconference, the Special Representative stated that despite the systemic challenges of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, early legislative elections had been prepared and successfully conducted across Kosovo on 14 February 2021.⁶⁵² The political turbulence that had prevailed in the previous year made the results of the voting all the more significant for the population. He reported that the turnout for the legislative elections had been high and that the winning party, Vetëvendosje, had received more than half of all the votes. An examination of the demographics of the voting revealed a strong desire for change across Kosovo society, a shift in the responsiveness of a Government to the real hopes and needs of its voters and for greater equality of opportunity, accountability and the rule of law. He reported that Kosovo's new Prime Minister had provided assurances of his understanding of the strategic importance of advancing the dialogue with Belgrade and that the

⁶⁴⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

⁶⁴⁹ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

⁶⁵⁰ See [S/2021/1084](#). See also [A/76/2](#), part II, chap. 6.B.

⁶⁵¹ See [S/2021/332](#) and [S/2021/861](#).

⁶⁵² See [S/2021/370](#).

President of Serbia had highlighted the importance of the dialogue for peace and stability and had reiterated his hope for the dialogue to be intensified. The Special Representative also noted that a second woman had been elected to hold the position of President of Kosovo and that leadership by women had continued to grow overall by that election. With regard to the aspirations of both Pristina and Belgrade for progress along the European path, he urged leaders to be mindful of the impact of their public statements, noting that gains to public trust in the process were as fragile as they were essential and that with a new Government in Pristina, it was expected to see difficult subjects treated with seriousness and diligence. He informed the Council of the activities of UNMIK in engaging across multiple sectors and areas of work in accordance with its mandate, including programmes and projects to empower women and youth in politics and society, to promote innovation and catalyse civic activism and to expand multilingual education as well as its work engaging regularly with Kosovo authorities and civil society organizations on the monitoring, protection and promotion of human rights. He also urged the Government to make progress on clarifying the fate of missing persons by engaging with the Pristina-Belgrade Working Group on Missing Persons. He said that the new Government had an important opportunity to transform public narratives. Voters in Kosovo had raised their voices for breaking with the past and he expressed hope that the members of the Security Council would add their clear support for the realization of a more peaceful, more prosperous future in Kosovo and the region.

In their statements, several Council members welcomed the February parliamentary elections as well as the election of the new President in Kosovo.⁶⁵³ Delegations also welcomed the increase in the number of women participating in the elections as well as in the newly constituted Government, with a few members reiterating the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes.⁶⁵⁴ Most Council members called on Belgrade and Pristina to pursue dialogue to overcome their differences so as to

⁶⁵³ Ibid. Estonia, France, Kenya, Norway, Tunisia, United Kingdom, and United States.

⁶⁵⁴ Ibid., Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom, and United States.

normalize their relations and advance stability in the region,⁶⁵⁵ and expressed support for the facilitating role of the European Union in that regard.⁶⁵⁶

With regard to the role of UNMIK, most speakers expressed support for the work of the Mission in implementing its mandate of promoting security, stability and respect for human rights in the region, with several delegations commending in particular its initiatives to address the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, assisting the vulnerable communities and in promoting the participation of women and youth in the peace process.⁶⁵⁷ More specifically, the representative of the Russian Federation sustained that, as UNMIK's activity remained in high demand, the Mission's budgetary and staffing capacities should be kept at current levels. He added that the frequency of open Security Council briefings on Kosovo should be maintained as negotiated.⁶⁵⁸ The representative of the United States, by contrast, reiterated that the Mission had long since fulfilled its original purpose and called on other Council members to sunset UNMIK and determine a more relevant role for the United Nations in helping Kosovo realize its full potential.⁶⁵⁹ While expressing their recognition for the work of UNMIK, the representatives of Estonia and the United Kingdom also expressed their support for a strategic review of UNMIK.⁶⁶⁰

During the videoconference, some delegations expressed regret regarding the incidents that had taken place prior to the meeting with regard to the backdrop displayed by the Kosovo representative, which had caused a delay in the start of the open videoconference.⁶⁶¹

On 15 October 2021, the Council heard the second regular briefing of the year by the Special Representative on recent developments and the latest report of the Secretary-General.⁶⁶² He focused his remarks on the events which had taken place in northern Kosovo in late September 2021 leading to an escalation of tensions in the region and along the Kosovo-Serbia

⁶⁵⁵ Ibid., China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, and Viet Nam.

⁶⁵⁶ Ibid., China, Estonia, France, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, and United States.

⁶⁵⁷ Ibid., Estonia, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, and Viet Nam.

⁶⁵⁸ Ibid. See also [S/2019/120](#).

⁶⁵⁹ See [S/2021/370](#).

⁶⁶⁰ Ibid., Estonia and United Kingdom.

⁶⁶¹ Ibid., China and Russian Federation. For further details on the discussion, see part II, sect. VIII.

⁶⁶² See [S/PV.8880](#). For the report of the Secretary-General, see [S/2021/861](#).

border. He reported that through the good offices of the High Representative of the European Union, supported also by United States diplomacy, an agreement had been achieved to de-escalate the situation. The agreement had provided for the withdrawal of Kosovo special police units from the north and an increased presence of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to establish a safe and secure environment. He nonetheless noted that the events were of deep concern and should be a warning to all members of the Security Council. On the Belgrade-Pristina relations, he affirmed that dialogue could and should be the mechanism used to avoid the dangers that were less often visible but were just as real as they had been during the 20 years prior and noted that, despite differences on other matters, the representatives of the international powers represented in the Security Council, clearly shared an understanding that there was no reasonable alternative to sustained engagement in dialogue. He added that if the vast majority of people from the various communities, including women and youth, did not feel themselves to be a part of, or to have a stake in, the processes of political discussion and negotiation, all efforts to change relations and resolve long-term tensions were destined to remain elusive. As Kosovo approached another local election in two days' time, the focus at the central and municipal levels should be trained upon delivering on people's high expectations for change. In that connection, he urged the Government to focus on rebuilding the bonds of trust between all the communities in Kosovo and the political leadership. He also reported on the work of UNMIK in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, promoting and supporting trust-building among communities, as well as the women and peace and security and youth and peace and security agendas, modelling a people-centred approach and society-level engagement consistent with the Secretary-General's reform programme and Our Common Agenda.

Following the briefing by the Special Representative and the statements by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and by the Kosovo representative, Council members discussed the latest developments as reported. Several delegations expressed concern at the escalation of violence in northern Kosovo in the previous weeks,⁶⁶³ and many took note of the interim agreement of 30 September to end the dispute.⁶⁶⁴ In that connection, most Council members

⁶⁶³ See [S/PV.8880](#), Niger, India, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Russian Federation, China, Viet Nam, Mexico, and Tunisia.

⁶⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Estonia, United States, Viet Nam, Mexico, and Tunisia.

emphasized that dialogue offered the only possibility for resolving outstanding issues and normalizing relations between Belgrade and Pristina and encouraged the parties to build on recent commitments, to advance the European Union facilitated dialogue and implement already signed agreements.⁶⁶⁵ While acknowledging the meetings held in June and July 2021 between Serbia and authorities in Pristina under the auspices of the European Union, some representatives regretted that no significant progress had been made.⁶⁶⁶

Most delegations reiterated their support for the work of UNMIK, expressing appreciation in particular for its humanitarian role in supporting Kosovo's COVID-19 response, through the assistance that the Mission provided to the most vulnerable populations. Some Council members, however, held differing views on the role of the Mission. The representative of the United States pointed out that the Mission had not played a critical role in resolving tensions in the latest series of events between Kosovo and Serbia. He affirmed that the temporary support provided by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization-led Kosovo Force had shown that other organizations could serve that role to better effect. He reiterated that UNMIK had fulfilled its purpose and should move towards its closure, urging the Council to redirect resources to where they were needed most. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed support for a review of the role and responsibilities of UNMIK, which would help it operate more effectively and better address contemporary challenges. The representative of Norway opined that although the Mission had adapted well in meeting new challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, they would support looking at possible efficiency improvements. The representative from the Russian Federation argued however that the work of the Mission remained urgently needed and supported the maintenance of agreed-upon budgetary and staffing capacity for UNMIK and the agreed frequency and format of open briefings in the Security Council on the issue of Kosovo. He also expressed hope that all the challenges facing the Mission would be reflected in the next report of the Secretary-General.

Following the statements by Council members, the representatives of both Serbia and Kosovo took the floor twice to make further statements.⁶⁶⁷

⁶⁶⁵ Ibid., France, United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Estonia, United States, China, Viet Nam, Norway, Mexico, and Kenya.

⁶⁶⁶ Ibid., India, China, Viet Nam, and Mexico.

⁶⁶⁷ For further details on instances of speakers taking the floor more than once, see part II, sect. VIII.

Table 1
Meetings: Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)

<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.8880 15 October 2021	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2021/861)		Serbia	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu	All Council members, all invitees ^a	

^a The Special Representative participated in the meeting via videoconference. Serbia was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Table 2
Videoconferences: Security Council resolutions [1160 \(1998\)](#), [1199 \(1998\)](#), [1203 \(1998\)](#), [1239 \(1999\)](#) and [1244 \(1999\)](#)

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
13 April 2021	S/2021/370	Letter dated 15 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	