

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

In 2022, the Security Council held two meetings in connection with this item. Both meetings took the form of a briefing.⁶³⁰ More information on the meetings, including participants and speakers, is given in the table below.⁶³¹ No decisions were adopted in connection with this item during the period under review.

Council members heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK),⁶³² further to the Secretary-General's reports pursuant to resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).⁶³³ In line with established practice, statements were also delivered by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo during the meetings.

On 20 April, the Special Representative briefed the Council further to the elections in Serbia conducted on 3 April, while noting that developments in Ukraine inevitably had influenced and would continue to influence all issues of European security.⁶³⁴ She explained that despite the urging by the international community to the Pristina and Belgrade authorities to agree on modalities to facilitate eligible voters' participation in Kosovo, a solution had not been identified to permit that. The Special Representative expressed regret about the polarizing effects of that decision since it had divided public opinion sharply along ethnic lines. This notwithstanding, she reported that the election process had gone smoothly and without incident.

The Special Representative drew attention to the incidents of serious concern in northern Kosovo, with attacks directly targeting Kosovo police patrols, and called the leaders of both Pristina and Belgrade to be very judicious in their actions and in their rhetoric at the political level and in the public arena, recalling that those leaders bore the main responsibility for reducing tensions. She noted that, even on extremely technical subjects, progress remained

⁶³⁰ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

⁶³¹ See also [A/77/2](#), chap. 7.B.

⁶³² See [S/2021/963](#) and [S/2021/964](#).

⁶³³ See [S/2022/313](#) and [S/2022/739](#).

⁶³⁴ See [PV.9019](#).

tentative and slow and reemphasized the principle of the path towards agreements and solutions, however difficult, cautioning that unilateral actions by any side had the potential to damage the real interests of the people of both sides. She also observed that dramatic shocks to Kosovo's and other regional economies were building up well before the onset of events in Ukraine. In this context, she said that finding practical modes of economic cooperation among Belgrade, Pristina and all the neighbours of the region assumed greater urgency. Any region-wide initiatives that could help towards promoting that objective should be welcomed.

As she said, at the outset of her mandate, the Special Representative clarified two important points. First, she indicated that her responsibility was to provide objective information to the Secretary-General and the Security Council, and, in this regard, the contents of the Secretary-General's reports were not the subject of negotiation. Secondly, she referred to inaccurate perceptions regarding the mandate of UNMIK, namely that the Mission, in and of itself, represented either an obstacle or a vehicle for the outcome preferred by one or the other side or that the Mission harboured a particular agenda to forward or favour outside the bounds of its mandate. She affirmed that neither of those inaccurate perceptions contained any demonstrable truth and yet both had too frequently been allowed to gain currency in local public discourse. Accordingly, the Mission would continue its work in the areas where it was genuinely able to help to advance the common objectives held by the authorities, communities and institutions in Kosovo adding that UNMIK's legacy of institutional support, its trust among communities and political actors and its work with the full spectrum of multilateral and bilateral actors would be driving the agenda. She concluded by saying that the Security Council's support to the Mission remained essential as it was its attention to the state of relations between Pristina and Belgrade.

Following the briefing by the Special Representative and the statements by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and by the representative of Kosovo, Council members discussed the latest developments as reported by the Secretary-General. Council members noted the slow progress in a constructive Belgrade-Pristina dialogue and urged all actors to engage fully and constructively. Most representatives expressed support and appreciation for the work of UNMIK and underlined its important role in promoting peace and security, stability and respect for human rights. Some Council members, however, differed in their views on the role of the

Mission. The representative of Brazil underlined that substantial autonomy for Kosovo had been generally achieved, but the conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all communities in the region had not yet been accomplished and the main objective of UNMIK remained unfulfilled. The representative of China said that given the standstill in bilateral talks and the ongoing tensions on the ground, maintaining UNMIK's presence was crucial. The representative of the United Arab Emirates argued that the support for the important role played by the United Nations in Kosovo should continue, as it undertook many activities and projects that supported Government institutions as well as building trust between religious and ethnic communities and providing economic empowerment and support for the search for missing persons. A similar support to UNMIK was expressed by the representatives of Gabon, France and Ghana. This notwithstanding, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that conditions on the ground were unrecognizable from 1999, and a review of UNMIK's role and responsibilities was needed. The representative of Norway affirmed that while the Mission pursued important work in various areas, the delegation would support a close look at possible efficiency improvements. Finally, the representatives of Albania and the United States expressed the view that UNMIK had already fulfilled its mandate. The representative of the United States added further that it was time to reduce the frequency of briefings to an annual basis.

Following the statements by Council members, the representatives of the Russian Federation and Albania took the floor twice to make further statements. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo took the floor three times.

On 18 October, the briefing of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General focused on the Secretary-General's report on UNMIK and the latest developments on the ground.⁶³⁵ She reported that there had been several escalations in political rhetoric between Pristina and Belgrade, as well as a few moments of acute tension on the ground. Amid all challenges, she also noted that there had been positive examples of leadership and cooperation. She also explained that her goal was for UNMIK to focus on those areas where the continued presence, in concert with the entire United Nations family — as well as other partners in Kosovo

⁶³⁵ See [S/PV.9155](#). See also [S/2022/739](#).

— contributed consistently, with positive effects. Among them, participating in and promoting effective communication across ethnic and political lines at all levels of society, redoubling the Mission’s commitment to support trust-building actors from across all parts of Kosovan society and helping to promote broad awareness about the interdependence and shared problems and interests of people across Kosovo and throughout the region.

Following the briefing by the Special Representative and the statements by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and by the representative of Kosovo, Council members discussed the latest developments as reported by the Secretary-General. In their statements, many Council members focused on the increased tensions in northern Kosovo and reiterated their concern at the slow progress in dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

Several delegations welcomed the meetings held between the parties in Brussels in August and the agreement reached on free movement between Kosovo and Serbia.⁶³⁶ The representative of Ireland added that the agreement was a positive step in the right direction and a proof that acceptable, pragmatic solutions were possible when leaders engaged openly and constructively in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue. He also argued that the European Union-facilitated dialogue was the correct channel through which to resolve tensions between Serbia and Kosovo. Similarly, the representative of the United States underlined that the European Union-facilitated dialogue continued to be the principal mechanism for reconciling issues. The representatives of the United Kingdom and Kenya urged both parties to uphold their commitments made in the framework of the dialogue, while the representative of Ghana called to recommit to the full implementation of their respective obligations under previous and future agreements to be reached in the context of the European Union-facilitated dialogue.

Concerning the role of UNMIK, Council members expressed overall praise and support for its work on different fronts and specifically on confidence and trust-building efforts,⁶³⁷ women and peace and security and youth and peace and security agendas,⁶³⁸ as well as on the return of missing persons,⁶³⁹ strengthening of the rule of law⁶⁴⁰ and promotion of social

⁶³⁶ See [S/PV.9155](#), Ireland, Brazil, Ghana, India, China and France.

⁶³⁷ Ireland, Kenya, Ghana, and Gabon.

⁶³⁸ Ireland, United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Ghana and Gabon.

⁶³⁹ Ireland, India and Gabon.

⁶⁴⁰ Norway, Kenya, Brazil, France and Gabon.

cooperation and cohesion in Kosovo.⁶⁴¹ As in April, at the meeting in October, Council members discussed the continuity of the Mission and the continued value of its mandate. While representatives of Albania, the United Kingdom and the United States advocated for a thorough review of UNMIK given the change of circumstances in Kosovo and its institutions, other Council members supported the continuity of the Mission and its mandate.⁶⁴² The representative of the United States expressed disappointment that the Council had not moved towards sunseting UNMIK, including by developing a plan to close the Mission. He again suggested that briefings were no longer needed on a six-month basis and should be reduced to annual meetings, stating also that the Council had far more pressing priorities to address, and its resources were limited. The representative of Albania was also of the view that it was time to reduce Security Council meetings to only one a year in recognition of the progress made, as well as encouragement for the parties to pursue dialogue with more determination. By contrast, the representative of the Russian Federation expressed full support for UNMIK, as the most important guarantor of security in the province. While understanding the difficult circumstances in which it had to operate, the representative expressed the expectation that UNMIK made realistic rather than neutral rosy assessments of the situation in the province. The representative of China affirmed that the Special Representative and UNMIK should continue to work actively in accordance with resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#), effectively carrying out its mandates and playing a constructive role in maintaining regional stability, promoting national reconciliation and facilitating dialogue between the two sides. Following the statements by Council members, the representatives of both Serbia and Kosovo took the floor to make further statements.

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⁶⁴¹ Ireland, United Arab Emirates and Ghana.

⁶⁴² Mexico, Russian Federation, Ghana and China.

<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.9019 20 April 2022	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2022/313)		Serbia ^a	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Ms. Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.9155 18 October 2022	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2022/739)		Serbia ^a	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of UNMIK, Ms. Donika Gërvalla-Schwarz	All Council members, all invitees	

^a Serbia was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs.