

19. Items relating to Ukraine

A. Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings under the item entitled “Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))” and adopted one resolution.⁶⁴³ Resolution [2623 \(2022\)](#) was the first resolution of the Council in 40 years deciding to call an emergency special session of the General Assembly.⁶⁴⁴ In addition, the Council failed to adopt one draft resolution owing to the negative vote of a permanent member.⁶⁴⁵ All the meetings that were not devoted to the adoption of decisions of the Council took the form of briefings.⁶⁴⁶ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in the table below. Council members also held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Ukraine.⁶⁴⁷

In 2022, the Council heard four briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs⁶⁴⁸ and two briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.⁶⁴⁹ The briefings focused on the ongoing political and security developments and the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. Other briefers were the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who briefed the Council on the challenges faced by the civilian population and humanitarian actors and on the growing number of displaced people and refugees;⁶⁵⁰ the Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency, who provided updates on the military developments in the vicinity of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant;⁶⁵¹

⁶⁴³ Resolution [2623 \(2022\)](#).

⁶⁴⁴ For more information regarding the relations between the Council and the General Assembly, see part IV, sect. I.C. For more details on the discussion, see part V, sect. I.

⁶⁴⁵ See [S/PV.8980](#). See also [S/2022/155](#).

⁶⁴⁶ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

⁶⁴⁷ For more information, see [A/77/2](#), part II, chap. 39.B.

⁶⁴⁸ See [S/PV.8970](#), [S/PV.8974](#), [S/PV.8986](#), [S/PV.9011](#).

⁶⁴⁹ See [S/PV.8983](#), [S/PV.9011](#).

⁶⁵⁰ See [S/PV.8983](#).

⁶⁵¹ See [S/PV.8986](#).

the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, who reported on the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the global impact of the war;⁶⁵² and the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme, who spoke about the decimating consequences of the war in Ukraine and the worsening food crisis around the world.⁶⁵³ Whilst most invitations under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure were limited to Germany and Ukraine, on 25 February, 75 Members States were invited to participate in the meeting of the Council.⁶⁵⁴ The Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations was invited once under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure.⁶⁵⁵

On 21 February, the Council convened an emergency meeting during which it heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs further to the decree of the Russian Federation to recognize certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent regions. During her briefing, the Under-Secretary-General expressed concern about the possible implications of the latest developments for the existing negotiations frameworks and emphasized the importance to pursue dialogue. She also noted the decision to order a mass evacuation of civilians of Donetsk and Luhansk into the Russian Federation and expressed regret about the deployment of Russian troops into eastern Ukraine, reportedly on a peacekeeping mission. She further expressed concern about the escalating shelling across the contact line and the targeting of critical civilian infrastructure and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities. Underlining that the risk of major conflict was real and needed to be prevented at all costs, the Under-Secretary-General reiterated the full commitment of the United Nations to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine.⁶⁵⁶

During the meeting, while only some participants condemned the Russian Federation's decision to recognize non-Government-controlled areas as independent entities,⁶⁵⁷ others spoke of the political and security developments as an attack on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial

⁶⁵² See [S/PV.9008](#).

⁶⁵³ See [S/PV.9008](#).

⁶⁵⁴ See [S/PV.8979](#).

⁶⁵⁵ See [S/PV.9011](#).

⁶⁵⁶ See [S/PV.8970](#).

⁶⁵⁷ Albania, France, Kenya, Norway and Germany.

integrity,⁶⁵⁸ and a violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter,⁶⁵⁹ and the Minsk agreements.⁶⁶⁰ The representative of the Russian Federation recalled that the People's Republics of Luhansk and Donetsk declared their independence from Ukraine in 2014 and affirmed the high level of support for recognizing that independence, both in the Republics themselves and in Russian society. He also reminded that, at the time when the Minsk agreements were signed, the People's Republics had already declared their independence, and underlined that the Russian decision to recognize them on that day in no way changed the make-up of parties to the Minsk agreements, as Russia had not been a party to them. In his statement, the representative of Ukraine emphasized the responsibility of the Security Council to maintain international peace and security, in accordance with the Article 24 of the Charter,⁶⁶¹ and called on the members to make recommendations or decide what measures should be taken to maintain or restore international peace and security.⁶⁶²

On 23 February, the Council held a meeting to hear a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. At the outset of the meeting, the Secretary-General delivered opening remarks, followed by the briefing by the Under-Secretary-General. In his statement, the Secretary-General called on the President of the Russian Federation to stop his troops from attacking Ukraine.⁶⁶³ The Under-Secretary-General informed the Council that the Ukrainian authorities had declared a nationwide state of emergency and announced other related defense and security measures, including the mobilization of reservists. In addition, she added that the Ukrainian authorities reported a new large-scale cyberattack targeting several State and financial institutions. In that regard, she encouraged the efforts of President Zelenskyy and President Putin to continue dialogue and diplomacy and assured that United Nations staff remain on the ground to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine.

Following the briefing, several participants condemned the decision by President Putin to send Russian troops into the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the announcement of a military

⁶⁵⁸ United States, Albania, France, United Kingdom, Mexico, Ireland, Kenya, Ghana, Gabon, Norway and Ukraine.

⁶⁵⁹ Albania, France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Ghana, Norway and Ukraine.

⁶⁶⁰ Albania, France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Ghana, Norway and Ukraine.

⁶⁶¹ For further details on the discussion, see part V, sect. I.B.

⁶⁶² See [S/PV.8970](#).

⁶⁶³ See [S/PV.8974](#).

operation.⁶⁶⁴ Council members called on the Russian Federation to de-escalate and withdraw its troops from the territory of Ukraine,⁶⁶⁵ urged to refrain from any action that may further increase tensions on the ground,⁶⁶⁶ and emphasized the importance of the peaceful settlement of disputes.⁶⁶⁷ Council members were concerned about the high-intensity ceasefire violations and urged all parties to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure and to guarantee unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance, in accordance with their obligations under international law.⁶⁶⁸ Some members continued to emphasize the responsibility of the Council to maintain international peace and security.⁶⁶⁹ The representative of the Russian Federation announced that during the course of the meeting the President of the Russian Federation made an address informing of his decision to launch a special military operation in Donbas. He noted that the occupation of Ukraine was not part of his country's plans. Rather, the purpose of the special operation was to protect people who had been subjected to abuse and genocide by the Kyiv regime for eight years. He added that the decision had been made in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,⁶⁷⁰ the approval of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation and pursuant to the Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance signed with the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics.⁶⁷¹ In her second statement at the meeting, further to the Russian Federation's statement informing about the launching of the special military operation, the representative of the United States announced that her delegation would be putting a draft resolution on the table the following day. Condemning the start of the military operation, the representatives of the United Kingdom and France both expressed support for the preparation of a Security Council resolution. The representative of Ukraine called on the representative of the Russian Federation to relinquish its responsibilities as President of the Security Council. Underscoring the responsibility of the Security Council, he called on the members to convene an

⁶⁶⁴ France, Norway, Germany, Albania and Ireland.

⁶⁶⁵ Albania, United Kingdom, France, India, United Arab Emirates, Norway, Gabon and Germany.

⁶⁶⁶ Ireland, India, China, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, and Ghana.

⁶⁶⁷ India, United Arab Emirates, Norway, China, Brazil, Ghana and Gabon.

⁶⁶⁸ United Arab Emirates, Norway, Ghana and Gabon.

⁶⁶⁹ Ireland, Brazil, Mexico, Ukraine and United States.

⁶⁷⁰ For more information on Article 51, see part VII, sec X.

⁶⁷¹ See [S/PV.8974](#).

emergency meeting to consider all necessary draft decisions and do everything possible to stop the war.

On 25 February, the Council held a meeting to vote on a draft resolution submitted by Albania and the United States and sponsored by 80 Member States.⁶⁷² Before the vote, the representatives of the United States and Albania explained the text of the draft resolution.⁶⁷³ In addition, four other Council members made statements before the vote. The draft resolution was not adopted owing to the negative vote of one permanent member, namely, the Russian Federation. According to the draft resolution, the Council would have condemned the 23 February 2022 declaration by the Russian Federation of a “special military operation” in Ukraine and deplored in the strongest terms the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine in violation of Article 2, paragraph 4 of the United Nations Charter as well as the Russian Federation’s 21 February 2022 decision related to the status of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine as a violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.⁶⁷⁴ In addition, according to the draft resolution, the Council would have decided that the Russian Federation should immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine, refrain from any further unlawful threat or use of force against any UN member state, immediately, completely, and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and immediately and unconditionally reverse the decision related to the status of certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.⁶⁷⁵

Following the vote, most Council members who voted in favour expressed regret about the decision of the Russian Federation to veto the draft resolution.⁶⁷⁶ The representative of France welcomed the mobilization of all members of the Council who, by voting in favour of the draft resolution, had expressed their commitment to international law and their support for Ukraine. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that a large majority of the Security

⁶⁷² See [S/2022/155](#).

⁶⁷³ See [S/PV.8979](#).

⁶⁷⁴ See [S/2022/155](#), sixth, preambular paragraph and paras. 2 and 5.

⁶⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 3, 4 and 6.

⁶⁷⁶ See [S/PV.8979](#), Albania, Norway and Ireland.

Council had voted in favour of the draft resolution aimed at stopping the war, yet it had not been adopted only because of the single veto of the permanent member of the Council who was perpetrating that conflict. The representative of Norway stated that a veto cast by the aggressor undermined the purpose of the Council, adding that it was a violation of the very foundation of the Charter of the United Nations and that in the spirit of the Charter, as a party to a dispute, Russia should have abstained from voting on the draft resolution.⁶⁷⁷ Some members condemned what they termed as an aggression by the Russian Federation,⁶⁷⁸ while others called on the parties to immediately cease hostilities.⁶⁷⁹ The representative of Gabon called on the parties to resume dialogue, while the representative of Ghana called on the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its forces from Ukraine and to recommit to dialogue and diplomacy.

In explaining his country's abstention, the representative of China noted that faced with the highly complex and sensitive situation, the Security Council should make the necessary response, while cautioning that actions should be truly conducive to defusing the crisis rather than adding fuel to the fire. He added that Russia's legitimate security aspirations should receive attention and be addressed properly, and Ukraine should become a bridge between the East and the West, not an outpost for confrontation between major powers. While affirming that Member States needed to honour the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, the representative of India affirmed, in explaining his vote, that dialogue was the only answer to settling differences and disputes, however daunting it appeared at that moment. The representative of the United Arab Emirates expressed support for the draft resolution's emphasis on the need to adhere to the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations which she said must be the basis of the resumption of dialogue and the pathway forward.

Explaining his country's negative vote, the representative of the Russian Federation stated the draft resolution was anti-Russian and anti-Ukrainian and ran counter to the fundamental interests of the Ukrainian people. He concluded his statement by emphasizing that the Russian Federation was not waging a war against Ukraine or the Ukrainian people but was

⁶⁷⁷ For more details, see part II. sect. VIII.C

⁶⁷⁸ See [S/PV.8979](#), United Kingdom, Mexico, Albania, Norway and Ireland.

⁶⁷⁹ Gabon, Mexico, Brazil and United Arab Emirates.

carrying out a special operation against nationalists to protect the residents of Donbas and for the purposes of denazification and demilitarization. Speaking after Council members, the representative of Ukraine stressed that the Russian Federation had violated the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, rule 20 in relation to the President of the Security Council, by presiding over the Council during the consideration of a question with which it was directly connected.⁶⁸⁰

On 27 February, the Council held a meeting at which, despite the negative vote of the Russian Federation, it adopted resolution [2623\(2022\)](#), calling an emergency special session of the General Assembly taking into account that the lack of unanimity of its permanent members at the 8979th meeting had prevented it from exercising its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.⁶⁸¹ Following the adoption, the representatives of Albania, Ireland and Mexico explained their vote of convening an emergency special session as a means for the General Assembly to condemn the aggression.

The representative of Albania underlined the historic significance of the resolution [2623\(2022\)](#) that had opened the big doors for the world to speak out and condemn an unprovoked and unjustified pure act of aggression. The representative of the United States noted that the Council had called for an emergency special session of the General Assembly for the first time in decades as an extraordinary action. Welcoming the results of the voting on the resolution, the representative of the United Kingdom urged all Members of the United Nations to use their voice to call for the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine and end the war. Other members elaborated on the use of the veto by the Russian Federation by which the permanent member prevented the Security Council from fulfilling its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.⁶⁸² The representative of France asserted that his country would remain poised within the Council to ensure that it assumed its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. He added that together

⁶⁸⁰ For further details on the role of the presidency, see part II, sect. IV.

⁶⁸¹ See [S/PV.8980](#). For more information on the emergency special session and the relations between the Council and the General Assembly, see part IV, sect. I.C. For more details on the discussion, see part II sect. VIII.C and part V, sect. I.

⁶⁸² See [S/PV.8980](#), France, Ireland, Mexico, Norway and Ghana.

with Mexico, France would submit a draft resolution to guarantee unhindered humanitarian access to meet the urgent needs of the people remaining in Ukraine. The representative of Mexico reiterated that the exercise of the veto by the permanent members of the Security Council should not be a privilege and that, in every situation, it constituted as enormous and highly sensible responsibility. The representative of Ireland underlined that the Council had failed to exercise the responsibility to act in the face of conflict and called on the General Assembly members to step up where the Council had failed. In contrast, the representative of Brazil asserted that the Council had not yet exhausted its instruments and mechanisms to contribute to a negotiated and diplomatic solution towards peace and that the Security Council and the General Assembly must work together.

Expressing regret about the worsening of the situation in Ukraine, the representatives of India and the United Arab Emirates, whose delegations had abstained together with China, reiterated their call to cease hostilities and to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue. In that regard, they also welcomed the latest announcement by both sides about the commencement of talks on the Ukraine-Belarus border. The representative of China expressed support for discussions on an equal footing between the European Union and Russia on security issues to establish a balanced, effective and sustainable European security mechanism. He added that the Security Council should play a constructive role in resolving the Ukraine issue and that the United Nations should help calm the situation and facilitate diplomatic solutions to avoid an escalation of tensions.

Elaborating on his vote, the permanent representative of the Russian Federation stated that he had voted against resolution [2623\(2022\)](#) because it placed on record that the Security Council was unable to uphold its primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. He further underlined that the right of veto was granted to the permanent members of the Council as a tool for ensuring the balance of interest that ensured global stability and any attempt to circumvent or disregard the position of the Russian Federation undermined the bedrock of the Charter of the United Nations.

On 28 February, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs who reported on the latest civilian casualties, damage to critical civilian

infrastructure and growing humanitarian needs in the hardest hit areas of the conflict in Ukraine.⁶⁸³ He underscored that the ongoing fighting had constrained the humanitarian movement of the United Nations and the work of humanitarian workers on the ground stressing the need for the parties to the conflict to provide assurances that humanitarian workers would be protected and rapid and unimpeded passage of impartial humanitarian relief would be ensured.

Following the Under-Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that, in addition to the grave situation inside Ukraine, hundreds of thousands were seeking refuge in the neighboring countries of Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and the Russian Federation. Commending the Governments of the receiving countries, he encouraged them to maintain the access to all who were fleeing and underlined that there could be no discrimination against any person or any group. While noting that the challenges to admit, register, and ensure the protection of those fleeing so far had been met, he expressed concern about the likelihood of a further escalation in the number of arrivals. In that regard, he briefed the Council on the bilateral support to the receiving countries offered by the European Union and its member states and other Governments. He elaborated on the scaled-up efforts by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with its United Nations partner agencies and national and international NGOs. He explained that the High Commissioner for Refugees was planning for up to 4 million refugees in the following days and weeks and that such a rapid increase would be a huge burden for receiving States and would no doubt stress reception systems and related resources. He added that like any country hosting refugees around the world, these countries could not be left alone to shoulder that responsibility and welcomed the support expressed by many European States at the European Union Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting to activate the Temporary Protection Directive for people fleeing Ukraine that would enable the provision of immediate temporary refuge in the European Union and facilitate the sharing of responsibility among European Member States for people fleeing Ukraine.

During the discussion, in their remarks on the humanitarian situation and protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, Council members welcomed the growing humanitarian efforts of the United Nations in Ukraine.⁶⁸⁴ They called on both parties to immediately and

⁶⁸³ See [S/PV.8983](#).

⁶⁸⁴ Albania, India, and China.

unconditionally cease hostilities,⁶⁸⁵ respect international humanitarian law at all times,⁶⁸⁶ exercise self-restraint⁶⁸⁷ and refrain from attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure⁶⁸⁸ and ensure safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian actors and their movements.⁶⁸⁹ While representatives of Ireland and the United Kingdom spoke about Russia’s indiscriminate attacks and use of explosives weapons in populated areas, the representatives of the United States, Albania and Ukraine stressed the need to document and address all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. Against the backdrop of a humanitarian situation that was worsening with each passing hour, the representative of Mexico explained that together with France they would present a draft resolution aimed at achieving a general cessation of hostilities, the protection of civilians and guaranteed access to humanitarian aid. In response, the representative of the Russian Federation underlined that Russia’s special operation did not impact civilian infrastructure and that civilians in the areas under the control of the Russian armed forces were not encountering acute humanitarian issues. With regard to the draft resolution, he said that his delegation needed to study the text closely before making any assessments and that, in any case, the Russian military would provide any necessary humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine in the territories that had been freed from what he referred to as “the radicals”.

In connection with the refugee and displacement crisis, Council members commended the neighboring countries for receiving refugees,⁶⁹⁰ and called for borders to be kept open.⁶⁹¹ While some members commented on the reported accounts of discrimination, experienced by the Africans and people of African descent as they were fleeing the war,⁶⁹² several representatives echoed the High Commissioner for Refugees urging the international community to provide support to all, without discrimination based on race or nationality.⁶⁹³ Members also expressed differing views on the economic sanctions adopted against the Russian Federation and Belarus.

⁶⁸⁵ France, Ireland, India, Ghana, Gabon and United Arab Emirates.

⁶⁸⁶ France, Mexico, United Arab Emirates and Brazil.

⁶⁸⁷ United Arab Emirates and China.

⁶⁸⁸ Ireland, Ghana, Gabon and United Arab Emirates.

⁶⁸⁹ France, Mexico, Norway, Ghana, Gabon and Brazil.

⁶⁹⁰ Kenya, United States, Ireland, Norway, Albania and Gabon.

⁶⁹¹ Mexico, Ireland and Norway.

⁶⁹² Kenya and Gabon.

⁶⁹³ Norway, United States, Ghana and Gabon.

In that connection, the representative of France assured that the sanctions would be implemented with full regard for international humanitarian law and with no impact on the humanitarian response. The representative of Kenya cautioned that sanctions might lead to an escalation of the conflict rather than opening the path to peace. The representative of Brazil also warned that the severe economic sanctions being imposed may have ripple effects on the world's economy.

On 4 March, the Council heard a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who focused on the latest developments in the area of the Zaporizhzhya and Chernobyl nuclear power plants and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Ukraine.⁶⁹⁴ During her briefing, the Under-Secretary-General underscored that attacks on nuclear power facilities were contrary to international humanitarian law. Welcoming the statements and actions by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in connection with the establishment of an appropriate framework that would ensure the safe, secure and reliable operation of Ukraine's nuclear power plants, she emphasized the need for safe and urgent passage for the Agency's personnel. The Under-Secretary-General added that the United Nations was significantly increasing its humanitarian assistance in response to the escalating crisis and welcomed the agreements between Ukrainian and Russian negotiators on the establishment of humanitarian corridors to allow safe passage for civilians and the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency reported that the Russian forces had taken charge of the Chernobyl nuclear site. However, their advance towards the perimeter of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant had been met by opposition and groups of civilians who were blocking access to the facility. He further confirmed that, although a projectile impacted an adjacent building to the Zaporizhzhya nuclear plant facility, no security or safety systems had been compromised and the operations at both plants had continued normally. On the establishment of a framework to ensure the observance of the basic principles of safety and security, he underlined that the basic elements of the proposal had been already shared with the Ukrainian counterparts and the Russian authorities. He clarified that the mission of the

⁶⁹⁴ See [S/PV.8986](#)

International Atomic Energy Agency would be restricted and circumscribed to the safety and security of the nuclear installations in Ukraine.

During the discussion, Council members expressed concern about the situation at both the Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhya nuclear sites. Council members continued to call on the Russian Federation to abide by its international obligations,⁶⁹⁵ to halt the use of force near any power plant,⁶⁹⁶ and to end violence and withdraw its troops from the territory of Ukraine.⁶⁹⁷ The representative of Kenya urged the need to observe international conventions regulating the conduct of armed conflict and called on the leadership of Ukraine and the Russian Federation to reduce the targeting and threat to critical infrastructure. Referring to the Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations and to the first resolution adopted by the General Assembly in the context of the eleventh emergency special session,⁶⁹⁸ the representative of Brazil urged all members of the Council to engage truly and actively to promote dialogue and rebuild trust.⁶⁹⁹ The representatives of India, Ghana, China and the United Arab Emirates welcomed the second round of talks on the establishment of a safe humanitarian corridor. Participants at the meeting also expressed support for the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Ukraine and called for the urgent and unhindered access of its personnel to monitor the conditions and ensure nuclear safety. In his statement, the representative of the Russian Federation denounced that the statements about Russian troops attacking the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant was a part of an unprecedented campaign of lies and disinformation against his country and were untrue. In fact, according to the representative, an agreement to place the power plant under the protection of the Russian military had been reached with the management of the plant to ensure the security of the plant and prevent interruptions in power supply to the population of Ukraine and European consumers. He asserted that the current situation was similar in the area of the Chernobyl power plant and that the security of those facilities was being ensured jointly by the Russian armed forces and the Ukrainian operators of the nuclear installations. Stating that Russia had deliberately undertaken an armed attack against a nuclear power site, an action that had violated

⁶⁹⁵ United States, Ireland, Norway and Mexico.

⁶⁹⁶ Albania, United States, France, Ireland and Ghana.

⁶⁹⁷ United Kingdom, Albania, United States, Ireland and Norway.

⁶⁹⁸ Resolution [ES-11/1](#).

⁶⁹⁹ For more details on Chapter VI, see part VI.

all international agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the representative of Ukraine demanded that Russian forces withdrew from the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant. He called on the international community to respond adequately to the actions of the Russian Federation by closing the skies over Ukraine, supporting Ukraine in terms of security and humanitarian assistance and expelling Russians from international institutions.

On 29 March, the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator who informed the Council about the scaling up of the humanitarian system.⁷⁰⁰ Highlighting the risk of human trafficking, as well as sexual violence, exploitation and abuse in Ukraine and the region, particularly for children fleeing the war, he announced the scaling up of protection services at the border and within the country in order to offer information on safe options and routes and access to helplines and safe shelters. In that connection, he reported that humanitarian partners were coordinating to provide swift and specialized services to survivors. He also stressed the need for detailed, realistic agreements on humanitarian ceasefire and pauses to ensure safe and unhindered passage of aid and indicated that, following the request from the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator had been engaging with both parties on possible arrangements for a humanitarian ceasefire.

Following the Under-Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme provided a briefing on the impact of the war on global food insecurity. He stressed the need not to neglect other regions such as the Sahel, North Africa, the rest of Africa and the Middle East to prevent a massive migration from all sides of Europe. He further explained the risk of a pricing problem due to the increase in fuel, food and shipping costs and an availability problem due to the lack of fertilizer-based products from Belarus and Russia, calling it a crisis on top of a crisis. In closing, he appealed to everyone involved to deconflict and provide the necessary access for the safe delivery of aid and to minimize the impact globally and in Ukraine.

Council members discussed the humanitarian impact of the conflict in Ukraine. While some members attributed the responsibility for the humanitarian crisis inside and outside Ukraine

⁷⁰⁰ See [S/PV.9008](#).

to the Russian Federation,⁷⁰¹ others commended the neighboring countries for receiving refugees.⁷⁰² Council members and other participants discussed the massive displacement and refugee crisis created by the conflict, the threats of human trafficking and gender-based violence as well as the challenges faced by civilians and humanitarian organizations. In this regard, most Council members called for the safe and unhindered access for humanitarian aid and safe passages for civilians in besieged cities. The representatives of Norway and the United Arab Emirates welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to request the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to work directly with the parties on a possible agreement for a humanitarian ceasefire. Council members and other participants discussed the negotiations taking place between the parties in Istanbul at the time. While the representative of China underlined that the international community should encourage and support continued direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine until a positive outcome was achieved and peace was restored, the representative of the United Arab Emirates, also stressed the important role of women in conflict resolution and peace negotiations, including to ensure their sustainability and durability. Council members also discussed the impact of the economic sanctions adopted in response to the conflict in Ukraine. While some Council members denied an impact of the sanctions on the global food supply chains,⁷⁰³ other Council members argued that sanctions exacerbated food shortages and price distortions having a detrimental impact on developing countries.⁷⁰⁴

On 5 April, the Council held a meeting during which it heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.⁷⁰⁵ In his remarks, the Secretary-General said that Ukraine was one of the greatest challenges ever to the international order and the global peace architecture, founded on the Charter of the United Nations, because of its nature, intensity and consequences. He added that the world was dealing with the full-fledged invasion, on several fronts, of one State Member of the United Nations,

⁷⁰¹ United States, United Kingdom and France.

⁷⁰² United States, Kenya, Norway and Gabon.

⁷⁰³ France and United States.

⁷⁰⁴ Kenya, Russian Federation, Brazil and China.

⁷⁰⁵ See [S/PV.9011](#).

Ukraine, by another, the Russian Federation — a permanent member of the Security Council — in violation of the Charter and with several aims, including redrawing the internationally recognized borders between the two countries. He also focused on the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, including the massive devastation in urban centres and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, rapes and sexual violence as well as the displacement of more than 10 million people in just one month. In addition, he spoke about the massive increases in the prices of food, energy, and fertilizers, disrupting supply chains and increased cost of transportation, putting even more pressure on the developing world. Regretting the divisions that had prevented the Security Council from acting not only on Ukraine, but on other threats to peace and security around the world, he urged the Council to do everything in its power to end the war and to mitigate its impact, both on the suffering people of Ukraine and on vulnerable people and developing countries around the world.

In her briefing, the Under-Secretary-General focused on the ongoing military operations, noting that cities continued to be pounded, the number of civilians killed had more than doubled and hundreds of thousands of people remained trapped in encircled cities. She expressed grave concern about the persistent use of explosive weapons with a wide impact in or near populated areas and underlined those indiscriminate attacks were prohibited under international humanitarian law. She also expressed concern about the reports of cases of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances as well as about the emerging allegations of conflict-related sexual violence. Against that backdrop, she further reported that, according to the International Organization for Migration, suspected and verified cases of human trafficking were surfacing in the surrounding countries and expressed grave concern about the heightened risk for displaced persons and refugees. Away from the fighting, she reported that diplomatic efforts to end the war, including direct talks between Ukrainian and Russian representatives, had continued and commended, in that regard, the Government of Turkey. The Under-Secretary-General noted the reported withdrawal of Russian forces from around the Chernobyl nuclear site and reemphasized that all nuclear sites in Ukraine must be fully protected and secured. Noting the reported reduction of Russian troops and attacks around Kyiv and Chernihiv, she reiterated the call by the General Assembly for Russian forces to withdraw entirely from Ukrainian territory and cease all military operations. In closing, the Under-Secretary-General cautioned that the war had damaged

Europe's security architecture noting that the longer the war continued, the greater the risk that it would further weaken the global institutions and mechanisms dedicated to preserving peace and security.

In his statement, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator spoke about the humanitarian needs and what was being done to meet them. He also reported on his actions further to the Secretary-General's instruction to bring both sides together on humanitarian grounds to explore both specific and sustained ways to reduce humanitarian suffering, including, *inter alia*, the pursuit of a humanitarian ceasefire. In this regard, he spoke about his meetings with Russian authorities as well as about his upcoming meetings with Ukrainian authorities. While expressing gratitude for the generous contributions from donors, he stressed that funding to support the needs in Ukraine must not be diverted from other crises and concluded by calling on all Council members and Member States to support all efforts in the pursuit of peace and the alleviation of human suffering.

During the deliberations, Council members exchanged views on the reported violence and attacks against civilian and humanitarian infrastructure. Council members and other participants emphasized the responsibility of the Council to end the war and to maintain international peace and security,⁷⁰⁶ urged the parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law,⁷⁰⁷ and condemned the atrocities and abuses committed on the territory of Ukraine.⁷⁰⁸ Some Council members and participants expressed support for an investigation by the International Criminal Court,⁷⁰⁹ and by the Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council.⁷¹⁰ In this connection, the representative of the United States announced that her country, in coordination with Ukraine and many other States Members of the United Nations, would seek Russia's suspension from the Human Rights Council.

⁷⁰⁶ Ireland, Brazil, Mexico and Norway. For more information on functions and powers of the Security Council, see part V, sect. I.

⁷⁰⁷ [S/PV.9011](#), Albania, Gabon, Ireland, Brazil, China, France, United Arab Emirates and European Union.

⁷⁰⁸ Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, India, France, Ghana and European Union.

⁷⁰⁹ Ireland, Mexico, Norway, United Kingdom and European Union.

⁷¹⁰ Mexico, France, Norway and European Union.

In addition to this item, during the period under review, the Council discussed developments of the situation in Ukraine under the following items: “ Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/264](#))”,⁷¹¹ “ Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine”,⁷¹² and “Threats to international peace and security”.⁷¹³

Meetings: letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))

<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>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8970 21 February 2022			Germany, Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8974 23 February 2022			Germany, Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8979 25 February 2022		Draft resolution submitted by 82 Member States ^a (S/2022/155)	75 Member States ^b		All Council members, Ukraine	Draft resolution S/2022/155 not adopted 11-1-3 ^c
S/PV.8980 27 February 2022		Draft resolution submitted by Albania and United States (S/2022/160)	Ukraine		14 Council members, ^d Ukraine	Resolution 2623 (2022) 11-1-3 ^e
S/PV.8983 28 February 2022			Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ^f	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.8986 4 March 2022			Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency ^g	14 Council members, ^h all invitees	

⁷¹¹ For more information, see part I, sect. 19.B.

⁷¹² For more information, see part I, sect. 19.C.

⁷¹³ For more information, see part I, sect. 34.

[S/PV.9008](#)

29 March 2022

Ukraine	Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme ⁱ	All Council members, ^j all invitees
---------	--	--

[S/PV.9011](#)

5 April 2022

Ukraine	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees ⁱ
---------	--	---

^a Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

^b Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, North Macedonia, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye and Ukraine.

^c *For*: Albania, Brazil, France, Gabon, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: Russian Federation; *abstaining*: China, India, United Arab Emirates.

^d The representative of Kenya did not make a statement.

^e *For*: Albania, Brazil, France, Gabon, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: Russian Federation; *abstaining*: China, India, United Arab Emirates

^f The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees participated in the meeting by videoconference.

^g The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency participated in the meeting by videoconference.

^h The representative of Gabon did not make a statement.

ⁱ The Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme participated in the meeting by videoconference.

^j The United States was represented by its Deputy Secretary of State.

^k Ukraine was represented by its President, who participated in the meeting by videoconference.