



Security Council

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Letter dated 10 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith an assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of September 2021 during the presidency of Ireland (see annex).

The assessment was prepared by the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations and has been agreed upon by Council members after extensive consultations.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Geraldine **Byrne Nason**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 10 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Ireland (September 2021)

I. Introduction

During the month of September 2021, the Security Council held 20 public meetings and 7 consultations of the whole. All Council meetings were held in person in the Security Council Chamber. In addition, one informal interactive dialogue was convened. Five meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Council were held. The Council adopted five resolutions and issued one presidential statement and four press statements. On one occasion, the Council agreed to issue elements to the press.

The signature events of the Irish presidency included an open debate on United Nations peacekeeping operations that was focused on the issue of United Nations transitions, a high-level open debate on the maintenance of international peace and security that was focused on the issue of climate and security, and a briefing on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was focused on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The quarterly debate on Afghanistan (the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)) was also chaired at the ministerial level. In addition, the presidency also held a briefing on the maintenance of international peace and security with the participation of members of the Elders.

The inclusion of civil society, in particular women peacebuilders, was a priority throughout the presidency. Seventeen civil society representatives briefed the Council in September, including 16 women. The Irish presidency launched a trio of presidencies, with Kenya and Mexico, focused on the women and peace and security agenda in the work of the Council.

In accordance with United Nations practice, Ireland began its presidency with the presentation of the provisional programme of work of the Council for the month, which was adopted at the Council's closed consultations on 1 September. On the same day, the President of the Council held briefings to the press, to all Member States of the United Nations and to civil society, respectively, on the work of the Council in September.

On 30 September, the President of the Council held an in-person "Toledo-style" wrap-up session for all Member States to the United Nations on the activities of the Council in September, with the permanent representatives of Mexico and the Niger invited as briefers.

II. Africa

A. Libya

On 10 September, the Security Council held a briefing on Libya. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Ján Kubiš, briefed the Council. Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, presented an oral report of the Committee's work covering the period from 22 May to 10 September. The co-founder of the Tamazight Women's Movement and the Khalifa Ihler Institute,

Asma Khalifa, also briefed the Council. The Special Envoy updated the Council on the state of play with regard to election preparations and stressed that holding the elections, even with challenges and risks, was much more desirable than holding no elections at all. Ms. Khalifa underscored that, while there was an urgency for elections to take place, a solid legal and constitutional foundation truly inclusive of all Libyans was needed.

Council members focused their interventions on the necessity of urgently clarifying the constitutional basis for elections in line with agreed timelines, as well as on the importance of the deployment of UNSMIL ceasefire monitors and the departure of foreign forces and mercenaries. A representative of Libya also participated in the meeting, addressing the Council under rule 37 of its provisional rules of procedure.

On 15 September, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2595 \(2021\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNSMIL until 30 September.

On 29 September, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2598 \(2021\)](#), a technical rollover, by which it renewed for one year the authorizations as set out in paragraphs 7–10 of resolution [2240 \(2015\)](#).

On 30 September, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2599 \(2021\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNSMIL until 31 January 2022.

B. Sudan and South Sudan

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan

On 14 September, Ambassador Sven Jürgenson, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan, briefed the Council. The briefing covered the 90-day period from 14 June 2021 to 14 September 2021. A representative of the Sudan also participated in the meeting, addressing the Council pursuant to rule 37.

United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan

On 14 September, the Council held a briefing and consultations on the Sudan. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and Head of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS), Volker Perthes, briefed the Council. He highlighted the progress made on the political front in the Sudan, such as the implementation of economic reforms. In addition, he emphasised that the trajectory of the transition was generally positive. He further stated that the focus would soon turn to preparations for elections in 2024. He outlined the new role of UNITAMS as the Chair of the Permanent Ceasefire Committee in Darfur, which is a commitment under the Juba Peace Agreement. The Special Representative restated the fact that UNITAMS did not have the same mandate as the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and that the Sudanese authorities were entirely responsible for security in Darfur. The Regional Director of the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa, Hala Al-Karib, delivered a statement highlighting the unfulfilled promise of the transition in terms of women's participation.

Council members welcomed the political progress made but expressed concern over the security situation in Darfur. Some Council members called upon the Government to live up to its commitments. A representative of the Sudan participated in the meeting, addressing the Council pursuant to rule 37.

On 22 September, the Security Council issued a press statement on the situation in the Sudan,¹ condemning in the strongest terms the attempt on 21 September to disrupt the country's transition by force.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

On 15 September, the Council held a briefing and consultations on South Sudan. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Nicholas Haysom, the Director of Operations and Advocacy Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Reena Ghelani, and civil society briefer, Merekaje Lorna Nanjia, briefed the Council. In his briefing, the Special Representative noted positive progress on the constitution-making process, the formation of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, the operational mobility of UNMISS and prospects for the unification and graduation of forces, but he raised concerns about civil society space and fractures within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition. Ms. Ghelani reported on the humanitarian situation in the country. Ms. Nanjia emphasized the need for the greater inclusion of women and young people in political processes.

Council members reaffirmed their support for the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and commended recent political progress, including the initiation of a constitution-making process and the swearing-in of members of the Transitional National Legislature. Concerns were expressed at the significant political and security challenges related to the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, including ongoing political infighting and subnational violence, as well as the dire humanitarian situation in relation to human rights, humanitarian assistance, flooding, food security and attacks on humanitarian workers. A representative of South Sudan participated in the meeting, addressing the Council pursuant to rule 37.

Peace and security in Africa

On 15 September, the Council adopted a presidential statement on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam ([S/PRST/2021/18](#)), under the agenda item entitled "Peace and security in Africa".

C. Somalia

On 17 September, the Council held closed consultations on Somalia. The Council was briefed by Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, James Swan, on the unfolding political crisis within the Government of Somalia. The Special Representative's three key messages were: (a) the need for a de-escalation of tensions and for all parties to refrain from actions that aggravate the situation; (b) a return to dialogue based on consensus and compromise; and (c) the immediate implementation of elections. He concluded by calling upon Council members to speak with one voice and encouraging Somali authorities to de-escalate tensions, engage in dialogue and urgently complete the electoral process.

On 18 September, the Security Council issued a press statement on the situation in Somalia, expressing deep concern about the ongoing disagreement within the Government and the negative impact on the electoral timetable and process.

¹ Available at www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14643.doc.htm.

On 28 September, the Council held a briefing on women and peace and security in Somalia. The Council received a briefing by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed, on her recent trip to Somalia, which centred on women's participation in upcoming elections. The Deputy Secretary-General urged Somalia's leaders to prioritize the full implementation of the electoral agreement, to establish concrete mechanisms for implementing the 30 per cent quota for women's representation in parliament, and to strengthen efforts for the protection of women from violence. She praised the reduction in candidate fees for women and the appointment of goodwill ambassadors. The co-founder and Executive Director of the Somali Women's Studies Centre, Shukria Dini, commended international and United Nations efforts to support women's participation in Somalia. She stated that, to meet the 30 per cent quota, parliamentary seats must be reserved for women and enhanced protections put in place for women candidates during the electoral process.

Council members expressed widespread support for initiatives aimed at advancing women's political participation, including the 30 per cent gender quota, the goodwill ambassadors and the reduction of fees for women candidates. Nevertheless, several Council members voiced concern at shortfalls in implementation and at persistent barriers to women's participation. Several Council members stressed the importance of political stability and free and fair elections.

III. Middle East

A. The situation in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

Chemical weapons

On 2 September, the Security Council held a briefing on the implementation of resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#) on the issue of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, briefed the Council on the most recent monthly report of the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and on the implementation of resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#). The High Representative informed the Council of the ongoing work of the Technical Secretariat of OPCW. She called for Council unity to reinforce the norm against chemical weapons.

Council members exchanged views on the contents of the report by the Director-General of OPCW, Fernando Arias. Members noted the exchange of letters between the Director-General and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Faisal Mekdad, regarding a suggested bilateral meeting to discuss relevant developments and the way forward regarding the mandated activities of the OPCW secretariat in the Syrian Arab Republic. Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye participated in the meeting, addressing the Council pursuant to rule 37.

Humanitarian situation

On 15 September, the Council held a briefing on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, and the Regional Director of Syria Relief and Development, Amany Qaddour, briefed the Council. The Under-Secretary-General briefed the Council on his recent travels to the Syrian Arab Republic and the region and noted that the humanitarian situation in the country was worse than it had ever been. Ms. Qaddour further briefed the Council on the

humanitarian situation in the country and the challenges faced by organizations on the ground.

Council members expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and noted the recent cross-line mission of the World Food Programme to the north-west. Some Council members noted concern about recent hostilities in Dar'a al-Balad and in the north-west of the country. Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye participated in the meeting, addressing the Council pursuant to rule 37.

Political situation

On 28 September, the Council held a briefing on the political situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Geir Pedersen, and the founder and Director of the organization SAWA for Development and Aid, Rouba Mhaissen, briefed the Council. The Special Envoy announced that the small body of the Constitutional Committee would reconvene for a sixth session in Geneva on 18 October. In addition, he briefed the Council on developments on the ground, reiterating the need for a nationwide ceasefire and a political solution in line with Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). Ms. Mhaissen stressed the need to include women in the political process at all levels.

Council members agreed with the Special Envoy on the need to implement resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). Some members expressed concern about the uptick in violence in Idlib and called upon all parties to exercise restraint. Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye participated in the meeting, addressing the Council pursuant to rule 37.

B. The situation in the Middle East (Yemen)

On 10 September, the Council held a briefing and consultations on Yemen. The Council was briefed for the first time by the recently appointed Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, as well as the Deputy Director of Operations of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Ghada Mudawi, and the Executive Director of the Marib Girls Foundation for Development, Entesar Al-Qadhi. During consultations, the Head of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hedaydah Agreement and Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee, Abhijit Guha, delivered a briefing to the Council. The Special Envoy emphasized the complexity of the conflict and reiterated the Organization's call for an end to hostilities and for an inclusive dialogue, ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women. He also called for the reopening of Sana'a airport and full access to Hedaydah port. Ms. Mudawi spoke of Yemen's economic crisis and its humanitarian consequences. She briefed the Council on the challenges faced by the health sector, including in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the risks posed to Yemen's children by ongoing conflict, and the need for support to mine clearance activities. Ms. Al-Qadhi spoke of the cruelty of the war in Yemen and stressed the urgent need for a ceasefire in Ma'rib. She called upon the Council to ensure accountability measures and to call for and support an inclusive peace process that included the participation of women. A representative of Yemen also participated in the meeting, addressing the Council pursuant to rule 37.

Elements to the press were agreed and delivered by the President following the meeting on the appointment of, and engagement with, the Special Envoy.

United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant

On 17 September, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2597 \(2021\)](#), extending the mandate of the Special Adviser and Team of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant until 17 September 2022.

C. The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 29 September, the Council held a briefing and consultations on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, briefed the Council and presented the Secretary-General's nineteenth report on the implementation of Council resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#), covering the period from 12 June to 27 September. The Planning Manager of Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights, Mai Farsakh, and the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Amal-Tikva, Meredith Rothbart, also briefed the Council. The Special Coordinator outlined that no new settlement housing plans had been advanced or approved during the reporting period. He said that 302 Palestinian-owned structures had been demolished or seized, displacing 433 people, including 251 children, and that there were currently 970 Palestinians facing eviction in East Jerusalem. He noted that, while resolution [2334 \(2016\)](#) called upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of Israel and the occupied territories, no such steps had been taken during the reporting period. He said daily violence had continued. The Special Coordinator encouraged donors to provide urgent support to the Palestinian Authority, stressed that Egyptian-led intra-Palestinian reconciliation efforts should continue and urged Israelis, Palestinians, regional States and the broader international community to take practical steps that would enable the parties to re-engage. Ms. Farsakh focused her briefing on Israeli settlement activity and noted the financial, social and psychological ramifications of demolitions. Ms. Rothbart underscored the need to support civil society peacebuilding, which she said was the only way to build peace. She stressed that negotiations at the highest diplomatic levels would not work without the inclusion of civil society and argued that that was why the Oslo Accords had failed.

Council members called upon Israel to end settlement activities and underscored their commitment to a two-State solution. Representatives of Israel and the State of Palestine also participated in the meeting, addressing the Council pursuant to rule 37 and rule 39, respectively.

D. Lebanon

On 27 September, the Security Council issued a press statement regarding the announcement, on 10 September 2021, of the formation of a new Government in Lebanon, led by the Prime Minister, Najib Mikati.²

Informal interactive dialogue on cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations

On 22 September, an informal interactive dialogue was held between members of the Security Council and the troika of the Summit of the League of Arab States. The meeting was encouraged in the presidential statement on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, issued on 29 January 2021 ([S/PRST/2021/2](#)).

² Available at www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14646.doc.htm.

The Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Mohamed Khaled Khiari, and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, provided remarks. In addition to the members of the Security Council, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, Minister Othman Jerandi of Tunisia and Minister Ramtane Lamamra of Algeria participated in the meeting. The Assistant Secretary-General noted that the United Nations was eager to continue to promote its relationship with the League of Arab States. Mr. Gheit underlined the position of the League of Arab States that there could be no military solution to any of the existing conflicts in the region. The conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic, Libya and Yemen as well as the question of Palestine formed the basis of much of the discussion, along with other issues including the situation in Lebanon, upcoming elections in Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran's activities in the region.

Many participants identified conflict prevention and counter-terrorism as areas for further cooperation. Several participants emphasized the need to cooperate in the area of climate and security. Some participants called for further cooperation between the League of Arab States and United Nations special envoys and special representatives.

IV. Asia

A. Afghanistan

On 9 September, the Council held a briefing on the situation in Afghanistan. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Deborah Lyons, Founder of the Women and Peace Studies Organization, Wazhma Frogh, and Nobel Laureate and activist, Malala Yousafzai, briefed the Council. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence of Ireland, Simon Coveney. Representatives of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Türkiye also participated in the meeting, addressing the Council pursuant to rule 37.

Council members expressed concern at the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and emphasized the need for urgent, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for organizations and personnel, regardless of gender. Council members called upon the Taliban to uphold their commitments to allow freedom of movement for those wishing to leave the country, to provide equal access to education for all children, to cut ties with terrorist organizations and to respect and protect the rights of all Afghans, including women and girls. Some Council members stressed the need for an inclusive, representative and participatory Government to be formed, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women. Council members also expressed support for the Special Representative and the UNAMA team in Afghanistan.

Written statements were submitted by Australia, the European Union, Germany, Indonesia, Italy and Japan.

On 17 September, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2596 \(2021\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of UNAMA for six months until 17 March 2022.

B. Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 15 September, the Council discussed recent missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under "Any other business". Some Council members expressed the view that the launches had been contrary to Security Council

resolutions and a threat to international peace and security. Others, however, called for the Council not to rush to condemn the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and stressed the need for more information on the matter. Members highlighted the importance of upholding Security Council resolutions, in all their aspects. All Council members called for a diplomatic solution and the resumption of dialogue.

V. Thematic and other issues

A. Maintenance of international peace and security: briefing by the Elders

On 7 September, the Security Council held a briefing by the Elders under the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security". The former President of Ireland and Chair of the Elders, Mary Robinson, and Elder Emeritus, Lakhdar Brahimi, briefed the Council. Elders and former presidents Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Ernesto Zedillo also attended the meeting. Former President Robinson argued that a more united and purposeful Security Council was needed now more than ever. She highlighted the importance of universal human rights, the heavy toll of the COVID-19 pandemic and the urgency of the action needed on climate change. She described climate change as a threat multiplier of issues on the Security Council agenda. Elder Emeritus Brahimi centred his briefing on the dire situation in Afghanistan.

Council members focused on a variety of issues including the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and human rights. Some Council members mentioned the impact of the pandemic, the need for equitable access to vaccines and the challenges of climate change and non-proliferation. Some Council members referred to ongoing conflict situations, including in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar and the Syrian Arab Republic.

B. United Nations peacekeeping operations: transitions

On 8 September, the Council held the annual open debate on peacekeeping reform, pursuant to resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#), with a focus on United Nations transitions. The meeting drew attention to the central role of the Security Council in establishing the importance of transitions within the wider peacekeeping and peacebuilding agenda. The Secretary-General, António Guterres, welcomed the Council's consideration of the issue and shared lessons learned from the experience of the United Nations in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The former President of Liberia, Ms. Johnson Sirleaf, briefed the Council on the transition in Liberia, followed by a briefing by a civil society representative from the Sudan, Safaa Elagib Adam, who shared reflections on the UNAMID transition to UNITAMS.

Council members focused on the need for forward planning and clearly defined mandates, as well as strong collaboration between the three United Nations pillars and with local and international stakeholders. Several Council members stressed the importance of national ownership of transitions, as well as the need to respect State sovereignty, and underlined the need for transition benchmarks to be based on end states rather than end dates. It was also proposed that development and reconstruction should be the top priority in transition planning.

Written statements were submitted by Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Germany, Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine the United Arab Emirates and the Peacebuilding Commission.

On 9 September, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2594 \(2021\)](#) on the issue of United Nations transitions. The resolution was jointly sponsored by 97 Member States. Council resolution [2594 \(2021\)](#), the first to focus entirely on transitions, provides a definition for transitions as a strategic process that builds towards a reconfiguration of the strategy, footprint and capacity of the United Nations. The resolution mandates the Secretary-General to enhance reporting on transitions, including under the reporting obligations of resolution [2378 \(2017\)](#).

C. Maintenance of international peace and security: climate and security

On 23 September, the Council held a high-level open debate on climate and security, chaired by the Taoiseach of Ireland, Micheál Martin. The Secretary-General and the Chief Operating Officer of the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre, Ilwad Elman, briefed the Council. The meeting was focused on discussing the relevance of climate change in the context of the work of the Security Council, with different views expressed in that regard.

The Secretary-General noted that the effects of climate change were particularly profound when they overlapped with fragility and past or current conflicts and that climate change and environmental mismanagement were risk multipliers. He called for action to limit global warming and increase financial contributions ahead of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and emphasized the need for a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience, welcoming the ongoing efforts by the United Nations and regional organizations to reinforce climate adaptation and peacebuilding in the Sahel and in the Middle East and North Africa region. Ms. Elman referred to the impacts of the “planetary emergency” on frontline activists and to the multiple and increasing climate-related security risks in Somalia. She noted the upcoming Environment of Peace initiative and called for more resources for civil society organizations.

Council members broadly welcomed efforts to advance that agenda, and some specifically supported the tabling of a resolution, a report of the Secretary-General, the appointment of a special representative and the work of the Informal Expert Group of Members of the Security Council on Climate and Security. Other Council members stated that climate change issues should be addressed in broader development and climate-related organs and processes such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

Written statements were submitted by Austria, Bangladesh, Chile, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, the European Union (on behalf of its 27 member States), Fiji, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Morocco, Nauru (on behalf of the Group of Friends on Climate and Security), the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates.

D. Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

On 27 September, the Council held a briefing to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Minister of State for European Affairs of Ireland, Thomas Byrne, chaired the briefing. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Rob Floyd,

and a leader of the Youth Group of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Magdalene Wangui Wanyaga. In her statement, the High Representative underlined the essential role of the Treaty in deterring States from testing nuclear weapons. She praised the capacity-building work of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and its work to establish the International Monitoring System. She called for an exchange of ideas on how to achieve the earliest possible entry into force of the Treaty and urged the Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to promote the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Mr. Floyd called for States to turn the promise of the Treaty into a reality and build momentum towards its entry into force. He noted the work of its global verification system, including for civil and scientific purposes. He underlined that the ultimate objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons was not possible without a universally applied, non-discriminatory and verifiable ban on nuclear testing. Ms. Wanyaga stressed the importance of the global verification system of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the importance of education to raise awareness about disarmament and non-proliferation, citing the work of the Youth Group.

Council members expressed strong support for the ban on nuclear testing and the key role of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Many Council members welcomed the work of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and highlighted the importance of efforts towards the universalization of the Treaty and its entry into force. Some Council members noted that, pending the entry into force of the Treaty, the elements of its verification mechanism could function and operate only on a trial and provisional basis. In addition to Council members, representatives of Italy and South Africa delivered statements to the Council as Co-Chairs of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (the article XIV conference).

E. Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 9 September, the Security Council issued a press statement on the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.³ The members of the Security Council marked the anniversary with a visit to the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York.

VI. Subsidiary bodies

During the month of September, subsidiary bodies of the Council continued their work. Five meetings were held, four of which in person.

On 3 September, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) met in person for an exchange of views on the paper prepared by the Committee's group of experts entitled "Analysis of the interaction between the 1540 Committee and international, regional and subregional organizations, United Nations bodies and 1267 and 1373 Committees during the period 26 April 2016 to 25 April 2021" as part of the Committee's activities related to the comprehensive review.

Also on 3 September, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism held an in-person open meeting with the Global Research Network of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on the topic "Emerging threats, trends and developments in

³ Available at www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14626.doc.htm.

terrorism and counter-terrorism: reflecting on 20 years of countering the terrorist threat”. The Network consists of over 100 research institutes and think tanks from across the world and provides the Directorate with evidence-based research insights from regional perspectives. The speakers provided an overview of a range of topics, including the terrorist threat in Africa and South Asia, efforts to counter terrorist financing in Latin America and measures to ensure accountability for terrorist acts.

On 10 September, the Military Staff Committee held a videoconference with the independent strategic review team on improvised explosive devices.

On 16 September, the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#) concerning the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea met in person to exchange views on the recommendations contained in the mid-term update of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution [1874 \(2009\)](#) ([S/2021/777](#)).

On 17 September, the Military Staff Committee held an in-person meeting to discuss the operational situation in the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan.

VII. Working methods

For the month of September, members of the Council agreed a consensual approach regarding the working methods of the Council, reflected in the letter from the President dated 3 September ([S/2021/776](#)). In September 2021, restrictions imposed in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic continued to ease, including in New York, and against this background, all Council meetings held during Ireland’s presidency took place in person in the Security Council Chamber. Consultations of the whole continued to be held in the Security Council Chamber rather than the Consultations Room for health and safety reasons.

Member States that are not members of the Council continued to participate in open debates through the submission of written statements. An exception to this approach was made during the debate on UNAMA held on 9 September, at which up to a maximum of eight non-Council members from regional States were permitted to participate under rule 37. Meetings of the troop-contributing countries and of the subsidiary organs took place in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber or by videoconference.
