



Security Council

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Letter dated 16 December 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Guyana in February 2024 (see annex).

The document was prepared by the Permanent Mission of Guyana to the United Nations, following consultations with other members of the Security Council.

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Carolyn **Rodrigues-Birkett**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative

of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 16 December 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Guyana (February 2024)

I. Introduction

In February 2024, under the presidency of Guyana, the Security Council held 17 public meetings, 2 private meetings and 10 consultations of the whole. Seven meetings were held at the request of members of the Council. Eleven meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Council were also held during the month.

The Security Council conducted a field mission to Colombia from 7 to 11 February, which was the first such mission of the year.

In terms of products, the Security Council considered, but failed to adopt, one resolution that focused on the situation in Gaza. In addition, four press statements were issued: two on 8 February condemning the terrorist attacks in Pishin and Qila Saifullah, Balochistan, Pakistan and the reported attacks in the Abyei Administrative Area, respectively; one on 27 February regarding the situation in Libya; and one on 29 February on terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso. The Council also agreed to issue two sets of press elements, one on 12 February on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and one on 22 February on the safety and security of United Nations personnel in Gaza.

During the month, the Security Council received briefings from 35 invitees at the formal meetings, 43 per cent of whom were women. Twenty-nine of the invitees were officials from the United Nations system, while the others were drawn from civil society, regional intergovernmental organizations and other non-United Nations organizations.

In its capacity as President of the Security Council, Guyana convened one signature event, a high-level open debate on the theme “The impact of climate change and food insecurity on the maintenance of international peace and security”, on 13 and 14 February.

The provisional programme of work was adopted in closed consultations on 1 February and presented separately to members of the press and all Member States on the same day.

Guyana organized a “Toledo style” wrap-up session open to all Member States, which was held on 29 February. At the session, the Permanent Representative of Guyana, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, the Permanent Representative of Mozambique, Pedro Comissário Afonso, and the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Dame Barbara Woodward, reported on the activities of the Security Council in February.

II. Thematic and other issues

Maintenance of international peace and security

On 13 February, the Security Council convened a high-level open debate the theme “The impact of climate change and food insecurity on the maintenance of

international peace and security”. The President of Guyana, Mohamed Irfaan Ali, presided over the meeting.

The Secretary-General delivered opening remarks and the following officials were invited to give a briefing: the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Simon Stiell; the Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Beth Bechdol; and the Director of Global Initiatives and Head of Peace, Climate and Sustainable Development of the International Peace Institute, Jimena Leiva Roesch.

In his remarks, the Secretary-General spoke of the importance of collaboration and underscored the need to act now to break the deadly links between conflict, climate and food insecurity. Addressing the Security Council for the first time, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change stated, *inter alia*, that there was no national security without food security and underscored that there would be no food security without enhanced action to stop climate change. The Deputy Director-General of FAO emphasized that climate change and conflict were the most important issues requiring urgent action to address global food insecurity.

The civil society representative, Jimena Leiva Roesch, stated that it was important for the Council to examine how climate change magnified existing realities and underlined the importance of investigating any situation that might lead to international friction or give rise to any dispute situation likely to endanger the maintenance of peace and security.

A total of 84 Member States and organizations spoke at the debate, which continued on 14 February. The recommendations made are captured in a summary report subsequently published by Guyana in its national capacity.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 15 February, the Security Council convened a briefing on the theme “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts” to consider the eighteenth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da’esh) to international peace and security ([S/2024/117](#)). At the meeting, the range of the United Nations efforts to support Member States in countering terrorism was also considered.

Briefings were given by the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov, the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Natalia Gherman, and the Secretary General of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Jürgen Stock.

The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism urged that the tragedy, destruction and suffering caused by terrorism serve as a catalyst for renewed international commitment to remedying its horrifying impacts and stepping up efforts to prevent such attacks from occurring in the first place.

In her briefing, the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate highlighted initiatives to address threats posed by ISIL (Da’esh) and its affiliates. She also noted that the Directorate’s priorities currently included countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and ensuring accountability and justice.

The Secretary General of INTERPOL spoke of the organization's close collaboration with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Directorate in assisting law enforcement agencies in identifying and preventing the exploitation of video distribution tools and encryption services for terrorist purposes. He also underlined threats posed by transnational organized crime, including the trafficking of cocaine through North and West Africa.

Council members acknowledged the significant threat posed by terrorism and the devastating consequences of terrorist activities on States and their development efforts.

III. The Americas

Colombia

The Security Council conducted its third field mission to Colombia, from 7 to 11 February, at the invitation of the Government. The mission was co-led by the Permanent Representatives of Guyana (President of the Council), the United Kingdom (penholder) and Switzerland (accompanying State on negotiations with the Ejército de Liberación Nacional and guarantor for the process with the Estado Mayor Central Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia–Ejército del Pueblo. Previous missions to Colombia were conducted in 2017 and 2019.

The objectives of the visit were to evaluate progress in the implementation of the 2016 Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the Government of Colombia and the former rebel group Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia–Ejército del Pueblo, acquire insights into the challenges being faced and reaffirm the commitment of the Security Council to peace in Colombia. It also provided Council members with the opportunity to learn more about the work of the United Nations Verification Mission and other United Nations agencies in Colombia.

Security Council members met with President Gustavo Petro Urrego and Vice President Francia Márquez. Meetings were also held with members of Congress, the High Commissioner for Peace, entities involved in the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and the signatories of the Peace Agreement. Site visits were conducted to reintegration communities in Caquetá and Buenaventura, where Council members had the opportunity to engage with various segments of Colombian society and learn about the achievements and challenges of the reintegration process. They met with former combatants, women's and youth organizations and leaders of the Afro-Colombian and Indigenous communities.

The mission comprised representatives of the 15 Member States of the Security Council. They were accompanied by officials from the Security Council Affairs Division, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Safety and Security.

The mission was co-organized by the Government of Colombia and the United Nations Verification Mission, along with other United Nations agencies in Bogotá.

On 22 February, the Security Council held its 9555th meeting, at which the co-leads shared their observations and assessment of the mission. They each reported on the meetings that they had chaired.

The Permanent Representative of Guyana spoke about the meetings with the United Nations country team, President Petro Urrego, civil society organizations, and Afro-Colombian and Indigenous leaders in Buenaventura. She stated that the main

messages that emerged from those discussions were that there was broad commitment and support for the implementation of the Final Peace Agreement; there was a need for rapid implementation of the Agreement, in particular concerning rural reform and the ethnic chapter; addressing the issue of access to and ownership of land was at the centre of resolving the conflict; the lack of State presence in rural areas must be urgently addressed; and the continued support of the Security Council was critical.

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom reported that the Security Council had heard a firm commitment to the Peace Agreement, while also hearing of the importance of security guarantees for former combatants. The meeting with the High Commissioner for Peace had provided an opportunity to discuss the El Ejército de Liberación Nacional process, given the recent ceasefire extension, which the United Nations Verification Mission was mandated to monitor. She further informed that, in the meeting with the signatories to the Peace Agreement in Agua Bonita, Council members had welcomed their unwavering commitment to peace.

The Permanent Representative of Switzerland, Pascale Baeriswyl, reported that in the meeting with women's organizations, Security Council members had discussed the women and peace and security agenda (resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#)) and Colombia's first National Action Plan on Women.

She added that the participants had described risks that they and their children continued to face and the daily challenges of promoting protection of human rights.

IV. Europe

Ukraine

Threats to international peace and security

On 6 February, the Security Council convened a briefing at the request of the Russian Federation to discuss air strikes that had struck a bakery on 3 February. The Under-Secretary General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, briefed the Council.

The Under-Secretary-General informed the Security Council that, on 3 February, 28 people, including one child, had reportedly been killed in air strikes on a building housing the bakery, while dozens more had been injured. She noted that civilian casualties in Ukraine had increased significantly in December and January, compared with previous months, thereby reversing a trend of decreasing civilian casualties throughout 2023. She highlighted the humanitarian impact of the conflict, stating that 40 per cent of the population of Ukraine required humanitarian assistance.

During the discussion that followed, members of the Security Council highlighted the devastating impacts of the conflict. Most Council members advocated for dialogue and diplomacy and called for a cessation of hostilities to end the conflict. They also underscored the need for unhindered access for humanitarian operators, in line with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

The representative of Ukraine participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Threats to international peace and security (anniversary of the Minsk agreements)

On 12 February, the Security Council convened a briefing at the request of the Russian Federation to mark the anniversary of the Minsk agreements. The Council was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the

Americas of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Miroslav Jenča, and heard testimony by videoconference) from Steve Sweeney, a political activist and journalist based in Donetsk.

The Assistant Secretary-General highlighted the efforts being made to resolve the conflict through diplomatic means, noting that the United Nations was not formally a party to any mechanism related to the peace process in Ukraine. He referred to the growing number of civilian casualties sustained in the attacks and the deteriorating humanitarian situation. Mr. Sweeney spoke about the situation in the Donbas region, lamenting what he believed to be the consequences of the failure of the Minsk agreements.

Members of the Security Council addressed the importance of diplomatic engagement in providing an avenue to end the conflict peacefully.

The representatives of Ukraine and Germany participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Maintenance of the peace and security of Ukraine

On 23 February, the Security Council convened a ministerial-level briefing on the maintenance of the peace and security of Ukraine, marking the two-year anniversary of the conflict. The Secretary-General gave a briefing and called for an end to the conflict and a just peace based on the Charter of the United Nations, international law and General Assembly resolutions. He highlighted the deteriorating humanitarian situation that has resulted from the conflict.

A majority of Security Council members lamented the high number of civilian casualties and called for an end to the conflict. Many also commented on the impact of the ongoing conflict.

Ukraine was represented at the meeting by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba. Also addressing the meeting were the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, France, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Portugal, Poland, Germany and Croatia, as well as the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Kosovo

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

On 8 February, the Security Council convened an open briefing following a request from Serbia that was supported by the Russian Federation and China. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, Caroline Ziadeh, gave a briefing. The President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, participated under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure and Albin Kurti participated under rule 39.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General warned that Kosovo's announcement of new regulations on ending the use of the Serbian dinar could exacerbate an environment of insecurity and mistrust in the country. She opined that the move would affect tens of thousands of Kosovo Serbs living in four northern municipalities and, more broadly, the economy, by decreasing their purchasing power.

Concerns were expressed about the potential impact of the new regulations on the minority Serb population. The importance of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue was

underlined as an avenue to resolve the issue and Kosovo was urged to address existing concerns, in accordance with Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).

V. Middle East

Iraq

Threats to international peace and security

On 5 February, an urgent meeting of the Security Council was convened, at the request of the Russian Federation, following retaliatory air strikes launched by the United States of America in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq on 2 February. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

The Under-Secretary-General highlighted that there had been 165 attacks on United States facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, followed by 85 air strikes in the two countries conducted by the United States. She noted the risk of military escalation in the Middle East and appealed to the Security Council to continue engaging actively with all concerned parties to prevent any further escalation that could undermine regional peace and security.

Security Council members echoed the call for the de-escalation of tensions in the Middle East region. Many also underscored the importance of achieving a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.

Representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure and delivered statements.

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

On 6 February, the Security Council met to discuss the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) ([S/2024/96](#)). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, gave a briefing.

The Special Representative warned the Security Council that attacks originating from within and outside Iraq's borders could undo the stability of the country and other achievements made over the past 18 months. She underscored that the groups engaged in the attacks were outside the control of the Government. She called for restraint from all sides, noting that that was crucial to prevent Iraq from being drawn into a wider regional conflict. The Special Representative also announced the conclusion of her tour of duty effective May 2024.

Security Council members spoke of the significant progress made by Iraq in holding elections and instituting economic reforms. There were expressions of support for the work of UNAMI and the importance of respecting the sovereignty of Iraq and the need for discussions to commence on the UNAMI mandate renewal.

The Permanent Representatives of Iraq and Kuwait participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Yemen

Situation in the Middle East (Yemen)

On 14 February, a briefing on the situation in Yemen was convened. The Special Envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, and the Director for Operations and Advocacy of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Edem Wosornu, gave briefings.

The Special Envoy highlighted three immediate needs to address the situation in Yemen, namely, regional de-escalation through the prioritization by the United Nations of diplomatic channels of communication, a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza as called for by the Secretary-General and a refocus by the parties on safeguarding the progress made thus far in reaching a peace agreement.

The Director for Operations and Advocacy noted that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs had highlighted a budgetary shortfall in the funding for its humanitarian appeal in 2023. She voiced concern about the possibility of a return to conflict and underscored Yemen's extreme vulnerability to climate change.

Security Council members expressed concern about the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen and the escalation of tensions in the region. Several members condemned the attacks by the Houthis on vessels in the Red Sea and expressed support for the peace process in Yemen.

The Permanent Representative of Yemen participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure and delivered a statement.

The Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee and Head of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement, Major General Michael Beary, briefed Security Council members during the consultations that followed the briefing.

Syrian Arab Republic

Situation in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

On 27 February, the Security Council met for its monthly briefing on the political and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Geir Pedersen, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, gave briefings at the meetings. The former focused on developments along the political track, while the latter provided an update on the humanitarian situation.

The Special Envoy provided an update on the political negotiations and efforts to resume the meetings of the Constitutional Committee. The Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator informed the Security Council that the humanitarian situation had deteriorated following the 2023 earthquakes. He stated that the outlook in 2024 was bleak, with 16.7 million people currently in need of humanitarian assistance. The need to scale up support for the 2024 humanitarian response plan was also highlighted, along with the need to expand crossline deliveries, especially to the north-western region.

In their interventions, Security Council members focused largely on the need for progress on the road map for a peace process and the need to scale up humanitarian access and support. Many Council members called for the reconvening of the

Constitutional Committee. On the humanitarian front, much emphasis was placed on the need to ensure support for early recovery projects.

The Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Türkiye participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Afghanistan

On 26 February, the Security Council convened a private meeting on the situation in Afghanistan. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs gave a briefing.

The Security Council adopted a communiqué, which was read out by the President.

Palestine

Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 12 February, at the request of Algeria, the Security Council discussed the situation in the Gaza Strip, focusing on developments in Rafah.

On 20 February, the Security Council met to consider a draft resolution tabled by the delegation of Algeria on the situation in Gaza. The draft called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and compliance with obligations under international law. It also rejected the forced displacement of the Palestinian civilian population and demanded, *inter alia*, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

A total of 13 Security Council members voted in favour of the draft resolution. The United States voted against the draft and the United Kingdom abstained. The draft was not adopted, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member.

In their statements of positions, most Security Council members expressed concern over the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and called for an immediate ceasefire.

The representatives of Palestine, Israel, Qatar, Tunisia and Egypt participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

On 22 February, the Security Council met for its monthly meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. Briefings were given by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, Tor Wennesland, and the Secretary General of Médecins sans frontières, Christopher Lockyear.

The Special Coordinator expressed deep concern about a possible full-scale Israeli military operation in Rafah. He stressed the urgency of a deal for a humanitarian ceasefire and the release of hostages. He also described the impediments to humanitarian access in Gaza and urged all concerned to address them. He also spoke of the deteriorating situation in the West Bank, citing a number of fatal incidents and settler violence.

In his briefing, the Secretary General of Médecins sans frontières stated that Palestinians lived in fear of a ground invasion in Rafah. He described the failure of deconfliction and notification systems and said that no health system remained in

Gaza and that there was a lack of basic medical supplies, including anaesthetics. He also stressed the need for a ceasefire.

In their interventions, most Security Council members stressed the need for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and for full humanitarian access to be granted to facilitate aid delivery. Regarding the situation in Rafah, it was stressed that there should be no ground operation. Council members also spoke of the food security crisis in Gaza and the decision by the World Food Programme (WFP) to suspend operations in the north of Gaza owing to heightened security threats. Council members further called for the release of all hostages and emphasized the need to uphold international law and to advance the implementation of the two-State solution.

Press elements were issued on the same day in support of the safety and security of United Nations personnel in Gaza.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 27 February, the Security Council held a briefing under the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” at the request of the informal co-focal points on conflict and hunger, Guyana (in its national capacity) and Switzerland, joined by Algeria and Slovenia, and following the issuance of the note “Protection of civilians in armed conflict – resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#): Update on food security risks in Gaza”.

Briefings were given by the Director for Coordination, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Ramesh Rajasingham, the Deputy Director-General of FAO, Maurizio Martina, and the Deputy Executive Director of WFP, Carl Skau.

The representatives of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, FAO, and WFP noted that from the start of the hostilities in Gaza, following the attacks on 7 October, it was projected that there would be grave impacts on food security. They recalled the projection made in December 2023 that Gaza’s population of 2.2 million people would face high levels of acute food insecurity by February 2024 and said that 576,000 people were now one step away from famine. They also noted that hunger and the risk of famine were exacerbated by other factors, such as inadequate water, sanitation and health-care services.

In their interventions, Security Council members expressed concern about the state of food security in Gaza. Several highlighted the impact that the lack of food was having on children and pregnant women in particular and called upon Israel to comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law. Many condemned Israel’s ongoing hostilities in Gaza, stressed the importance of the work done by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the Gaza Strip and called for scaled-up funding for the Agency and the reversal of decisions taken by some donors to suspend their funding. Several reiterated the need for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Palestine, Israel, Tunisia (on behalf of the Arab Group) and Pakistan also participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the Council’s provisional rules of procedure.

Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 29 February, at the request of Algeria, the Security Council convened closed consultations to discuss the situation in Gaza, including an incident that had occurred earlier that same day and had resulted in civilian deaths.

VI. Africa

Central African Republic

Situation in the Central African Republic

On 21 February, the Security Council convened its bimonthly briefing on the situation in the Central African Republic. Briefings were given by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Valentine Rugwabiza.

The Special Representative noted significant developments on the political track, reporting that President Touadera had chaired a special session of the Executive Monitoring Committee on 6 February to mark the fifth anniversary of its signing. The Special Representative also informed the Security Council of an attack against MINUSCA, which had claimed the life of one peacekeeper from Cameroon. She expressed the need for measures to be put in place to handle the threats posed to peacekeepers from explosive ordnances, while also noting that the Council and wider membership must do its utmost to prevent the transfer of such lethal weapons to other regions of the country.

Security Council members highlighted the importance of making progress in the peace process and of the country achieving stability.

Following the briefing, closed consultations were held.

Democratic Republic of Congo

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 12 February, the Security Council held closed consultations at the request of France. Briefings were given by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, Catherine Pollard. The briefing was requested following a visit by the Under-Secretaries-General to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 1 to 7 February and the worsening situation in the country.

Press elements were issued following the meeting.

Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 20 February, the Security Council convened an open briefing on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo following a request from France. France had requested the meeting as a follow-up to the closed consultations on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) held on 12 February and in the light of the situation in the country, in particular North Kivu. A briefing was given by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MONUSCO, Bintou Keita.

The Special Representative advised that since 28 January, fighting between the Mouvement du 23 mars and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had intensified dramatically. Fighting in Sake in the Goma region was especially intense, and access to territories in Goma under the control of the Mouvement du 23 mars was restricted. Conflict-related sexual violence, internal displacement, the recruitment of children and other human rights violations continued to feature in the country. She highlighted the risk of an expansion of the conflict if

diplomatic efforts did not yield a solution to the current crisis and stressed the need to support the Nairobi and Luanda processes.

Security Council members emphasized the need to resolve the conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and to bring an end to the escalating violence. They condemned the activities of armed groups in the country and called upon external actors to cease providing support to such groups. Some Council members expressed concern about the imminent first phase of the withdrawal of MONUSCO in the light of the current security situation and about the declining humanitarian situation. Some also expressed concern about hate speech targeting the Tutsis and about misinformation and disinformation targeting MONUSCO. They stressed the importance of the Luanda and Nairobi processes.

The Permanent Representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda also participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Libya

Situation in Libya

On 15 February, the Security Council convened its bimonthly briefing on the situation in Libya. A briefing was given by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, and the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya, Ambassador Yamazaki Kazuyuki of Japan, updated the Council on the Committee's work.

The Special Representative updated the Security Council on the recent political, security and humanitarian developments in Libya. He spoke about the political situation in the country, including the efforts towards convening national elections, and explained that the 6+6 Joint Committee had finalized the constitutional and legal framework for elections but that divisions remained among political stakeholders. He also highlighted the arbitrary detention of individuals, including children.

Ambassador Kazuyuki, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya, updated the Security Council on the Committee's work. The report covered the period from 19 December 2023 to 15 February 2024.

Security Council members expressed concern about the political impasse in Libya and called upon all relevant political actors to act in the best interest of the Libyan people. Some Council members also reinforced the importance of integrating women and young people in the political process.

Somalia

Situation in Somalia

On 19 February, the Security Council convened a briefing on the situation in Somalia following the release of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions [2705 \(2023\)](#) and [2710 \(2023\)](#) regarding, inter alia, the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) ([S/2024/129](#)). Briefings were given by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNSOM, Catriona Laing, and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), Mohamed El-Amine Souef.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General focused on political developments, regional developments, security, women and peace and security, human rights, the humanitarian situation and links to climate change, economic development, and transition. She also spoke of the tensions between Ethiopia and Somalia following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the former and the “Somaliland” authorities in January. She stressed the importance of constructive dialogue between the parties to reduce tensions and expressed concern that Al-Shabaab was exploiting the situation as a recruitment tool. She underscored that countering Al-Shabaab remained a high priority and that heavy rains during the reporting period had hampered the fight against the group. The Special Representative also noted that the second phase of the drawdown of ATMIS had been completed.

The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission gave a briefing on the key milestones that Somalia had achieved during the reporting period, including those mentioned by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the convening of the security conference on Somalia in New York and the initiation of the constitutional amendment process.

Security Council members affirmed the achievements of the Government of Somalia during the reporting period. Several expressed concern about tensions between Ethiopia and Somalia and called for respect for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia and for constructive dialogue towards a de-escalation of tensions.

Sudan

Situation in the Sudan

On 27 February, at the request of the United Kingdom, the Security Council discussed the situation in the Sudan under “Other matters” in closed consultations.

VII. Asia

Myanmar

Situation in Myanmar

On 5 February, the Security Council convened a private meeting on the situation in Myanmar at the request of the United Kingdom.

Briefings were given by the Special Envoy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Chair on Myanmar, Alounkeo Kittikhoun, and the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Mohamed Khaled Khiari.

A communiqué was issued after the meeting.
