

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
24 December 2024

Original: English

**Letter dated 24 December 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland 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 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in November 2024 (see annex). The document was prepared by the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, following consultations with other members of the Security Council. However, it should not be considered a consensus document. I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) James **Kariuki**
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 24 December 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern 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 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (November 2024)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Barbara Woodward, the Security Council held 33 meetings, including 23 public meetings, 1 private meeting and 9 closed consultations. The Council adopted four resolutions on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yemen sanctions, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The Council also agreed a presidential statement on the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and issued two press statements, on the attacks against the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and on the anniversary of the Houthis' unlawful detention of the MV *Galaxy Leader* crew.

Thematic and other issues

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 4 November, the Security Council held an emergency briefing on non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the request of the United States of America, France, Japan, Malta, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom in its national capacity. The Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, Khaled Khiari, gave a briefing.

The Assistant Secretary-General expressed serious concern over the latest launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, noting its increased capability and the grave threat to regional stability. He echoed the Secretary-General's strong condemnation of the launch, which was in clear violation of multiple Council resolutions. Many Council members also condemned the launch and called for the cessation of escalatory measures. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

On 26 November, the Security Council held consultations on the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#). The Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, Pascale Baeriswyl, gave a briefing as Chair of the Committee.

Threats to international peace and security: ransomware

On 8 November, the Security Council held a briefing on threats to international peace and security to discuss ransomware attacks against hospitals and other healthcare facilities and services at the request of the United States, France, Japan, Malta, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom in its national capacity. The Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom

Ghebreyesus, and civil society representative and President of Ascension, Eduardo Conrado, each gave a briefing.

The Director-General expressed concern that ransomware and other cyberattacks on hospitals and other healthcare facilities were not just issues of international security – they could also be issues of life and death. He encouraged Member States to invest in technology, including early detection mechanisms, and to strengthen global cooperation frameworks to improve cybersecurity and accountability. Mr. Conrado described the harmful impact of a ransomware attack on his organization, Ascension, and echoed calls for greater international coordination to safeguard against cyberattacks. Council members highlighted their experiences of ransomware attacks, with some calling for greater information-sharing and collaboration to improve cybersecurity and increase the capacity of States to respond to threats. Some Council members urged discussion of the topic in more specialized United Nations forums. The delegation of the European Union to the United Nations participated under Rule 39.

Threats to international peace and security

On 18 November, the Security Council issued a press statement (SC/15904) on the anniversary of the Houthis' unlawful detention of the Galaxy Leader crew. The Council condemned in the strongest terms continued Houthi attacks against commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and called for continued international involvement to avoid further escalation and regional spillover of the conflict.

Briefings by counter-terrorism-related subsidiary bodies

On 14 November, the Security Council held a briefing by the Chairs of the counter-terrorism-related subsidiary bodies. The Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, Vanessa Frazier, gave a briefing as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#), and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities; the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, Amar Bendjama, gave a briefing as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism; and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Ecuador, Andrés Efrén Montalvo Sosa, gave a briefing as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#). Council members expressed support for the Committees' work, with several calling for greater collaboration between the three subsidiary bodies.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict (Security Council resolution [2730 \(2024\)](#))

On 26 November, the Security Council held a briefing on the protection of civilians in armed conflict to discuss the Secretary-General's recommendations on measures to protect, prevent and respond to incidents against humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel, as requested in Council resolution [2730 \(2024\)](#). The Director of Financing and Partnerships of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Lisa Doughten, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, Gilles Michaud, and civil society representative and co-founder of and partner at Humanitarian Outcomes, Abby Stoddard, briefed the Council.

Ms. Doughten highlighted the continued provision by the United Nations of life-saving aid to over 116 million people despite the risks to safety and security, including in Gaza, where more than 330 humanitarian workers had been killed since 7 October 2023. She called for clear condemnation of attacks against aid workers and a more

survivor-centred approach to supporting victims. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security called for greater accountability and for more Member States to join and implement the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and the Optional Protocol thereto. Ms. Stoddard reported that, in 2023, the number of casualties among aid workers was more than double the annual average of the past 10 years, with 2024 already surpassing that number. Council members welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendations, underlined the importance of international humanitarian law and underscored the need to protect humanitarian workers.

Africa

Central African region

On 1 November, the Security Council agreed a presidential statement ([S/PRST/2024/7](#)) on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa. In the statement, the Council expressed concern over the challenging security situation and devastating humanitarian consequences of ongoing violence. The Council also recognized the adverse effects of climate change and their exacerbating effects on food security and other humanitarian, social and economic challenges.

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei/the Sudan and South Sudan

On 5 November, the Security Council held a briefing on the reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan ([S/2024/740](#)). The Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, gave a briefing.

The Assistant Secretary-General highlighted the security, economic and humanitarian impact of the war in the Sudan on the Abyei region, including through increased refugee flows. She noted the lack of progress on dialogue between the Sudan and South Sudan to agree on the final status of Abyei. Council members reiterated their support for the role of UNISFA. Some Council members also expressed concern at the lack of political progress and dialogue. The Sudan and South Sudan participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.

On 14 November, the Security Council adopted resolution [2760 \(2024\)](#), extending the mandate of UNISFA until 15 November 2025. In the resolution, the Council also requested the Secretary-General conduct a strategic review with detailed recommendations regarding the posture of UNISFA and the mission's effectiveness and efficiency by no later than 15 August 2025. A total of 14 Council members voted in favour (Algeria, China, Ecuador, France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States), with 1 abstaining (Russian Federation).

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

On 7 November, the Security Council held a briefing on the reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan ([S/2024/776](#)). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, and civil society representative and Secretary-General of the South Sudan Democratic Engagement, Monitoring and Observation Programme, Merekaje Lorna, briefed the Council.

Before the meeting, the signatories of the shared commitments for the principles of women, peace and security (Ecuador, France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Sierra Leone,

Slovenia, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom and United States) delivered a joint statement expressing their commitment to advancing women's full, equal, meaningful and safe participation and leadership in the peace process of South Sudan and to improving the situation for women and girls on the ground.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General expressed regret that the transitional period in South Sudan had been extended for two years, with elections postponed once more to December 2026, contributing to a further delay in the country's democratic transition. He urged the Government of South Sudan to immediately reconvene the joint task force on constitution-making and elections. Ms. Lorna echoed the disappointment of the Special Representative over the extension of the transitional period and urged greater engagement between the Mission and civil society, stressing the importance of women's inclusion. Some Council members also expressed regret over the two-year extension of the transitional period and urged a clear workplan and timetable for election planning, while some reiterated the importance of a South Sudanese-owned political process. South Sudan participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.

Sudan

On 12 November, the Security Council held a briefing on the reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan, chaired by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom, Lord Collins of Highbury. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, the Director of Coordination of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Ramesh Rajasingham, and civil society representative and founder and President of Darfur Women Action Group, Niemat Ahmadi, briefed the Council.

The Under-Secretary-General called for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the violence and a negotiated political solution. She urged the operationalization of the recommendations for the protection of civilians contained in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2024/759). The Director of Coordination of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs noted that the Sudan was facing the world's largest displacement crisis, compounded by a severe hunger crisis with famine conditions confirmed in Zamzam camp. Ms. Ahmadi called upon the Council to authorize the deployment of a United Nations force to protect civilians, as well as to impose targeted sanctions. Many Council members called for an immediate ceasefire, the protection of civilians and unimpeded humanitarian access. Some Council members expressed concern over foreign interference further impeding peace efforts. Some Council members also welcomed efforts by the Sudanese authorities to facilitate humanitarian access and called for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Sudan to be respected. The Sudan participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.

On 18 November, the Security Council took action on the draft resolution contained in document S/2024/826, as proposed by Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom. The draft resolution received 14 votes in favour (Algeria, China, Ecuador, France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States) and 1 vote against (Russian Federation). The resolution obtained the required number of votes but was not adopted owing to the negative vote of one permanent member of the Council. The Sudan participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

On 14 November, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2759 \(2024\)](#), extending the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic until 15 November 2025. Through the resolution, the Council maintained the protection of civilians, extension of State authority, support to the peace process and the facilitation of humanitarian access as Mission priorities. Also through the resolution, the Council reaffirmed the Mission's assistance to the Government of the Central African Republic in delivering local, presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 2025 and 2026. It further encouraged the Resident Coordinator to work with the United Nations country team to continue to support capacity-building for local businesses with the aim of supporting the country's economic development. The Central African Republic participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.

International Criminal Court, Libya

On 19 November, the Security Council held a briefing on the situation in Libya, to discuss the investigations of the International Criminal Court into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Libya. The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Karim Khan, briefed the Council.

Mr. Khan highlighted the recent unsealing of arrest warrants for six members of a militia linked to the Al-Kaniyat armed group. He reiterated that the Office of the Prosecutor remained on track to complete its investigations by the end of 2025. Most Council members welcomed the progress, with some commending the Office for its cooperation with the Libyan authorities and its engagement with civil society. Libya participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.

Americas

Haiti

On 20 November, the Security Council held a briefing and consultations on the question concerning Haiti at the request of China and the Russian Federation. The Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, Miroslav Jenča, the National Security Advisor to the President of Kenya, Monica Juma, and two civil society representatives, the Director at Centres Gheskio and Clinical Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, Jean William Pape, and journalist, Dan Cohen, briefed the Council.

The Assistant Secretary-General warned that the Multinational Security Support Mission was unable to reach its full potential or sustain its support for the Haitian National Police without an increase in voluntary contributions. He urged a further surge in security and capacity-building support to the Haitian National Police. Ms. Juma echoed the urgent need for greater deployment of security support, with only 16 per cent of planned personnel currently on the ground in Haiti. Mr. Pape called for stronger international intervention to avoid a potential genocide. Mr. Cohen claimed that United Nations involvement in Haiti violated the Charter of the United Nations. Council members expressed concern over the growing gang violence in country, with a range of views on the request by the former President of the Transitional Presidential Council, Edgard Leblanc Fils, for a transition of the Multinational Security Support Mission into a United Nations peacekeeping operation. Many Council members also underscored the importance of the political process and the Haiti sanctions regime.

Haiti, Brazil, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Grenada (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Jamaica, Mexico and Panama participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.

Asia

Myanmar

On 20 November, the Security Council held a private meeting on the situation in Myanmar at the request of the United Kingdom in its national capacity. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Julie Bishop, and the Special Envoy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Chair on Myanmar, Alounkeo Kittikhoun, briefed the Council.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 1 November, the Security Council held a debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the start of the meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2757 \(2024\)](#), renewing the authorization of Member States acting though or in cooperation with the European Union for the stabilization force of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea).

Council members welcomed the renewal of the authorization for EUFOR-Althea as an important tool for maintaining peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider region. Council members also expressed support for the full implementation of the Dayton Agreement. Several Council members expressed concern over secessionist rhetoric that could further delay a reconciliation process. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, while the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations participated under rule 39.

Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine

On 18 November, the Security Council held a high-level briefing on the maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine, chaired by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom, David Lammy. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, briefed the Council.

The Under-Secretary-General called for an end to the war in Ukraine. It had been 1,000 days since the invasion of the Russian Federation, which was in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. She expressed concern at reports of troops from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea being deployed in the Russian Federation and the potential for further escalation. Most Council members reiterated their support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and highlighted the risk of escalation. Ukraine, Czechia, Iceland (on behalf of the Nordic States), Italy, Germany, Lithuania (on behalf of the Baltic States), Poland, Romania and Türkiye participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure. The delegation of the European Union to the United Nations also participated, under rule 39.

On 27 November, the Security Council held a briefing on the maintenance of the peace and security of Ukraine, as requested by Ukraine in line with rule 3 of the provisional rules of procedure. The Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central

Asia and the Americas in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations briefed the Council.

The Assistant Secretary-General expressed concern over recent dangerous escalatory measures, including the use of an intermediate-range ballistic missile by the Russian Federation. He urged parties to de-escalate and called for greater diplomatic efforts to work towards a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in line with the Charter. Most Council members expressed alarm at the intermediate-range ballistic missile launch and condemned attacks against civilian infrastructure. Ukraine, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Poland and Estonia (on behalf of the Baltic States) participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure. The delegation of the European Union to the United Nations also participated, under rule 39.

Middle East

Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 4 November, the Security Council held consultations on the Middle East at the request of the Russian Federation. The Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations briefed the Council.

On 6 November, the Security Council held consultations on the Middle East at the request of Algeria. The Director-General of the World Health Organization briefed the Council.

On 12 November, the Security Council held a briefing on the protection of civilians in armed conflict to discuss the alert under the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification on imminent famine in the Gaza Strip. The meeting was held at the request of Guyana, Switzerland, Algeria, and Slovenia and was chaired by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ilze Brands Kehris, the Director of the Office of Emergencies and Resilience of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Rein Paulsen, and the acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Joyce Msuya, briefed the Council.

The Assistant Secretary-General reiterated that the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare was prohibited under international humanitarian law. She urged Council members to call for unimpeded humanitarian access and the protection of civilians. Mr. Paulsen called for renewed efforts to address conflict-induced food insecurity, noting that the right to food was a human right. The acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator warned that the implementation of the latest Israeli Knesset legislation to ban the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East would further risk efforts to provide humanitarian aid at a time when Israel was blocking assistance from entering North Gaza. Council members expressed support for the Agency's role and warned against using starvation as a method of war. The Observer State of Palestine, Israel and Lebanon participated in the meeting.

On 18 November, the Security Council held a high-level briefing on the situation in the Middle East, chaired by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom. The 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, briefed the Council.

The Special Coordinator warned that the Middle East region was at a crossroads following the expansion of conflict and exchanges of violence and air strikes between States. He called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all hostages and for tangible progress towards a two-State solution. Council members urged greater efforts to ensure a durable and lasting peace in the region, with most echoing the Special Coordinator's call for an immediate ceasefire. The Observer State of Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye and the delegation of the European Union to the United Nations participated in the meeting.

On 19 November, the Security Council held consultations on the Middle East at the request of the United States.

On 20 November, the Security Council took action on the draft resolution contained in document [S/2024/835](#), as proposed by Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and Switzerland. The draft resolution received 14 votes in favour (Algeria, China, Ecuador, France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom) and 1 vote against (United States). The resolution obtained the required number of votes but was not adopted owing to the negative vote of one permanent member of the Council. The Observer State of Palestine and Israel participated in the meeting.

On 25 November, the Security Council held a briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Muhannad Hadi, briefed the Council.

The Deputy Special Coordinator reiterated the Secretary-General's call for an immediate ceasefire and release of hostages, as well as for greater efforts to resolve the conflict and advance a two-State solution. He urged Israel to facilitate unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza and warned against the annexation of the occupied West Bank. Council members echoed the Deputy Special Coordinator's opposition to proposals to annex the West Bank, which would violate international law, and expressed alarm at growing extremist settler violence. The Observer State of Palestine and Israel participated in the meeting.

Yemen

On 5 November, the Security Council held a briefing on the situation in the Middle East. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, Joonkook Hwang, briefed the Council as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#).

On 13 November, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2758 \(2024\)](#), renewing the measures of the sanctions regime under resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) until 15 November 2025 and extending the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Yemen until 15 December 2025. Immediately following the adoption of the resolution, the Council held consultations on the Middle East in relation to Yemen. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, and the Director of Coordination of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs briefed the Council.

Ahead of the meeting, the signatories of the joint pledges on climate, peace and security (France, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States) delivered a joint statement highlighting the links between climate change and the worsening humanitarian situation of Yemen.

Lebanon/report of the Secretary-General on Security Council resolution 1701 (2006)

On 13 November, the Security Council issued a press statement (SC/15897) on the attack against the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Council condemned several incidents that impacted UNIFIL positions and injured UNIFIL peacekeepers and urged all parties to take all measures to respect the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel and premises. The Council reiterated its full support for UNIFIL, underscoring the Force's role in supporting regional stability.

On 19 November, the Security Council held consultations on the report of the Secretary-General on Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). The Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, briefed the Council.

Syrian Arab Republic

On 21 November, the Security Council held a briefing on the situation in the Middle East. The Deputy Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Najat Rochdi, the Director of Operations and Advocacy of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Edem Wosornu, and civil society representative and Chief Executive Officer of Madaniya, Sawsan Abou Zainedin, briefed the Council.

The Deputy Special Envoy expressed concern over growing violence in the Syrian Arab Republic and the increase in Israeli air strikes. She called for a nationwide ceasefire and the resumption of Constitutional Committee meetings. Ms. Wosornu highlighted the high number of refugees fleeing Lebanon into the Syrian Arab Republic despite the risks, including air strikes at the border. Ms. Abou Zainedin said that the international community's inaction helped to enable impunity and obstructed accountability. Council members urged efforts to avoid regional escalation spilling into the Syrian Arab Republic, with many calling for more political progress. The Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Türkiye participated in the meeting under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.
