

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 7 February 2019 from the Permanent Representative of China 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 China in November 2018 (see annex).

The document was prepared by the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations, following consultations with other members of the Security Council, including the members during that month.

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

(Signed) **Ma Zhaoxu**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 7 February 2019 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (November 2018)

Introduction

Under the presidency of China in November 2018, the Security Council held 35 public meetings and informal consultations, adopted six resolutions and agreed on seven press statements.

Africa

Burundi

On 21 November, the Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Michel Kafando, and the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Jürg Lauber (Switzerland). Mr. Kafando focused on recent political, security, human rights and humanitarian developments in the country and said that the situation remained fragile and that it was time for the United Nations, the African Union and other partners to re-evaluate the best way to help Burundi out of the crisis. Mr. Lauber described his visit to the country in early November, agreeing that the overall situation remained calm and emphasizing that the socioeconomic development of the country continued to require more attention and additional efforts. The representative of Burundi also delivered a statement to the Council.

Central African Republic

On 15 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2446 \(2018\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) for one month until 15 December 2018, with the mandate being maintained as set out in resolution [2387 \(2017\)](#). The members of the Council made statements during the meeting in which they expressed their views on the extension of the mandate of MINUSCA.

On 18 November, the Council issued a press statement condemning the attack against a temporary operating base of MINUSCA on 16 November, which resulted in the death of one Tanzanian peacekeeper. The members of the Council reiterated that attacks against peacekeepers may constitute war crimes; reminded all parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law; reiterated their full support for MINUSCA; and expressed their deep appreciation to MINUSCA troop- and police-contributing countries.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 13 November, the Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Leila Zerrougui, and a representative from civil society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo gave a briefing to the Council on the situation in the country. The open briefing was followed by closed consultations. Ms. Zerrougui outlined the recent progress made by the Government and supported by the Mission and other partners and the challenges on the ground, including the increasing number of Ebola cases and the potential for interference in the election by armed groups. The

members of the Council stressed the need for all actors to show a patriotic spirit and to seize the opportunity presented by the 23 December 2018 elections. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo stressed that all activities necessary to hold successful elections in his country on 23 December 2018 had been undertaken in compliance with the published timetable.

On 15 November, the Council promptly issued a statement to the press in which it strongly condemned the attacks perpetrated by armed groups against MONUSCO and expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the fallen soldiers of MONUSCO and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the attacks. The members of the Council reiterated their demand that all armed groups cease all forms of violence immediately, and immediately and permanently disband and lay down their arms.

On 21 November, the Council issued a statement to the press in which it expressed its conviction that the elections of 23 December 2018 were an expression of the sovereignty of the people and Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and constituted a historic opportunity for the first democratic and peaceful transfer of power in the country, the consolidation of stability and the creation of the conditions for its development. The members of the Council welcomed the progress made in the technical preparations for the elections and the efforts of the Government in financing the elections and urged all parties to engage peacefully and constructively to ensuring the success of the electoral process, leading to a peaceful transfer of power.

Libya

On 2 November, the Council held an open meeting and was briefed by the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda. Ms. Bensouda asked the Council to back up its support with effective action, particularly regarding the arrest of outstanding fugitives from justice. Despite previous appeals by Council members and concerted efforts of the Court, none of those indicted for alleged crimes in the events in Libya in 2011 had been arrested. The members of the Council said that ending impunity for grave crimes was necessary to consolidate stability in the troubled country, and welcomed the role of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) in that regard. The representative of Libya also delivered a statement to the Council.

On 5 November, the Council adopted resolution [2441 \(2018\)](#), by which it decided to extend until 15 February 2020 the authorizations provided by and the measures imposed by resolution [2146 \(2014\)](#), and that the authorizations provided by and the measures imposed by that resolution should apply with respect to vessels loading, transporting or discharging petroleum, including crude oil and refined petroleum products, illicitly exported or attempted to be exported from Libya. The resolution reaffirmed that the travel ban and asset freeze measures applied to individuals and entities determined by the Committee to be engaging in or providing support for other acts that threatened the peace, stability or security of Libya, or obstructed or undermined the successful completion of its political transition. The Council also extended until 15 February 2020 the mandate of the Panel of Experts who oversaw the sanctions.

On 8 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNSMIL, Ghassan Salamé, gave a briefing to the Council, which was followed by closed consultations. Mr. Salamé emphasized that armed groups from outside Tripoli should not attempt to invade again. He called for a Libyan-led national conference in early 2019, with a subsequent electoral process to follow. He also urged Member States to support efforts to combat foreign terrorist fighters in the south, including

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) and Al-Qaida. The members of the Council condemned the attack on Tripoli and expressed support for the work of UNSMIL, particularly its efforts to push forward a balanced political resolution. The members of the Council stressed that only through political solutions could sustainable peace be reached in Libya. The representative of Libya stressed that the United Nations Action Plan for Libya must be effectively implemented. He reiterated the negative effects of the freezing of Libyan assets and called for a better mechanism for managing those assets, in conjunction with the Libyan structures to which they belonged.

Peace and security in Africa: Sahel

On 15 November, the Council held an open briefing to hear from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix; the Permanent Secretary of the Group of Five for the Sahel, Maman Sidikou; the African Union High Representative for Mali and the Sahel, Pierre Buyoya; and the European Union Deputy Secretary-General for Common Security and Defence Policy and Crisis of the European External Action Service, Pedro Serrano. The briefers commended the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel for its courageous work in difficult and dangerous conditions and expressed concern about a deadly terrorist attack in June 2018 on the headquarters of the Joint Force. They called upon the international community to provide financial support to the Joint Force and upon the donors to meet their pledges. They also echoed the Secretary-General's recommendation to place the Joint Force under the umbrella of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, thereby providing more sustainable resources and strengthening the Council's involvement in its work. The members of the Council expressed support to the Joint Force and elaborated their respective positions towards related issues. On the same day, the Council issued a statement to the press on the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.

Peace and security in Africa: strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa

On 20 November, the Council held an open debate on strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa, initiated by China. The Council heard briefings by Secretary-General António Guterres and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Smaïl Chergui, who participated by videoconference. The Secretary-General noted that the close collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union across the continent had become increasingly important. He emphasized the need to build capacity in order to enable Africa to play its full role in that context, and to improve funding methods, calling for African-led peace operations acting under the Council's authority to be provided with strong mandates and predictable, sustainable and flexible finance, including through United Nations assessed contributions where appropriate. Mr. Chergui said that the African Union had spared no effort in expediting priorities to strengthen its partnership with United Nations peacekeeping, including through the launch of the revitalized Peace Fund on 17 November 2018, noting that African Union member States had contributed \$60 million. He called upon the Council to adopt a draft resolution on the need for the African Union to gain access to United Nations assessed contributions for operations authorized by the Council, on a case-by-case basis. The representatives of Council members and other member States expressed strong support for building African peacekeeping capacity and for strengthening the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations.

Somalia/Eritrea

On 5 November, the Council was briefed by the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [751 \(1992\)](#) and [1907 \(2009\)](#) concerning Somalia and Eritrea and held closed consultations on the work of the Committee. The members of the Council welcomed the positive progress made in the Horn of Africa and called upon relevant countries of the region to continue to engage with each other and solve their outstanding issues with a view to sustaining those recent gains and ensuring peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

On 6 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2442 \(2018\)](#), by which it decided to renew for 13 months authorizations allowing international naval forces to join in the fight against piracy in the waters off the coast of Somalia.

On 10 November, the Council swiftly issued a statement to the press in which it condemned in the strongest possible terms the terrorist attacks of 9 November 2018, which killed and injured innocent Somalis. It expressed its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to the people and Government of Somalia, and underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of those reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice.

On 14 November, the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, unanimously adopted resolution [2444 \(2018\)](#), by which it lifted the arms embargoes, travel bans, assets freezes and targeted sanctions previously imposed on Eritrea, while renewing its sanctions imposed on Somalia, and the provisions set out in paragraph 2 of resolution [2142 \(2014\)](#) until 15 November 2019. By the same resolution, the Council decided to terminate the mandate of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea and to replace it with the Panel of Experts on Somalia, whose mandate would end on 15 December 2019. Following the adoption of the resolution, most Council members took the floor and welcomed the resolution as a means to encourage the positive momentum in the Horn of Africa. The representative of Eritrea emphasized that the lifting of sanctions marked an end to a difficult period for his country and the region. The representative of Djibouti welcomed the lifting of sanctions on Eritrea and urged Council members to ensure that the current momentum be maintained in order to transform the region for the better. The representative of Somalia reiterated his request that sanctions against his own country be lifted.

Sudan, South Sudan and Abyei

On 15 November, the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, unanimously adopted resolution [2445 \(2018\)](#), by which it decided to extend until 15 May 2019 the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and decrease the authorized troop ceiling of UNISFA from 4,500 to 4,140 while increasing its authorized police ceiling from 50 to 345.

South Sudan

On 16 November, the Council held an open briefing on the situation in South Sudan with Mr. Lacroix; Mr. Chergui, by videoconference; and the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. The three briefed the Council on their joint visit to South Sudan from 7 to 9 October 2018. Mr. Lacroix said that the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan by the parties was followed by confidence-building measures and preliminary meetings on implementation, but there remained deep challenges. He called upon the Council and the regional partners to ensure accountability. Mr. Chergui said that both the African Union and the United Nations were duty-bound to engage the Government

to emphasize the need to implement the Agreement through coordinated actions. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka stressed that women must play leadership roles from the beginning to ensure that institutions were reconstituted in a gender-sensitive way that focused on the protection of civilians from all forms of violence. The members of the Council welcomed the Revitalized Agreement and its requirement for women's involvement, while expressing concern over the remaining challenges on the ground. They called for all parties to immediately observe the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access, signed in December 2017, without delay and urged the Council and the African Union to ensure accountability by remaining closely focused on the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. The representative of South Sudan recalled the statement made by the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, on 15 September 2018 pledging to implement the Revitalized Agreement in good faith and appealing for forgiveness and reconciliation among the people of South Sudan.

Middle East

Iraq

On 13 November, the Council held an open meeting and was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Ján Kubiš. Updating the Council on the latest report of the Secretary-General on the issue, Mr. Kubiš welcomed the exemplary peaceful transfer of power in which the political blocs had demonstrated a willingness to act in support of the Prime Minister of Iraq, Adil Abd Al-Mahdi. On outstanding issues from the invasion by Iraq of Kuwait, he said that in November numerous items of property had been returned and the new Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq had assured him that attention would be given to clearing up remaining issues. The members of the Council welcomed the formation of the new Government of Iraq and its reported intention to improve the daily lives of Iraqis. They urged the new Government to work without delay to provide services and to make necessary reforms in governance, economy and security to prevent the resurgence of ISIL/Da'esh and impunity for past crimes.

Lebanon

On 21 November, the Council held closed consultations on the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and was briefed by the Acting Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Pernille Dahler Kardel, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Bintou Keita. The members of the Council reiterated their full support for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and condemned the attack against UNIFIL on 4 August 2018. They also called upon all parties in Lebanon to accelerate their efforts to form an inclusive government.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 13 November, the Council discussed the situation in Gaza in closed consultations under "Any other business". The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Miroslav Jenča, briefed the Council on the recent deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip. With the efforts of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Egypt, a precarious calm had been restored. He underscored the need for efforts by all concerned parties to avoid another war and to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The members of the Council expressed concerns on the latest situation and urged all relevant parties to exercise maximum restraint and restore calm in Gaza.

On 19 November, the Council held an open meeting and was briefed by 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, Nickolay Evtimov Mladenov, by videoconference. Mr. Mladenov recalled that the conflict between 11 and 13 November 2018 had been one of the fiercest exchanges of fire since the 2014 Gaza conflict. He welcomed the restoration of a precarious calm and urged all stakeholders to support it as a matter of priority. The members of the Council expressed concerns on escalating inflammatory rhetoric and calls to violence and called upon all parties to keep calm.

The situation in the Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

On 5 November, the Council held an open meeting and heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu. She said that the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) had noted that the outstanding issues regarding the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic on chemical weapons remained unresolved. The OPCW fact-finding mission had continued its work in relation to the alleged use of toxic chemicals as a weapon in Duma, and a final report would be issued in due course. The members of the Council reiterated their strong condemnation of the use of chemical weapons or chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, stressing that perpetrators should be held accountable, and looked forward to the final report on the Duma incident. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic also delivered a statement to the Council.

On 16 November, the Council discussed the health-care conditions in the Syrian Arab Republic in closed consultations. The representative of the World Health Organization in the country, Elizabeth Hoff, briefed the Council members on the severe conditions in the health-care sector. The members of the Council expressed grave concern over the health situation and called for intensified efforts in addressing the problems in obtaining medical care, medicine and medical equipment. Some members called upon all Syrian parties to cease targeting medical facilities and medical personnel.

On 19 November, the Council held an open meeting and received a briefing, by videoconference, from the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura. He reported on the recent summit in Istanbul involving representatives of the Astana guarantors – Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation and Turkey – as well as members of the so-called Small Group on Syria, which included Egypt, France, Germany, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States. In the resulting declaration of the summit, representatives urged full implementation of the memorandum on the stabilization of the situation in the Idlib de-escalation area, which created a ceasefire in that province, and called for the constitutional committee to be convened by the end of 2018 in order to drive constitutional reform, paving the way for elections. He said that resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#) was explicitly prefaced by a strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and it made clear that the process must be Syrian-owned and Syrian-led. The United Nations had a mandate to convene the political process, and the weeks ahead were crucial in that regard. The members of the Council expressed support for the convening of the constitutional committee and for full implementation of Council resolutions on a political resolution of the Syrian crisis. They also called for the continuation and reinforcement of the Idlib ceasefire, underlining that the momentum from that agreement must not be lost in moving towards a comprehensive peace in the country. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic also delivered a statement to the Council.

On 29 November, the Council held an open meeting on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, followed by closed consultations. During the open session, the Director of the Operations and Advocacy Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Reena Ghelani, provided an update. She expressed concerns on the situation and the violence in the north-west, including a report of shells containing chlorine gas hitting three densely populated neighbourhoods in western Aleppo. On average, the United Nations and its implementing partners reached almost 5.4 million people with humanitarian assistance each month in 2018. She underlined the need to renew the decisions set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#) for a further period of 12 months. Council members exchanged views on the overall humanitarian situation throughout the Syrian Arab Republic and discussed the renewal of the mandate contained in Council resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#).

The situation in the Middle East (Yemen)

On 16 November, the Council held a briefing on the situation in the Middle East (Yemen). The Council heard briefings from the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths; the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock; and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, David Beasley. Mr. Griffiths briefed the Council on his efforts to bring Yemeni parties together to resolve their differences through consultations in Sweden in the coming weeks, including through an updated version of the framework for negotiations, which might evolve into an agreed road map towards a transitional agreement. He reiterated the need for the parties to get together without conditions and called upon all parties to seize this important opportunity at a crucial moment to pursue a comprehensive and inclusive political settlement to the conflict. He hoped that there would be no acts or omissions that would prevent the convening of the parties for Yemeni consultations in Sweden. Mr. Lowcock once again warned that the grave economic crisis and escalating conflict had pushed Yemen closer to famine than ever before. He reiterated the urgent need for the Council to take immediate action in response to the five requests he had made with the aim of saving the lives of millions of Yemenis, sparing them from an entirely avoidable catastrophe. Mr. Beasley said that the situation in Yemen was catastrophic, in particular with regard to the deteriorating food security situation in the country, where half of the entire population was only one step away from famine. He called upon the international community to scale up assistance. A civil society representative also presented views on the situation in Yemen and appealed for action.

The members of the Council reiterated their support for a political solution as the only way to end the conflict in Yemen, expressed support for the framework for negotiations suggested by the Special Envoy and called upon all parties concerned to engage constructively with the Special Envoy in that regard with a view to resuming the next round of talks in Sweden as soon as possible. They took note of the reduction in conflicts in Hudaydah and called upon all parties to the conflict to continue to de-escalate tensions, expressed grave concerns about the devastating humanitarian crisis in Yemen, including the alarming threat of famine, and reiterated their call upon all parties to provide safe, rapid, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access and for the immediate mobilization of additional financial support to cover acute humanitarian needs and avoid further deterioration of the economy, including delivering a larger and faster injection of foreign currency. The representative of Yemen also delivered a statement to the Council.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 6 November, the Council held the biannual debate on Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, provided a briefing on the latest report of the Office of the High Representative. The Council unanimously adopted resolution [2443 \(2018\)](#), by which it renewed for 12 months the authorization of the multinational stabilization force (EUFOR-Althea), led by the European Union. The members of the Council urged the parties to engage constructively on swift government formation at all levels and to prioritize the implementation of comprehensive reforms, in an inclusive manner, to the benefit of all citizens and in line with the common interests of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

Provisional agenda

On 26 November, the Council held a procedural vote on whether to hold a discussion on “Maintenance of international peace and security: violation of the borders of the Russian Federation”. The proposal was rejected by seven Council members, with four in favour and four abstentions.

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

On 26 November, the Council held a briefing under the item entitled “Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#))”. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, delivered a briefing. The members of the Council called for renewed and constructive action by all parties concerned to find a peaceful settlement to the situation.

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

On 14 November, the Council held a briefing on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, Zahir Tanin, briefed the Council on recent developments and the latest report of the Secretary-General. The members of the Council called upon both Belgrade and Pristina to continue the European Union-facilitated high-level dialogue, implement the previous agreements and make progress in reaching a mutually acceptable and lasting solution, which was in the interest of maintaining the security and stability of the Balkan region and of Europe as a whole.

Thematic and other issues

Maintenance of international peace and security: strengthening multilateralism and the role of the United Nations

On 9 November, the Council held an open debate on strengthening multilateralism and the role of the United Nations, initiated by China. For the first time in United Nations history, heads of major United Nations agencies established under the Charter – the Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres; the acting President of the General Assembly, Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani; the President of the Economic and Social Council, Inga Rhonda King; and the President of the International Court of

Justice, Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf – gathered in the Council and delivered statements and shared their views on multilateralism and the role of the United Nations. More than 70 countries and international organizations were represented at the event. The representatives of Council members and other Member States all regarded multilateralism as a must. They reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and called upon the parties to uphold multilateralism, strengthen the United Nations and jointly meet global challenges.

Non-proliferation: Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 8 November, the Council held closed consultations of the whole on the issue of sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under "Any other business" at the request of the Russian Federation. The members of the Council exchanged views on the impact of the sanction measures on the humanitarian situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

On 21 November, the Council held closed consultations. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#), Karel J. G. van Oosterom, briefed the Council on the Committee's activities during the period from 30 August 2018 to 21 November 2018, in accordance with paragraph 12 (g) of resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#). The Deputy Director of Operations and Advocacy covering Asia and the Pacific in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Ingrid Macdonald, briefed the Council on the humanitarian situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including on the implementation of humanitarian exemptions and assistance in the country. The members of the Council exchanged views on the work of the Committee and the development of the situation on the Korean Peninsula. They attached importance to alleviating the humanitarian situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, welcomed the positive momentum of dialogue and détente in 2018, supported realizing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and reaffirmed that the Security Council resolutions related to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should be implemented comprehensively, fully and accurately.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 20 November, the Council issued a statement to the press condemning the terrorist attack that took place in Kabul. The members of the Council also expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of Afghanistan, urged all States to cooperate actively with the Government of Afghanistan and all other relevant authorities and reaffirmed the need for all States to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations under international law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

On 24 November, the Council issued a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly attack against the Consulate General of China in Karachi, Pakistan, on 23 November 2018 and the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack at a market in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan on the same day. They appreciated the swift response of the Pakistani authorities, stressed the fundamental principle of the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises and reaffirmed the need for all States to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter and other obligations under international law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

United Nations peacekeeping operations: police commissioners

On 6 November, the Council held its annual dialogue with police commissioners of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Council was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Alexander Zouev, and three United Nations police commissioners, namely Unaisi Lutu Vuniwaqa of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, Awale Abdounasir of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Serge Therriault of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, as well as a civil society representative. The briefers focused on gender-responsive policing, preventing and addressing serious and organized crime and strengthening the rule of law. The members of the Council recognized that police work was a crucial part of United Nations peacekeeping and commended the police components in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their work. Some emphasized national ownership and building law enforcement capacity in fragile countries as the most critical work, along with having a clear strategy to hand over responsibility to national forces.
