

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 2 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of July 2019 during Peru's presidency of the Security Council (see annex).

The assessment was prepared by the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations, following consultations with other members of the Council.

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

(Signed) Néstor **Popolizio**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 2 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Peru (July 2019)

Introduction

In July 2019, under the presidency of Peru, the Security Council held 20 public meetings and 9 closed consultations. During the closed consultations, two additional issues were discussed under the item “Other matters”. The Council adopted three resolutions and issued seven press statements.

Among the public meetings, two open debates were held. On 9 July, the Council held an open debate entitled “Threats to international peace and security: linkages between international terrorism and organized crime”. On 23 July, the Council held its quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

From 11 to 14 July, a Council mission, jointly led by Peru and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, visited Colombia. Council members met with government representatives, including a working breakfast with the President, Iván Duque Márquez, members of Congress, members of the political party People’s Alternative Revolutionary Force (FARC), the United Nations country team and representatives of civil society. The meetings provided the opportunity to listen to the concerns and aspirations of the parties involved in the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace.

In accordance with Council practice, Peru began its presidency with the presentation of the provisional programme of work for the month, which was approved on 1 July in closed consultations.

Also on 1 July, Peru held informal meetings with States Members of the United Nations and with the United Nations Correspondents Association to present the monthly programme of work.

Middle East

Syrian Arab Republic

On 3 July, the Council held closed consultations to discuss the content of the sixty-ninth monthly report of the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons ([S/2019/541](#), enclosure), with the participation of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu.

On 18 July, the Council held closed consultations on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, under the item entitled “Other matters”. The Council received a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock.

On 30 July, the Council held a briefing on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. Council members received information from the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and from the Director of International Policy and Partnerships at Physicians for Human Rights, Susannah Sirkin.

Yemen

On 15 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2481 \(2019\)](#), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement until 15 January 2020.

On 18 July, the Council held a briefing on the situation in Yemen. The Council received information from the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths; the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, David Beasley. The Special Envoy provided details on the current status of the implementation of the 2018 Stockholm Agreement and on a meeting between representatives of the Government of Yemen and the Houthis, held off the coast of Hudaydah, in the Red Sea. The Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme referred to the humanitarian situation in Yemen and to difficulties observed in the provision of humanitarian assistance. Many Council members urged the parties to respect the ceasefire and to commit themselves to the political solution promoted by the United Nations.

Lebanon

On 22 July, the Council held closed consultations to discuss the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) during the period from 18 February to 24 June 2019 ([S/2019/574](#)). Members heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and by the Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Ján Kubiš.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 23 July, the Council held its quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. Members received a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, who referred to the exacerbation of extremism and tensions in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as the need, in that context, to shape an enabling environment for Israelis and Palestinians to return to the negotiating table to resolve the conflict, in accordance with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and previous agreements. She pointed out that leadership, political will and determination were required to achieve tangible progress. Forty-seven speakers delivered statements.

The Americas*Colombia*

From 11 to 14 July, the members of the Council visited Colombia. The purpose of the visit was to reaffirm the Council's commitment to the peace process in that country and its support for the implementation of the Final Agreement, to better understand the aspirations and concerns of the parties to the Agreement and to observe and support the efforts of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia in the implementation of its mandate.

The mission was co-led by the Permanent Representative of Peru, Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, and by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, Jonathan Allen.

It was the second visit of the members of the Council to Colombia, following that in May 2017. In Bogotá, they met with high representatives of the Government, who included the President; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Carlos Holmes Trujillo;

the Presidential Adviser for Stabilization and Consolidation, Emilio Archila; and other officials responsible for the implementation of the Final Agreement. The members of the Council also met with leaders of the FARC political party, members of the peace commissions of the Colombian Congress, leaders of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition institutions, representatives of civil society and the United Nations country team.

The agenda included a working visit to the Department of Cauca, in southwestern Colombia, where meetings were held with community leaders and representatives of non-governmental organizations, and a visit was made to a territorial area for training and reintegration.

On 19 July, the Council held a meeting entitled “Briefing by Security Council mission to Colombia (11 to 14 July 2019)”. A briefing was held on the same day on the issue of “Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2016/53)”, in which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, Carlos Ruiz Massieu, referred to document [S/2019/530](#), which contained the report of the Secretary-General on the Mission.

Haiti

On 22 July, the Council held closed consultations to discuss the situation in Haiti. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), Helen Meagher La Lime, delivered a briefing on the most recent report of the Secretary-General on MINUJUSTH ([S/2019/563](#)).

The Special Representative stressed the support that MINUJUSTH had been providing to the Government of Haiti in order to overcome the political, financial and security difficulties in the country.

Many members of the Council expressed their support for the work of the Special Representative and stressed the need to preserve the political and institutional progress accomplished in Haiti in recent years, especially in the light of the upcoming transition to a non-peacekeeping United Nations presence in the country.

Africa

Libya

On 3 July, the Council held closed consultations on the situation in Libya, following an air strike on a migrant detention centre that left 53 migrants dead and more than 130 injured. The members were given briefings by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

The Council issued a press statement (SC/13873) in which it condemned the attack on the detention centre and called upon all parties to de-escalate the situation and to commit themselves to a ceasefire. In the press statement, the importance of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Libya was also reaffirmed, and all Member States were urged to fully respect the arms embargo, in accordance with resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#).

On 29 July, the Council held a briefing followed by closed consultations on the situation in Libya. A presentation was made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Ghassan Salamé, who provided details on the continuing violence in Libya and on the efforts

to promote a political solution. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) concerning Libya, Jürgen Schulz (Germany), also gave a briefing to the members. He recalled Member States' obligation to fully implement the sanctions regime.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 24 July, the Council held a briefing on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Leila Zerrougui, who provided details on the political, humanitarian and security situation in the country.

The Permanent Representative of Kuwait, Mansour Alotaibi, also delivered a briefing in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He referred to a field visit at the beginning of 2019 and indicated that various stakeholders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo considered it necessary to update the sanctions list.

Council members welcomed the efforts of the President, Félix Tshisekedi, to improve relations with neighbouring states in the Great Lakes region and expressed concern about security conditions in the country and the Ebola outbreak, among other issues.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

On 24 July, the Council held a briefing on the peace consolidation process in West Africa, at which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas, referred to the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOWAS ([S/2019/549](#)).

The Special Representative provided details about the continuing violence in the Sahel and the serious humanitarian crisis that it entailed. He also gave a briefing on the most recent electoral processes in Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal and on political developments in Benin, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia and Togo.

Many members of the Council recognized the important preventive work carried out by UNOWAS, as well as the good offices undertaken by the Special Representative. They also highlighted the importance of international accompaniment in the next electoral processes in the region, especially by Governments and regional institutions.

Europe

Ukraine

On 16 July, the Council held a briefing on the situation in Ukraine. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Lamberto Zannier, referred to the entry into force of a law that guaranteed the use of the Ukrainian language as a State language and to the political and security situation in Ukraine.

Cyprus

On 19 July, the Council held closed consultations to discuss the negotiation process on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2019/562). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Elizabeth Spehar, gave a briefing to the members.

Many members of the Council expressed concern about the lack of significant progress in the political process since 2017 and called for the reduction of tensions in the eastern Mediterranean region.

On 25 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2483 (2019), which provided for the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP until 31 January 2020.

Asia

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

On 2 July, the Council held closed consultations, with the participation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, Natalia Gherman. The Special Representative stressed that relations between the countries of the region were developing positively, with stronger ties in the realm of cooperation. She added that important challenges remained, such as efficient management of transboundary waters, terrorist activities and migration.

Many members of the Council reiterated their support for the work of the Regional Centre and stressed the importance of addressing the aforementioned challenges with a regional approach.

Myanmar

On 2 July, the Council held closed consultations under the item “Other matters” and discussed the situation in Myanmar. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, informed the Council of recent developments regarding the repatriation of displaced persons.

Many members of the Council welcomed the efforts of the Special Envoy and conveyed their expectations of achieving concrete results in the aforementioned repatriation process.

Afghanistan

On 26 July, the Council held a briefing on Afghanistan, following a field visit of the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the representative of the Afghanistan section of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Jamila Afghani, also participated.

The members of the Council stressed the importance of the issue of women and peace and security in Afghanistan. The challenges to Afghanistan and the region posed by illicit drugs and terrorism were also addressed, as was the presidential election process in the country.

Thematic issues

Threats to international peace and security

On 9 July, the Council held an open debate entitled “Threats to international peace and security: linkages between international terrorism and organized crime”. The Council heard briefings by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov; the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Michèle Coninsx; and an international consultant for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, Tamara Makarenko. The meeting was based on the letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/537). During the debate, 56 speakers delivered statements.

On 15 July, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Adviser and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Karim Asad Ahmad Khan, who referred to the second report on the activities of the Investigative Team (S/2019/407).

On 19 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2482 (2019) on the linkages between international terrorism and organized crime. On the occasion, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, Néstor Popolizio, thanked the Member States for their support for the initiative of Peru, which was aimed at providing the international community with a new tool to address such potential security threats, in line with the obligations of States under international law.

United Nations peacekeeping operations

On 10 July, the Council held a debate entitled “United Nations peacekeeping operations: strengthening triangular cooperation”. The Council received briefings from the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations; the Force Commander of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, Lieutenant General Dennis Gyllensporre; and the Senior Fellow at the Brian Urquhart Center on Peace Operations of the International Peace Institute, Alexandra Novosseloff. The debate was based on the letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/538).

In the course of the debate, the participating countries agreed on the importance of making further progress in triangular cooperation, in view of the high complexity of the environments in which peace operations were currently deployed and the risks that that situation posed to the protection of the staff. It was also indicated that such cooperation had not yet reached its maximum potential, and specific proposals were presented towards achieving that objective.

Overall, the briefers, members of the Council and invited countries underlined the benefits in terms of the greater efficiency of peace operations that came with optimized triangular cooperation. It was indicated that such cooperation provided well-defined mandates and better adaptation to different realities on the ground, and contributed to more adequate planning of peace operations, an accurate assessment of their performance and a better understanding among the stakeholders.

Youth and peace and security

On 17 July, the Council held a briefing on the topic “Maintenance of international peace and security: implementation of the youth and peace and security agenda”. The Council heard briefings by the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake; the Programme Coordinator of HAKI Africa,

Wevyn Muganda; and the Executive Director of Afghans for Progressive Thinking, Sofia Ramyar. The meeting was based on the letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([S/2019/539](#)).

The members of the Council underlined, among other aspects, the importance of fostering youth inclusion and participation in peace and security matters, tackling the root causes of conflicts and providing better education and decent employment for young people.

International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

On 17 July, the Council held a debate based on the letter dated 20 May 2019 from the President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2019/417](#)). On the occasion, the President of the Mechanism, Judge Carmel Agius, joined by its Prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, referred to the fourteenth report of the Mechanism, prepared in compliance with the provisions of Council resolution [1966 \(2010\)](#). The debate was also attended by representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Rwanda and Serbia, in accordance with article 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

On 18 July, the Council held a briefing entitled "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: strengthening partnerships for successful nationally owned transitions". The Council heard remarks by the Secretary-General, who stressed that the Organization's transitions to special political missions offered hope, but also carried risks, as it was possible that the international community might pay less attention to the country concerned, which could lead to a resurgence of conflicts that reversed the progress made over decades.

The Senior Director of the Fragility, Conflict, and Violence Group of the World Bank, Franck Bousquet; the Director of the Transition States Coordination Office of the African Development Bank Group, Yero Baldeh; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, also gave briefings to the Council. The meeting was based on the letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([S/2019/540](#)). The briefing was attended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Haiti, Bocchit Edmond, and the Minister for Legal Reforms and Parliamentary Affairs of Timor-Leste, Fidelis Leite Magalhães, in accordance with article 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.