25. The situation concerning Iraq

During 2018, the Security Council held five meetings and adopted one resolution in connection with the situation concerning Iraq. With the unanimous adoption of resolution 2421 (2018), the Council renewed the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) for a period of 10 months, until 31 May 2019. Except for one, all meetings under this item during the period under review took the form of briefings. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During the period under review, the Council heard briefings on a quarterly basis by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI on the situation in Iraq. Against the backdrop of the defeat of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da’esh), the Special Representative briefed the Council on the holding and status of parliamentary elections, as well as on the activities of UNAMI in the areas of political dialogue and national reconciliation. In that regard, the Special Representative noted that the voluntary and dignified return of internally displaced persons, under conditions of safety and security, was critical for the success and credibility of the elections. He also briefed the Council on the public protests following allegations of electoral fraud and mismanagement of the parliamentary elections. The Special Representative also made reference to the question of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and property. During his final briefing to the Council, the Special Representative reported that 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 had arrived in Iraq on 30 October.

The Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate gave one briefing to the Council, on the joint visit to Iraq in March 2018 and the dispatch of a joint scoping mission by the Office and the Executive Directorate at the beginning of May 2018 to identify specific elements of programmatic support to the Government of Iraq.

The Permanent Observer and Head of the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the United Nations also gave one briefing to the Council, on the topic of missing persons from the 1991 Gulf War and the work of the tripartite mechanism, chaired by ICRC, to trace the persons still unaccounted for as a result of the conflict. At the same meeting, a representative of the Women Empowerment Organization in Iraq and coordinator of the Iraqi cross-sector task force for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) gave a briefing to the Council on the situation of women in Iraq and the work of the task force in its development of a national action plan. At the five above-mentioned meetings, Council members discussed the progress of national elections, the overall political process and the reconstruction efforts in the context of the progressive liberation and recovery of territories that were under the control of...
ISIL (Da’esh). In that regard, certain Council members expressed their support for the Investigative Team and called upon the Government of Iraq to cooperate with it. Council members also focused on the humanitarian issues faced by the country, including the return of internally displaced persons.

At its 8285th meeting, on 14 June 2018, the Council renewed the mandate of UNAMI for a period of 10 months, until 31 May 2019, by resolution 2421 (2018), adopted unanimously. As explained in the meeting, the decision to extend the mandate for a period of 10 months was made to better align mandate renewals with the budget cycle, in keeping with the findings of the independent external assessment of UNAMI. In the resolution, the Council welcomed the results of the assessment, and decided that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and UNAMI, taking into account the views of the Government of Iraq, would prioritize the provision of advice, support and assistance on advancing inclusive political dialogue and national and community-level reconciliation. In addition, the Council decided that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNAMI would further advise, support and assist the Government of Iraq, inter alia, on the development of processes for holding elections and on constitutional review, as well as approaching gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and advising the Government in ensuring the participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels.

The security situation in Iraq and the threat posed by ISIL (Da’esh) were also considered by the Council under the items entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts” and “Maintenance of international peace and security”.

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416 Resolution 2421 (2018), para. 5. For more information on the mandate of UNAMI, see part X, sect. II.
418 Resolution 2421 (2018), para. 2 (a).
419 Ibid., paras. 2 (b) and (e).
420 For further details, see part I, sects. 31 and 37.

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Meetings: the situation concerning Iraq

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting record and date</th>
<th>Sub-item</th>
<th>Rule 37 invitations</th>
<th>Rule 39 and other invitations</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tr>
<td>S/PV.8184 20 February 2018</td>
<td>Seventeenth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2018/40)</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq</td>
<td>Six Council members, all invitees</td>
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<td>Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2367 (2017) (S/2018/42)</td>
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<tr>
<td>S/PV.8271 30 May 2018</td>
<td>Eighteenth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2107 (2013) (S/2018/353)</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Executive Directorate, Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism</td>
<td>Five Council members (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Peru, United States), all invitees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thematic issues

26. United Nations peacekeeping operations

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings, adopted two resolutions and issued one presidential statement in connection with the item entitled “United Nations peacekeeping operations”. Two of the meetings took the form of briefings, three were convened for the adoption of a decision and, of the remaining two, one was a debate and the other an open debate. The open debate was a high-level meeting to discuss collective action to improve United Nations peacekeeping, while the debate was the first annual meeting on the reform of peacekeeping held pursuant to resolution 2378 (2017).

For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.