14. The situation in Mali

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings and adopted two resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter in connection with the situation in Mali. Except for two meetings convened to adopt the decisions of the Council, all other meetings under this item took the form of briefings.\(^\text{205}\) The Council also met once with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).\(^\text{206}\) More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

The Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of MINUSMA, both invited under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure. In 2018, the discussions in the Council were focused on the delays in the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali of 2015, the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the country, the operationalization of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the additional support required, and the presidential elections, which were held in July and August 2018.

On 23 January 2018, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who reported on the timeline for the implementation of urgent measures within the framework of the peace agreement. He emphasized the importance for the Government and the signatory movements to make every effort to respect the new timetable. He also reported on the increasing insecurity in the northern and central parts of the country and noted the worsening human rights and humanitarian situation. He welcomed the progress made in the operationalization of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel during 2018 and informed the Council that, in spite of the capability gaps of

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\(^{205}\) For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

\(^{206}\) Held on 7 June 2018 under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B”; see S/PV.8281.
MINUSMA, the Mission was pursuing its efforts to project a robust posture and undertaking all necessary measures to implement the recommendations outlined in the review on peacekeeping fatalities conducted by Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz. He also made reference to the mission-wide prioritization and transition plans in the context of a strategic review of the Mission.207

On 11 April 2018, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Council further to the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali.208 He focused on the implementation of the peace agreement and described the role of MINUSMA in strengthening the capacities of the regional authorities in the north and centre of the country, providing electoral assistance and providing support to the Specialized Judicial Unit to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime. The Special Representative also informed the Council about the support provided by MINUSMA to the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel further to the tripartite technical arrangement signed on 23 February 2018. He also referred to the establishment of the International Commission of Inquiry on Mali and to the work of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission as mechanisms that complemented the monitoring architecture of the peace agreement.209 At the meeting, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) concerning Mali also briefed the Council on the activities of the Committee and the Panel of Experts on Mali and on the visit to Bamako on 26 and 27 March 2018.210

On 14 June 2018, further to the report of the Secretary-General,211 the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported that, while progress in the peace process had been achieved since the adoption of resolution 2364 (2017), the security environment remained volatile, with a total of 101 blue helmets having lost their lives since the deployment of MINUSMA.212 He also reported on the political tensions fuelled by the presidential election and clarified that, while the Special Representative’s good offices had helped to ease tensions, the United Nations was not in a position to certify the election results since that activity was not part of the mandate of MINUSMA. He also referred to the recommendations of the independent strategic review and, in that regard, noted that the United Nations country team would take the lead in humanitarian, recovery, development and peacebuilding efforts and enhance its presence in the north and centre of the country and that MINUSMA would adjust its role with the goal of underscoring the primacy of politics, which would involve a shift in focus to maximize its role in support of the peace agreement.213

On 19 October 2018, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council again to report on the successful holding of presidential elections. He noted that the holding of the elections should have been underpinned by further progress in the implementation of key institutional reforms. He also informed the Council of the signing on 15 October by the Government and the United Nations of the Pact for Peace, as requested by the Council in its resolution 2423 (2018), and said that it was an essential tool to spur the implementation of the peace agreement and give new impetus to the peace process. The Under-Secretary-General expressed his extreme concern about the security situation, especially in the centre of the country, and informed the Council that MINUSMA and the United Nations country team had begun developing a comprehensive strategic framework in support of the Government’s security plan for the central regions.214

These issues were also addressed by the Council in its decisions during the reporting period. On 28 June 2018, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2423 (2018), in which, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, it extended the mandate of MINUSMA for one year, until 30 June 2019, and renewed the authorization for MINUSMA to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate with a proactive and robust posture.215 The Council decided that the Mission’s strategic priority remained to support the implementation of the peace agreement and requested it to reprioritize its resources and efforts to focus on political tasks.216 In the resolution, the Council welcomed the recent positive

207 S/PV.8163, pp. 2–4.
209 S/PV.8229, pp. 2–5.
210 Ibid., p. 5. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) and the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B.
212 S/PV.8288, pp. 2–3.
213 Ibid., pp. 3–4.
214 S/PV.8376, pp. 2–3.
215 Resolution 2423 (2018), paras. 24, 32 and 33. For more information concerning the decisions of the Council related to measures to maintain or restore international peace and security in accordance with Article 42 of the Charter during the period under review, see part VII, sect. IV.A. For more information on the mandate of MINUSMA, see part X, sect. I.
216 Resolution 2423 (2018), para. 26. See also paras. 27, 38 and 39.
steps achieved in the implementation of the peace agreement and expressed its deep frustration that parties had too long stalled its implementation, in spite of significant international support and assistance.\(^{217}\) The Council also urged the Government of Mali, the Plateforme coalition of armed groups and the Coordination des mouvements de l’Azawad coalition of armed groups to take immediate and concrete action to implement key provisions of the peace agreement referenced in the road map adopted on 22 March 2018. In that regard, the Council expressed its intention to respond with measures pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) should the parties not implement the commitments agreed upon in the road map within the announced time frame.\(^{218}\) The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council six months after the presidential inauguration on progress achieved in the implementation of the measures and the benchmarks developed in the framework of the Pact for Peace and, in the absence of progress in the implementation of the measures and benchmarks, to provide options for the potential significant adaptation of the mandate of MINUSMA.\(^{219}\) The Council also welcomed the signing on 23 February 2018 of the technical agreement between the United Nations, the European Union and the Group of Five for the Sahel with a view to providing specified operational and logistical support through MINUSMA to the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel and requested the Secretary-General to enhance the exchange of information between MINUSMA and the States members of the Group of Five for the Sahel through the provision of relevant intelligence.\(^{220}\) The Council also noted the importance for the Government of Mali and the United Nations to take into consideration, as appropriate, the security implications of the adverse effects of climate change and other ecological changes and natural disasters in their activities, programmes and strategies.\(^{221}\) Finally, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report every three months on the implementation of the resolution and to include every six months in his regular reports an update on the development and implementation of the integrated strategic framework setting the United Nations overall vision, joint priorities and internal division of labour to sustain peace in Mali.\(^{222}\) Following the vote, the representative of France stressed that the resolution made it clear that maintaining the configuration of a mission as important and exposed as MINUSMA had to be accompanied by substantial progress in the peace process.\(^{223}\) The representative of the United States noted that, without significant progress, it would be necessary to consider options to overhaul the Mission. He added that, through the resolution, the Council had streamlined the mandate of MINUSMA, emphasized the primacy of the Mission’s political engagement and stressed the importance of outreach and engagement for the protection of civilians.\(^{224}\) While the Russian Federation supported the resolution, the representative of the Russian Federation expressed his country’s opposition to the term “intelligence” in relation to the mandate of peacekeepers. Furthermore, with regard to the provisions on climate and ecological changes, he underlined that those issues fell under the purview of the relevant bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.\(^{225}\)

On 30 August, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2432 (2018), in which, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, it renewed until 31 August 2019 the sanctions measures imposed under resolution 2374 (2017).\(^{226}\) The Council also extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 30 September 2019 and expressed its intention to review the mandate and take appropriate action no later than 31 August 2019.\(^{227}\) Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of France took the floor to restate that imposing sanctions on those who obstructed the implementation of the peace process in Mali was embedded in the very content of the peace agreement and that the sanctions regime established by the Council in 2017 had proven to be a useful addition to the range of tools available to the international community to promote a solution to the crisis in Mali.\(^{228}\)

\(^{217}\) Ibid., paras. 1 and 2.

\(^{218}\) Ibid., sixth preambular paragraph and paras. 3 and 4.

\(^{219}\) Resolution 2423 (2018), para. 6.

\(^{220}\) Ibid., paras. 49 and 50.

\(^{221}\) Ibid., para. 68.

\(^{222}\) Ibid., paras. 29, 70 and 71.

\(^{223}\) S/PV.8298, p. 3.

\(^{224}\) Ibid., p. 4.

\(^{225}\) Ibid., p. 5.

\(^{226}\) Resolution 2432 (2018), para. 1. For more information on the sanctions measures concerning Mali, see part VII, sect. III.

\(^{227}\) Resolution 2432 (2018), para. 3.

\(^{228}\) S/PV.8336, p. 2.
Meetings: the situation in Mali

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<sup>a</sup> Mali was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

<sup>b</sup> The representative of Sweden spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2374 (2017) concerning Mali.

Americas

15. The question concerning Haiti

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings and adopted one resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter on the question concerning Haiti. Two of the meetings took the form of debates, one meeting was a briefing and one was convened for the adoption of the decision<sup>229</sup> Through the adoption of resolution 2410 (2018), acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for Justice

<sup>229</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.