principle in the repatriation of refugees. Some members 352 added that the Rohingya who remained in Rakhine, including internally displaced persons, should be allowed freedom of movement and basic services. Other Council members 353 encouraged the Government of Myanmar to fully implement the memorandum of understanding, signed on 6 June 2018 with the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to address the humanitarian crisis and to ensure safe, full and unhindered access to Rakhine State for United Nations and other humanitarian actors. Many Council members 354 also emphasized that implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, including those on citizenship and equal rights for the Rohingya, was critical in fostering conditions for voluntary repatriation and providing a solution to the crisis.

In a letter dated 22 August 2019 addressed to the President of the Council, 355 the Permanent Representative of Myanmar expressed concern regarding

352 Indonesia, France, Belgium, Poland, South Africa and Peru.
353 Dominican Republic, Belgium, Poland, Côte d’Ivoire, South Africa, Peru and United States.
354 United Kingdom, Indonesia, France, Dominican Republic, Poland and Russian Federation.
355 S/2019/676.

Meetings: the situation in Myanmar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting record and date</th>
<th>Sub-item</th>
<th>Other documents</th>
<th>Rule 37 invitations</th>
<th>Rule 39 and other invitations</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S/PV.8477 28 February 2019</td>
<td>Bangladesh, Myanmar</td>
<td>Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar</td>
<td>All Council members, all invitees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Bangladesh was represented by its Foreign Secretary.

Europe

19. The situation in Cyprus

During 2019, the Council held two meetings and adopted two resolutions concerning the situation in Cyprus, by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001). 358

358 Held on 17 January and 15 July 2019, 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.8447 and S/PV.8574.
addition to those meetings, in 2019, the Council held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation in Cyprus.359

On 30 January 2019, in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,360 the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2453 (2019), in which it extended the mandate of UNFICYP for a period of six months, until 31 July 2019.361 In the resolution, the Council expressed regret at the lack of progress towards a settlement since the conclusion of the Conference on Cyprus held in 2017 and urged the sides and all involved participants to seize the important opportunity presented by the consultations of the United Nations consultant on a way forward, by engaging actively and constructively in those consultations.362 The Council called upon the sides to explore ways to establish mechanisms and to enhance existing initiatives, with UNFICYP as facilitator through its liaison role, for effectively alleviating tensions and to help address island-wide matters that affected all Cypriots.363 In that regard, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit, by 15 April 2019, a report on his good offices and on progress towards reaching a consensus starting point for meaningful results-oriented negotiations and, by 10 July 2019, a report on the implementation of the resolution, including on how United Nations activities on Cyprus could be best configured to advance political progress while preserving stability.364 The Council also welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardize a culture of performance in United Nations peacekeeping and called on him to apply a comprehensive and integrated performance policy framework to UNFICYP.365

On 25 July 2019, in connection with the subsequent report of the Secretary-General on the operation in Cyprus,366 the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2483 (2019), in which it extended the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period of six months, until 31 January 2020.367 In the resolution, the Council called for a reduction of tensions in the eastern Mediterranean and called upon the leaders of the two Cypriot communities to refrain from any actions and rhetoric that might damage the chances of success.368 The Council made reference to the meeting held on 26 February between the two leaders and to their agreement with respect to confidence-building measures and to achieving a mine-free Cyprus.369 The Council also expressed serious concern about the increased number of violations of the military status quo along the ceasefire lines and called upon the sides to intensify their efforts to establish a mechanism for direct contacts at the military level and to continue to explore ways to enhance existing initiatives for effectively alleviating tensions.370

After the vote,371 the representative of the United States thanked the United Kingdom for its efforts in reaching consensus and for producing a more concise resolution. He expressed disappointment at the lack of progress made in the two years since the Conference on Cyprus and affirmed that the resolution was the unanimous expression of the Council’s support for the leaders to take the political risks necessary to engage meaningfully and with a sense of urgency. The representative of the Russian Federation explained that his delegation supported the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP in an unchanged form, adding that the mission played a key role in strengthening stability. He cautioned, however, that the mission should not be used as an instrument to exert political pressure on Cypriots. He noted that the current system of guarantees, with the participation of three foreign States, did not help the Cypriots to arrive at an independent settlement for themselves and affirmed that the most effective way to ensure the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of a united Cyprus would be guarantees from the Security Council. He also urged those who may be tempted to draw Cyprus into “geopolitical games in an attempt to push out traditional players from the eastern Mediterranean” to refrain from doing so.

360 S/2019/37.
361 Resolution 2453 (2019), para. 13. For more information regarding the mandate of UNFICYP, see part X, sect. I.
362 Resolution 2453 (2019), para. 1.
363 Ibid., para. 6.
364 Ibid., para. 20.
365 Ibid., para. 18.
368 Ibid., para. 2.
369 Ibid., paras. 6 and 11.
370 Ibid., paras. 5 and 9.
371 S/PV.8586.
Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2019

Meetings: the situation in Cyprus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting record and date</th>
<th>Sub-item</th>
<th>Other documents</th>
<th>Rule 37 invitations</th>
<th>Rule 39 and other invitations</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

20. Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia

A. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2019, the Council held two meetings and adopted one resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter in connection with the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council continued the consideration of the item in the context of semi-annual briefings by the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes is given in the table below.

In his briefings to the Council in 2019, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina provided updates on developments in connection with his two reports for the year. At the meeting on 8 May 2019, the High Representative reported that seven months after the general elections, the process of building coalitions and appointing governments continued to dominate the political dynamic in Bosnia and Herzegovina and that, while the Republika Srpska and some cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had moved swiftly to form governments, there had been no appointment of a State-level council of Ministers or of a Federation government. He also underlined that the continuation of divisive and destabilizing rhetoric from some of the political leadership posed a serious challenge to Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite the positive consensus on the need for further integration with the European Union. In that regard, he implored the country’s leaders to abandon such rhetoric and to take strides to keep the country moving forward on the path to the European Union. He said that political leaders continued to shirk their obligations with respect to the rule of law, particularly and persistently failing to respect binding decisions of the State judiciary, and that there had been efforts to curb freedom of expression and dissent.

During the discussion that followed the briefing of 8 May, most Council members welcomed the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote national reconciliation and socioeconomic development and its continued engagement in the process of integration with the European Union. Speakers expressed concern about the delays in the formation of the Federation government and of the State Council of Ministers six months after the elections and urged political representatives to engage constructively and to refrain from using divisive rhetoric to create favourable conditions for the reconciliation process. In addition, most members of the Council reiterated their calls on the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take the steps required to implement the “5+2” agenda, necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina. The representative of the Russian Federation said that the report of the High Representative was far from an impartial assessment of the situation in the country and

---

372 For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.
374 See S/PV.8522.