11. Peace and security in Africa

During the period under review, the Council held nine meetings and issued two presidential statements under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”. Five of the meetings took the form of briefings, two were debates and two were convened for the adoption of decisions of the Council. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. In addition, the Council conducted a mission to Ethiopia and South Sudan from 19 to 23 October 2019.

In 2019, the Council held two meetings on the activities of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, in connection with the relevant reports of the Secretary-General. In addition, the Council held four meetings focused on the following themes: partnership to strengthen regional peace and security; mobilizing youth towards silencing the guns in Africa by 2020; preventative diplomacy and conflict prevention; and intercommunal violence and terrorism in West Africa. The Council also heard a briefing on the joint mission by the United Nations and the African Union to Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia in October 2019.

The Council heard briefings on the activities of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel in May and November 2019. On 16 May 2019, the Council heard briefings by the High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso, the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Assistant Secretary-General described the situation in Mali and the Sahel as extremely worrisome, stating that the region faced serious problems, ranging from climate change and drought to growing insecurity, violent extremism and illicit trafficking in persons, weapons and drugs, as terrorist groups continued to spread beyond borders. She added that, while the resumption of the operations of the Joint Force in January 2019 after the terrorist attack on its headquarters was encouraging, it was essential to maintain the momentum; she therefore urged the States members of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) to urgently accelerate the full operationalization of the Joint Force to reach its full operational capacity. Speaking on behalf of the States members of the G5 Sahel, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso reported on the composition of the Joint Force and requested the Council to accede to the Group’s request to establish a new United Nations approach to support the Force with the goal of equipping the it to better respond to security challenges. The High Representative of the African Union described the security situation in the Sahel-Saharan subregion and reported that, at its meeting on 9 April 2019, the Peace and Security Council had renewed the mandate of the Joint Force, while also noting the progress that had been made, the operations that had been conducted and the support that countries continued to provide to the Force. He emphasized that the operationalization of the Joint Force had now become an absolute and urgent necessity. The European Union Special Representative and the Executive Director of UNODC outlined the cooperation of their respective organizations with the Joint Force.

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<td>S/PV.8585 24 July 2019</td>
<td>Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOWAS (S/2019/549)</td>
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<td>Special Representative of the Secretary-General</td>
<td>13 Council members,a invitee</td>
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<tr>
<td>S/PV.8592 7 August 2019</td>
<td>Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNOWAS (S/2019/549)</td>
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a Belgium, China, Côte d’Ivoire (also on behalf of Equatorial Guinea and South Africa), Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Kuwait, Indonesia, Poland, Peru, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

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204 For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.
205 For more information on the Council’s mission to Ethiopia and South Sudan, see part I, sect. 33.
207 See S/PV.8526.

20-11767
the discussion, some Council members reiterated the requests made by the Heads of State of the G5 Sahel for the Council to approve a mandate under Chapter VII of the Charter to provide additional political legitimacy for and accelerate the establishment of the Joint Force trust fund, which would enable direct and predictable financing through assessed contributions. Some Council members expressed concerns about the excessive militarization of the region, noting that the Joint Force could not operate solely based on a security-driven approach, and some added that it required instead a holistic approach that addressed root causes and encompassed poverty reduction, good governance, development, humanitarian assistance and security.

On 20 November 2019, the Council heard additional briefings by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, the latter again on behalf of the G5 Sahel. Both emphasized the worrisome security situation in the region and the importance of resolution 2480 (2019), adopted in connection with the situation in Mali, in facilitating the provision of support to the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel through the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations stressed that the support of the countries in the region, as well as that of the African Union, the United Nations and the entire international community, was an absolute priority for winning the fight against terrorism in the region. The Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service focused on the contribution to and support for the Joint Force by the European Union, including through MINUSMA, and stated that, in order to achieve the dual objective of empowering partners and mobilizing regional and international actors, the support and leverage of the Security Council were more essential than ever. The Council also heard a briefing by the President of the Association of African Women for Research and Development, who focused on the following three key issues: access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence; the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of peace and security; and ensuring that MINUSMA and the Joint Force were able to respond to the security needs of the communities. She concluded her briefing by stating that the solution to the complex dynamics of the conflict in Mali would not be found on the battlefield, but would emerge from dialogue and genuine regard for the concerns of ordinary people, and urged Council members to use their power to make that happen. During the discussion, Council members expressed support for the Secretary-General’s recommendation to the Council to lift the geographical restrictions so as to provide support through MINUSMA to all battalions operating within the framework of the Joint Force. Council members also commended the decision by the Economic Community of West African States to mobilize $1 billion to tackle terrorism.

On 26 September 2019, at the initiative of the Russian Federation, which held the presidency for the month, the Council held a ministerial-level debate on partnership to strengthen regional peace and security. At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, who highlighted the successful and intensifying cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the various subregional organizations. She noted that the Peace Fund of the African Union was at its highest-ever level of assessed contributions, while stressing the importance of ensuring predictable and sustainable financing for African-led peace support operations. The Council also heard a briefing by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, who made reference to the funding proposal for African peacekeeping operations and stated that the overarching duty of Africa was to bear responsibility for a significant part of that funding. He added that that could not, however, in any way relieve the Council, the sole organ truly responsible for peace in the world, of its obligations to provide funding for those operations from the appropriate resources of the United Nations. He considered that issue to be at the heart of peace and security concerns in Africa. During the discussion, Council members addressed the need for predictable and sustainable funding for African-led initiatives, as well as dedicated sources of funding for peace support operations. Cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union and various subregional organizations, including for the African Union initiative Silencing the Guns by 2020, was also highlighted during deliberations.

208 Côte d’Ivoire, United States of America, Equatorial Guinea and Belgium.
209 Equatorial Guinea and Russian Federation.
210 France, China, United States of America, Russian Federation, Germany, Peru, South Africa, Kuwait and Indonesia.
212 See S/PV.8627.
On 2 October 2019, at the initiative of South Africa, which held the presidency for the month, the Council held a debate on the question of mobilizing youth towards silencing the guns by 2020 attended by African youth leaders, the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Africa and the Permanent Observer of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to the United Nations, among other stakeholders. The briefings were focused on the need to create more opportunities for youth in the decision-making process and to improve livelihoods to prevent conflict. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa pointed out that Africa was one of the world’s youngest continents and that urgent efforts were needed to combat threats to peace and security, especially radicalization, violent extremism, sexual violence, xenophobia and forced migration. She called for enhanced support from the United Nations, regional groups and the private sector and drew attention to Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020. Youth activists shared their personal experiences during the debate, highlighting the effects of terrorism, war, unemployment and climate change on young people and spotlighting youth uprisings in Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia, among other countries. Council members discussed the crucial role played by the Council in drawing attention to resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) in support of youth engagement in international peace and security. Council members also recognized the specific challenges faced by young people in conflict situations and called for more investment in youth employment and education to prevent their radicalization and participation in organized crime.

On 7 October, also at the initiative of South Africa, the Council held a debate on preventative diplomacy and conflict prevention. At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, a visiting scholar and the Associate Director of the Institute for African Studies at George Washington University, the Programme Manager of the Zanele Mbeki Development Trust, the Programme Manager of South African Women in Dialogue, the Programme Manager of the Zanele Mbeki Development, the Permanent Observer of the African Union and the Permanent Observer of ECCAS. The briefings were focused on the work of the United Nations and its regional partners in Africa in addressing the root causes of conflict. Briefers differed in their proposals to address root causes of conflict. While the two Permanent Observers called for a proactive and regionally engaged approach by the Council, the two Programme Managers called for a community-driven approach, specifically one that supported locally owned and women-led peace efforts.

In his briefing, the Secretary-General noted the progress made by the United Nations, together with its partners in many parts of Africa, such as Cameroon, the Gambia and Madagascar. He stated that the spread and continued threat of terrorism across the continent was more than just a regional issue, it was a danger to global peace and security. He noted that sustainable inclusive development was an end in itself and the most effective way to address the underlying causes of conflict, extremism and terrorism. In her briefing, the Associate Director of the Institute for African Studies at George Washington University stated that the complexity of the issues involved in the cyclical violence required a regional framework and approach for any meaningful attempt to address issues of peace and security in the region and on the African continent. She stated that women should be seen as agents of preventive diplomacy and catalysts for peacebuilding. The Programme Manager of South African Women in Dialogue described how her organization had facilitated partnerships between women and national and international bodies in order to shape community, provincial, national and continental agendas, thereby creating a space conducive to socioeconomic development and the eradication of poverty. The Programme Manager of the Zanele Mbeki Development Trust sought the support of the Council for the African Women in Dialogue platform, as it presented an opportunity for the involvement of African women as active players in conflict prevention and preventative diplomacy. She also appealed to Council members for help in strengthening the dialogue at all levels so as to enable communities to drive their own peace processes. The Permanent Observer of ECCAS, stated that the Community would continue to work with the African Union and the United Nations, through the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, on building the capacity of women and young people, to ensure their equal participation in promoting peace and security and in playing a central role in leadership and decision-making. The Permanent Observer of the African Union

214 The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 30 September 2019 (S/2019/779).
215 See S/PV.8629.
216 Poland, United States, Belgium, France, Kuwait, United Kingdom, Peru, Dominican Republic and South Africa.
217 Poland, Côte d’Ivoire, Kuwait, Peru and Russian Federation.
218 The Council had before it a concept note annexed to a letter dated 2 October 2019 (S/2019/786).
219 See S/PV.8633.
stressed the importance of continued collective and concerted efforts to respond to existing and emerging threats, the relevance of partnerships and collaboration among Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector and the sustained engagement of all stakeholders, including women and young people, in decision-making processes. During the discussion, Council members welcomed the progressively deepening alliances between the United Nations and the African Union, including through the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed in 2017.

On 4 November 2019, the Council heard a briefing by the Deputy Secretary-General on her joint mission, together with the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security, to Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Somalia, as well as on her separate visit to the Sudan. The Deputy Secretary-General reported that those missions had provided an opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the shared United Nations-African Union frameworks on peace and security. She stated that each country was moving at its own pace through a process of reform and transformation. She drew special attention to the “new dawn” currently taking shape in the Sudan and urged the Council to stand ready to provide support. She reported that countries in the region were headed in the right direction, adding that the Council should seize this opportunity to invest in and support peace. She also emphasized the importance of increasing the percentage of women in peacekeeping forces, noting that women continued to make up less than four per cent of United Nations peacekeepers. In her briefing at the same meeting, the Permanent Observer of the African Union stated that, during the joint African Union-United Nations mission, they had been able to witness first-hand that peace, security and development had little chance of standing without the full and effective participation of women and young people, who were on the front lines, addressing climate insecurity, radicalization and violent extremism. She pointed out, however, that they had also witnessed the creativity and innovation of women in the political and socioeconomic spheres of their societies and emphasized the need to bolster their laudable and courageous initiatives. She also emphasized the need to prioritize substantive support for women’s organizations and projects and continued engagement with Member States to create a conducive environment for women to participate in decision-making, at all levels. After the briefings, Council members echoed the calls to bolster the deployment of female peacekeepers, with some members citing the Council’s resolutions on women and peace and security agenda, including the recent adoption of resolution 2493 (2019), in which it urged States to recommit themselves to that agenda.

On 16 December 2019, at the initiative of the United States, which held the presidency for the month, and Côte d’Ivoire, the Council held a meeting to address the issue of intercommunal violence and terrorism in West Africa. At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union. The Special Representative stated that poor management of natural resources, inequalities, marginalization, corruption and gaps in security and justice had resulted in an upsurge of intercommunal violence, with relentless attacks by extremist groups on civilians and security forces. He called on the Council to support the implementation of the Bamako Declaration of 29 November 2019 on access to natural resources and conflict between communities, as regional organizations, he said, were best positioned to provide a framework for the prevention and resolution of local conflicts. The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union called on the Council to consider a “reset”, including a rethink of the manner in which military support was provided to countries of the region, and the implementation of a holistic approach to strengthening the presence of States, including through the rule of law, education, infrastructure and strong environmental policies to address climate change. He recommended that the African Union and the United Nations co-chair a coordinating mechanism. During the discussion, several Council members endorsed a need for a holistic security response as part of a greater strategy to counter violent extremism in West Africa and the Sahel.

In 2019, the Council issued two presidential statements under the item. On 2 August 2019, the Council issued a presidential statement in which it took note that the World Health Organization had declared the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo a public health emergency of international

220 Côte d’Ivoire, Russian Federation, Dominican Republic, Germany, France, Poland and Indonesia.
221 See S/PV.8657.
222 United States, Indonesia and South Africa.
223 France, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.
224 For more information on the women and peace and security agenda, see part I, sect. 30.
225 See S/PV.8685.
226 United States of America, China, Poland, Germany and Indonesia.
Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security

The Council highlighted the urgency of the Ebola response, because the disease could spread rapidly, including to neighbouring countries, possibly having serious humanitarian consequences and affecting regional stability. The Council emphasized the need for continued cooperation and coordination with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as with other States in the region, as appropriate, to address the outbreak, and the importance of strengthening international support and engagement, including full and timely financial contributions, for response efforts, technical assistance, scientific cooperation and human resources to bring the disease permanently and successfully under control. On 12 December 2019, in connection with the debate held on 2 October, the Council issued a second presidential statement under the item, in which it encouraged Member States to take a series of youth-oriented measures, in addition to the steps already being taken to mobilize youth towards silencing the guns in Africa by 2020, including to create opportunities for inclusive representation, to promote inclusive development and to encourage their meaningful participation in the reconstruction of areas devastated by conflict. The Council also encouraged Member States to support initiatives and mechanisms adopted by regional organizations aimed at improving the participation of young people, including young women, in peacebuilding, conflict mediation and conflict resolution, including countering violent extremism.

Meetings: peace and security in Africa

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<td>S/PV.8627 26 September 2019</td>
<td>Partnership to strengthen regional peace and security Letter dated 13 September 2019 from the Permanent Representatives of Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, the Russian Federation and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2019/743)</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Deputy Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Political Director of the European External Action Service</td>
<td>All Council members, all invitees</td>
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227 S/PRST/2019/6, first paragraph.
228 Ibid., second paragraph.
229 Ibid., fourth and final paragraphs.
231 Ibid., tenth paragraph.
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<td>Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa, Special Envoy on Youth of the African Union, co-founder and Chairperson of Naweza, youth activist, Permanent Observer of the Economic Community of Central African States to the United Nations (ECCAS)</td>
<td>All Council members, all invitees</td>
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<td>S/PV.8633 7 October 2019</td>
<td>The centrality of preventative diplomacy, conflict prevention and resolution</td>
<td>Ethiopia, Namibia, Visiting scholar and Associate Director of the Institute for African Studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, Programme Manager of South African Women in Dialogue, Programme Manager of the Zanele Mbeki Development Trust, Permanent Observer of the African Union, Permanent Observer of ECCAS</td>
<td>Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees</td>
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12. The situation in Libya

During the period under review, the Council held 11 meetings and adopted 2 resolutions, including one under Chapter VII of the Charter. Two meetings were devoted to the adoption of decisions of the Council; all other meetings held under the item took the form of briefings.\(^{232}\) In 2019, the Council decided to extend for 12 months, until 10 June 2020, the authorization to inspect vessels on the high seas off the coast of Libya in implementation of the arms embargo and to extend the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) until 15 September 2020.\(^{233}\) More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In 2019, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of UNSMIL. Other briefers under the item included the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011) concerning Libya, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, the Head of Advocacy and Outreach at Lawyers for Justice in Libya, and the co-founder and Director of Together We Build It. In 2019, invitations under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure were limited to Libya.

In his six briefings to the Council in 2019,\(^{234}\) the Special Representative reported on the continuing humanitarian, political, security and social challenges affecting Libya. The Special Representative provided regular updates on the activities of and terrorist attacks carried out by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

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\(^{232}\) For more information on the format of meetings, see Part II, sect. I.
