34. Threats to international peace and security

During the period under review, the Security Council held no meetings in connection with the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security”. Council members did, however, hold three videoconferences in 2020 in connection with this item.927 More information on the videoconferences is given in the table below. In addition, the Council adopted resolution 2544 (2020) in connection with this item, extending the mandate of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh / Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD) established pursuant to resolution 2379 (2017) until 18 September 2021.928

In 2020, in connection with this item, Council members were briefed on the progress in the work of UNITAD. In this regard, the Special Adviser and Head of the Investigative Team briefed the members of the Council twice on the activities of UNITAD. In the videoconference held on 15 June 2020, he presented the fourth report929 on its activities and informed the Council about the significant progress made in the identification and collection of new sources of evidentiary material which, if fully harnessed, had the potential to mark a paradigm shift in the prosecution of ISIL members for the crimes they had committed in Iraq.930 The Special Adviser noted that the Investigative Team had moved forward a number of its lines of investigation into a phase of evidence consolidation and legal analysis. He further provided Council members with updates on the progress made in the investigation of crimes in the areas of Mosul, Sinjar and Tikrit, noting the cooperation with the Iraqi and Kurdistan Regional Government authorities. Further to the fifth report of the Investigative Team,931 on 10 December 2020, Council members held another videoconference in which the Special Adviser presented the innovative solutions

927 For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.
929 See S/2020/386.
930 See S/2020/547.
that the Investigative Team had developed to confront the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the use of remote interviews and submission of evidence through a new online portal. The Special Adviser stated that the provision of meaningful support by UNITAD to Iraqi investigative judges represented an important moment in the implementation of its mandate, adding that with the potential adoption of legislation in Iraq allowing for the prosecution of international crimes, it was possible to begin to see a clear path towards the fulfilment of the promise made by the Council to survivors and impacted communities through resolution 2379 (2017). The Special Adviser also underlined the partnerships built by the Investigative Team with non-governmental organizations and with the religious leadership of Iraq. Concluding his briefing, the Special Adviser noted that the Investigative Team would continue to rely on the unanimous support of the Council members. Following the briefing, several Council members expressed their full support for the work of UNITAD, with some focusing on the importance of cooperation with a range of local actors, including civil society. Other Council members noted the importance of respecting the sovereignty and jurisdiction of Iraq over crimes committed on its territory and called on UNITAD to maintain its impartiality and discharge its duties in line with its mandate.

On 18 September 2020, further to the request of the Government of Iraq, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2544 (2020), extending the mandate of the Special Adviser and the Investigative Team until 18 September 2021. By the resolution, the Council also requested the Special Adviser to continue to submit and present reports to the Council on the team’s activities every 180 days.

Videoconferences: Threats to international peace and security

933 Ibid., Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Niger, United Kingdom and United States.
934 Ibid., Germany, Indonesia and South Africa.
935 Ibid., China, Russian Federation, Tunisia and Viet Nam.
937 Resolution 2544 (2020), para. 2.
938 Ibid., para. 4. For further details, see part IX, sect. III.
### Part I

**Overview of Security Council Activities in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Videoconference data</th>
<th>Videoconference record</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 June 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/547</td>
<td>Letter dated 17 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 September 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/917</td>
<td>Letter dated 18 September 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council</td>
<td>Resolution 2544 (2020) 15-0-0 S/2020/920 (Record of written procedure)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 December 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/1193</td>
<td>Letter dated 18 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council</td>
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