

UN Security Council in Review

May 2021



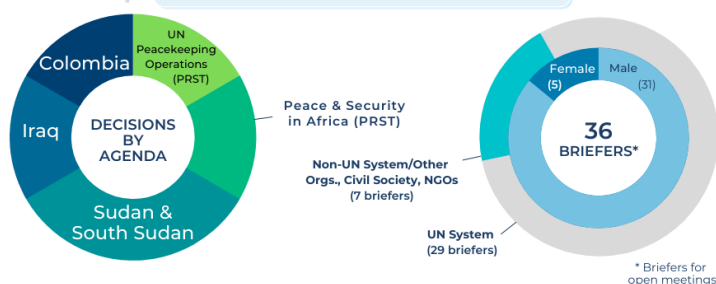
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May 2021 at a Glance

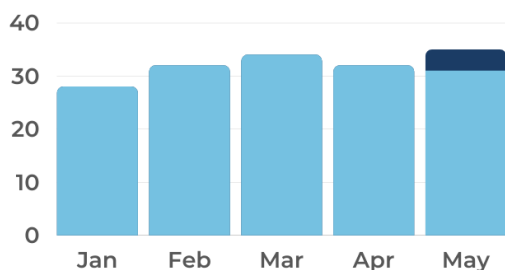


The most frequently discussed topics (open & closed) in May 2021

Middle East, including the Palestinian Question
Sudan & South Sudan



JANUARY 2021 - MAY 2021



Number of formal meetings (in dark blue) & number of consultations, IIDs & VTCs (in blue) in 2021



In May, under the **Presidency of China**, the Security Council held the following signature events:

- Three open videoconferences focused on **upholding multilateralism and the UN-centered international system** (7 May), **addressing the root causes of conflict while promoting post-pandemic recovery in Africa** (19 May), and **improving safety and security of peacekeepers** (24 May). The Foreign Minister of China presided over the high-level open videoconferences held on 7 May and 19 May.

Key Topics

The most frequently considered country or region-specific items in open and closed discussions were: the **Middle East including the Palestinian question** (10 May, 12 May, 16 May, 18 May (under AOB) and 27 May) and the **Sudan and South Sudan** (11 May, 20 May and 28 May). Other countries or regions discussed more than once during the month were the following: Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Peace and Security in Africa. Council members also discussed **Belarus** (26 May) under AOB.

Thematic agenda items discussed included **Maintenance of international peace and security** (upholding multilateralism and the UN-centered international system), **Threats to international peace and security** (specifically the Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD)), **UN Peacekeeping Operations** (improving safety and security of peacekeepers) and **Protection of civilians in armed conflict**.

Procedural notes

- On 25 May, the Council met in its Chamber for the first time since 7 December 2020.
- On 27 May, the Council considered its draft report to the General Assembly covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020, and adopted the draft report without a vote (see [Report of the Security Council for 2020](#) and the corresponding [note by the President](#)).

- In May 2021, rule 37 invitees spoke ahead of Council members in connection with the situation in Iraq, the situation in the Middle East (Yemen), Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan, the situation in Libya, Peace and security in Africa, and the situation in Somalia. Since these meetings were held under extraordinary circumstances during the pandemic, the Council members agreed that these would not constitute precedents in the practice of the Council.

Decisions and press statements

In May 2021, the Security Council adopted **four resolutions** and issued **two presidential statements**. Three of the four resolutions were adopted in accordance with the written procedure established by the letter of the President of the Council of 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253) further to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and three of the four resolutions were adopted unanimously.

On 11 May, of the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2574 \(2021\)](#), extending the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia until 31 October 2021 and expanding it to include verifying compliance with the sentences of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. The Council also unanimously adopted resolutions [2575 \(2021\)](#) and [2576 \(2021\)](#) extending the mandates of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), respectively. The Council adopted non-unanimously resolution [2577 \(2021\)](#), renewing the sanctions measures concerning South Sudan and extending the mandate of its Panel of Experts (see [S/2021/518](#) for the explanations of the vote).

On 19 May 2021, the Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/2021/10), expressing grave concern about the devastating impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and emphasizing the importance of addressing the fundamental root causes and drivers of conflicts in Africa. On 24 May, the Council issued a second presidential statement (S/PRST/2021/11), requesting the Secretary-General to continue to take all appropriate measures to improve the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, and to review and ensure uniformity of UN standards on training and performance.

In addition, the Council issued **six press statements**: On the terrorist attacks in Logar, Afghanistan (SC/14510) and in Kabul, Afghanistan (SC/14515), the attack against United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SC/14516), Gaza Ceasefire (SC/14527), Mali (SC/14532) and Somalia (SC/14537).

Other activities

During the month of May, the Council members held an [informal dialogue](#) with the **Secretary-General** on 18 May to discuss his candidacy for the 2022-2026 term in-person at the Economic and Social Council Chamber.

The Council members also held three open Arria-formula meetings and one informal interactive dialogue. Two of the three Arria formulas were held over videoconference. On 5 May, the Russian Federation organized an Arria-formula entitled “**Odessa seven years after: Neo-nazism and violent nationalism as drivers of conflict in Ukraine**”. On 12 May, co-hosted by the United Kingdom, Iraq, the United States and co-sponsored by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Council members held an Arria-formula meeting at the Trusteeship Council Chamber, entitled “**Delivering accountability through innovation and partnership: Harnessing technology to deliver justice for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide**”. On 17 May, co-hosted by China, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa and the UAE an Arria-formula entitled “**The impact of emerging technologies on international peace and security**”. On 28 May, Council members held an informal interactive dialogue via videoconference on the situation in **Libya**.

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