

UN Security Council in Review

September 2021



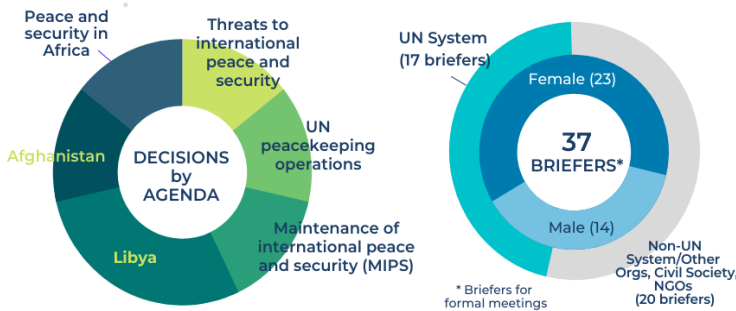
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September 2021 at a Glance

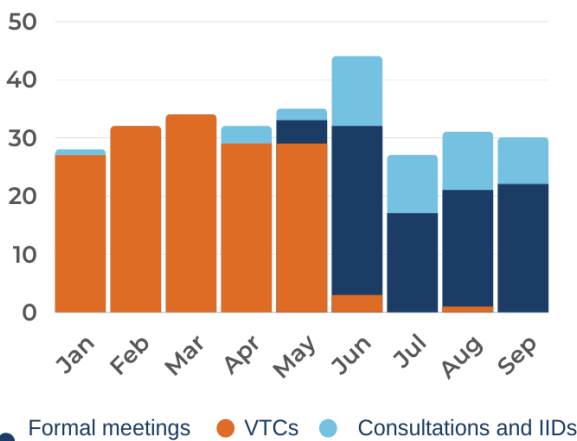


Most frequently discussed topics (open & closed) in September 2021

Sudan and South Sudan
Afghanistan Middle East
Libya Somalia MIPS



JANUARY 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2021



In September, under the **Presidency of Ireland**, the Security Council conducted all of its business in-person. The Council held **three high-level signature events**:

- An open debate on **United Nations peacekeeping operations**, specifically focused on **transitions** within the wider peacekeeping and peacebuilding agenda (8 September).
- A thematic open debate on Maintenance of international peace and security, focusing on **climate and security** (23 September). The **Taoiseach of Ireland** presided over the meeting.
- On the 25th anniversary of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty, the Council held a meeting on **Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction** (27 September). The **Minister of State for European Affairs of Ireland** presided over the meeting.

Key Topics

The situation in the **Middle East** was the most frequently considered country- or region-specific item in open and closed discussions (2, 10, 15 and 28 September), followed by **Libya** (10, 15 and 30 September) and **Sudan and South Sudan** (14 and 15 September). **Afghanistan** and **Somalia** were also discussed more than once during the month.

Other country- and region-specific items considered by the Council in September included the **Middle East, including the Palestinian question** and **Peace and security in Africa**.

Other thematic items discussed in the Council included: **Maintenance of international peace and security** (7, 23 and 29 September), **United Nations peacekeeping operations** (8 and 9 September), **Threats to international peace and security** (17 September), and **Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction** (27 September).

On 22 September, presided by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence of Ireland, the Council held an in-person high-level informal interactive dialogue with the Arab Summit Troika (Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia) of the **League of Arab States** (LAS). It was the first IID with the LAS since the issuance of presidential statement [S/PRST/2021/2](#) of 29 January encouraging such meetings.

Procedural notes

In September 2021, in accordance with rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Council invited **19 briefers from civil society and NGOs**, 17 of whom were women, recording the highest number of invitees from civil society, NGOs and others this year. On 9 September, in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Council invited the highest number of non-Council members (5) for the first time in a **debate on Afghanistan** since the resumption of in-person meetings.

Decisions and press statements

In September 2021, the Council unanimously adopted **6 resolutions** and issued **1 presidential statement**.

The Council unanimously adopted resolution [2594 \(2021\)](#) on 9 September in relation to **peacekeeping operations transitions** as a presidential text; resolution [2596 \(2021\)](#) on 17 September extending the mandate of **UNAMA** until 17 March 2022; resolution [2597 \(2021\)](#) on 17 September extending the mandate of the **Special Adviser of the Secretary-General** and **UNITAD** for one year; and resolution [2598 \(2021\)](#) on 29 September, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, renewing the authorization of Member States and regional organizations to inspect vessels off the coast of Libya. The Council also agreed two successive extensions of the mandate of **UNSMIL** by resolutions [2595 \(2021\)](#) and [2599 \(2021\)](#) on 15 and 30 September, respectively. The mandate of **UNSMIL** was extended until 31 January 2022.

The Council issued one presidential statement on **Peace and Security in Africa** ([S/PRST/2021/18](#) of 15 September), concerning the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project (**GERD**). The Council encouraged Egypt, Ethiopia, and the Sudan to resume negotiations at the invitation of the Chairperson of the African Union to finalize expeditiously the text of a mutually acceptable and binding agreement on the filling and operation of the GERD.

The Council issued **4 press statements** on the following topics: on the 20th Anniversary of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks ([SC/14626](#)), the political situation in Somalia including the electoral process ([SC/14641](#)), the attempt on the 21 September to disrupt Sudan's transition by force ([SC/14643](#)), and the formation of a new Government in Lebanon ([SC/14646](#)).

Other activities

During the month of September, Council members held one virtual Arria-formula meeting. Organized by Mexico, the meeting was held on 16 September on the topic of “**Small arms: The threat to international peace and security posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons**”.

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Dashboards pertaining to Field Missions, Women and Peace and Security, Children and Armed Conflict, Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, and Women at the Security Council are updated with the latest data as of 31 March 2021. The Security Council Membership Dashboard is updated with the latest information as of 11 June 2021 and the Subsidiary Organs Chairs and Vice-Chairs Dashboard contains the latest data for 2021. For more information about the Council's working methods during the COVID-19 pandemic, please consult the newly launched 23rd Supplement (2020) [Part II](#) on procedural developments.