February 2022 at a Glance

Under the Presidency of the Russian Federation, the Security Council held two signature events:

- A debate on General Issues relating to sanctions (7 February), focusing on preventing their humanitarian and unintended consequences.
- A debate on Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security (16 February), focusing on cooperation with the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presided over the meeting. Council members were briefed by the Secretary General and the Secretary-General of CSTO.

The Council also held a meeting at the ministerial level under the agenda item “Letter dated 13 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/264)” (17 February) with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presiding over the meeting.

Key Topics

Items relating to Ukraine (17, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 28 February) were the most frequently considered country- or region-specific item in open and closed discussions, followed by the Middle East (15, 25 and 28 February), Somalia (15 and 24 February) and Non-proliferation/DPRK (4 and 24 February).

Other country or region-specific items considered by the Council included: the Central African Republic, Haiti, Iraq, Iraq and Kuwait, Middle East including the Palestinian question, Peace consolidation in West Africa and Sudan and South Sudan. Council members also discussed the Sahel, Yemen and Non-proliferation/DPRK under other matters (AOB).
In addition to the signature events mentioned above, Council members also held meetings under thematic items on Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts and Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Procedural notes

The Council convened five emergency meetings on the situation in Ukraine under the agenda item “Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/130)” on 21, 23, 25, 27 and 28 February. Ukraine participated in these meetings under rule 37 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure. The Secretary-General participated in the meeting held on 23 February.

On 25 February (see S/PV.8979), the first veto of the year was cast by the Russian Federation during a vote on a draft resolution (S/2022/155) under the above referenced item on the situation in Ukraine co-sponsored by 82 Member States. On 27 February (see S/PV.8980), for the first time in four decades, the Council adopted resolution 2623 (2022) calling on the General Assembly to hold an emergency special session on Ukraine in accordance with General Assembly resolution 377 (V) A “Uniting for Peace”. The resolution was adopted with three abstentions, despite the negative vote of the Russian Federation (for precedents see the Repertoire).

Decisions and press statements

In February 2022, in addition to the non-unanimous adoption of resolution 2623 (2022), the Council adopted four resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter, three of which were adopted unanimously. The Council did not issue any presidential statements during the month.


The Council issued five press statements on the following topics: the continuing state of emergency in Myanmar (SC/14783), the situation in Lebanon (SC/14786), the militia attacks on the Savo internally displaced persons camp in the eastern province of Ituri of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SC/14787), the unconstitutional change of Government on 24 January 2022 in Burkina Faso (SC/14790) and the ongoing cooperation between Iraq and Kuwait in the search for missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals (SC/14813).

Other activities

On 22 February, former members of the Security Council for the 2020-21 term, Estonia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Viet Nam participated in the 2022 Exit Briefing with the wider UN membership and civil society organizations.

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Dashboards pertaining to Field Missions, Women and Peace and Security, Children and Armed Conflict, Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Women at the Security Council are updated with the latest data available for 2021. Dashboards on Security Council Membership and the Subsidiary Organs Chairs and Vice-Chairs are updated with the latest data for 2022. For more information about the Council’s working methods during the COVID-19 pandemic, see 23rd Supplement (2020) Part II on procedural developments.