

# UN Security Council in Review

March 2023



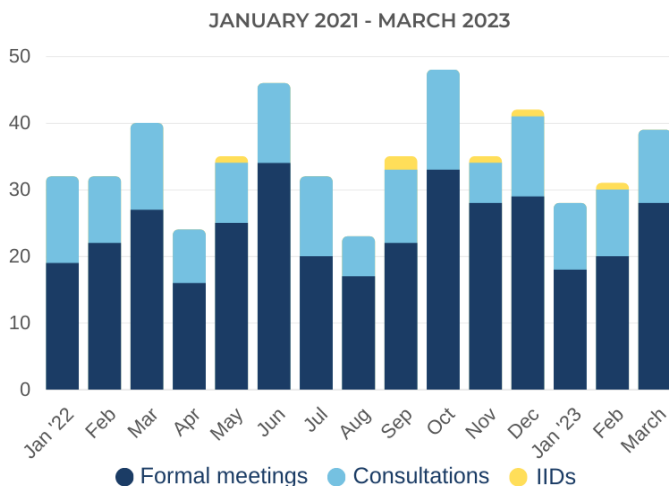
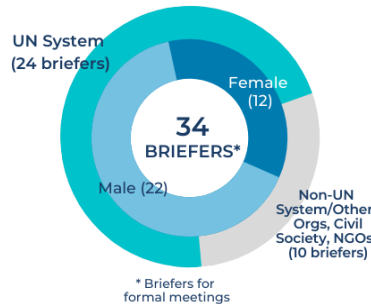
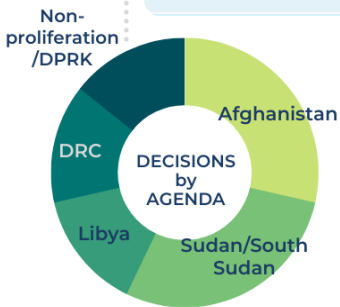
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## March 2023 at a Glance



Most frequently discussed topics (open & closed)

- Afghanistan
- Sudan/South Sudan
- Threats to international peace and security
- Middle East
- Non-proliferation/DPRK



Under the first **Presidency of Mozambique**, the Security Council held **four signature events**:

- A high-level open debate on **Women and peace and security** (7 March), held in the light of the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) (S/2023/146). The meeting was presided by the **Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique**.
- A briefing on **Maintenance of international peace and security** (16 March), focused on security sector reform (S/2023/168).
- A high-level debate on **Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts** (28 March) focused on **countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism by strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and mechanisms** (S/2023/147). The meeting was presided by the **President of Mozambique** with briefings by the **Secretary-General** and the President of Comoros as the **Chairperson of the African Union**.
- A high-level open debate on **Peace and security in Africa** (30 March) focused on **the impact of development policies on the implementation of the Silencing the Guns initiative** (S/2023/148(Rev.1)). The **President of Mozambique** presided over the meeting.

## Key Topics

**Sudan and South Sudan** (2, 6, 8, 15, and twice on 20 March), including a private meeting with troop-contributing countries to **UNMISS**, and the **Middle East** (6, 15, 16, 23 and 29 March) were the most frequently considered country- or region-specific items in open and closed discussions, followed by **Afghanistan** (8 and 16 March) and **Non-proliferation/DPRK** (20 and 23 March). Other country- or region-specific items addressed by the Council included the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Libya**, the **Palestinian question** and **Ukraine**. The Council also held private meetings on **Myanmar** and **Somalia** and discussed the **Middle East** and **Mali** under other matters (AOB). In addition to the signature events, Council

members also held meetings under thematic items on the **Security Council mission** to the Democratic

Republic of the Congo, **Threats to international peace and security** and **Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction**.

## Procedural notes

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On 17 March, at a meeting held under the item **Maintenance of peace and security in Ukraine**, the Council held a **procedural vote on the participation of a briefer** under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure which was not adopted having failed to receive the required number of votes (see [S/PV.9286](#)).

On 27 March, the Council voted on a draft resolution submitted by Belarus, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela ([S/2023/212](#)), requesting the Secretary-General to establish an international investigation into the alleged act of sabotage against the **Nord Stream gas pipeline in the Baltic Sea** in September 2022. The draft was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes (see [S/PV.9295](#)).

From 9-12 March, the Council undertook a **field mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo**. France and Gabon, as co-leads of the mission, briefed the Council on the visit on 29 March (see [S/PV.9299](#)).

As of March, the Council completed its annual review of the summary statement by the Secretary-General of matters of which the Council is seized and deleted the items **The situation in Burundi** and **The situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** from its agenda ([S/2023/10/Add.9](#)).

## Decisions and press statements

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In March 2023, the Council adopted **five resolutions** and issued **two presidential statements**. Three of the five resolutions were adopted unanimously. By resolutions [2678 \(2023\)](#) and [2679 \(2023\)](#), adopted at the same meeting and concerning Afghanistan (see [S/PV.9283](#)), the Council extended the mandate of **UNAMA** for one year and requested the Secretary-General to conduct an **independent assessment on the international approach in Afghanistan**. By resolution [2680 \(2023\)](#), adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council extended for 13 months the mandate of the **Panel of Experts** established pursuant to resolution [1874 \(2009\)](#) concerning the **DPRK**.

Resolutions [2676 \(2023\)](#), extending for one year the mandate of the **Panel of Experts** established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the **Sudan**, and [2677 \(2023\)](#), extending for one year the mandate of **UNMISS**, were both adopted under Chapter VII with 13 votes in favour and two abstentions by China and the Russian Federation (see [S/PV.9278](#) and [S/PV.9281](#), respectively).

On 16 March, the Council issued its second presidential statement of the year ([S/PRST/2023/2](#)), reiterating its support for the **SRSG and head of UNSMIL**, in particular his **mediation and good offices role to further an inclusive political process in Libya**. On 29 March, the Council issued [S/PRST/2023/3](#) following its mission to the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.

The Council also issued a **press statement** condemning recent terrorist attacks in **Afghanistan** on 27 March ([SC/15246](#)).

## Other activities

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In March, Council members held **four Arria-formula meetings** on: the situation in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** (17 March), **integrating the human rights of LGBTI persons** into the Council's mandate for maintaining international peace and security (20 March), achieving a better **protection of water-related essential services and infrastructure** for the civilian population during armed conflicts (22 March), and risks stemming from the politicization of the activities of the **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** (24 March).

On 21 March, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates issued a statement of **joint pledges** to focus on the **implications of climate change for international peace and security** as priorities during their terms as Council members.

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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 quarterly (monthly for Arria-formula meetings). Dashboards on Security Council Membership and the Subsidiary Organs Chairs and Vice-Chairs are updated annually. For more information about the Council's working methods, see our [updates on procedural developments](#).