

Table 2
Videoconferences: the situation in Mali

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
7 April 2020	S/2020/286	Letter dated 9 April 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
11 June 2020	S/2020/541	Letter dated 15 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	
29 June 2020	S/2020/625	Letter dated 30 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	Resolution 2531 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/613
31 August 2020	S/2020/867	Letter dated 31 August 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution 2541 (2020) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) S/2020/859

Americas

13. The question concerning Haiti

During the period under review, the Council held two meetings and adopted one resolution in connection with the item entitled “The question concerning Haiti”. One meeting took the form of a briefing and the other meeting was convened for the adoption of a decision.³⁷³ With the adoption of resolution [2547 \(2020\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of the

United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) for a period of one year until 15 October 2021.³⁷⁴ In addition, Council members held two open videoconferences under the item.³⁷⁵ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers

³⁷³ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

³⁷⁴ Resolution [2547 \(2020\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of BINUH, see part X, sect. II.

³⁷⁵ For information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

and decisions, and the videoconferences is given in tables 1 and 2 below. In addition to the meetings and videoconferences, Council members held informal consultations of the whole in connection with the item.³⁷⁶ In 2020, the Council was briefed three times by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of BINUH and once each by the Executive Director of Fondasyon Je Klere and by the President of the Haitian Bars Federation. Discussions in the Council during this period focused on the mandate of BINUH and the political impasse in Haiti between the Government and the opposition, following the indefinite postponement of the legislative elections in October 2019.

In her briefing at the meeting held on 20 February,³⁷⁷ the Special Representative of the Secretary-General stated that the political impasse had paralysed the functioning of Haitian institutions, aggravated the country's economy and fuelled continued insecurity. She was working alongside the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States and the Apostolic Nuncio to Haiti to create an environment conducive to reaching a negotiated resolution that would ensure that the most vulnerable received much needed basic services from the State and lay the groundwork for the timely holding of elections. Political actors had yet to settle on a formula that would lead to the designation of a consensual prime minister and the formation of a new Government, or agree on the remaining length of the term of the President, Jovenel Moïse. Entering its second year with a caretaker Government, Haiti's economy was forecast to sink deeper into recession and 4.6 million citizens were estimated to require humanitarian assistance.

Making reference to the Secretary-General's report,³⁷⁸ the Special Representative noted that BINUH and the United Nations country team in Haiti had developed an integrated strategic framework with a focused strategy aimed at assisting institutions to address the root causes of instability.³⁷⁹ The collective success of the United Nations would be measured by the progress made on the six benchmarks, namely, facilitating a political consensus, addressing gang violence, strengthening the police, justice and corrections sectors, promoting human rights, helping to address unemployment and socioeconomic grievances, and encouraging the presence of the State in

communities through the provision of basic services and efforts to enhance resilience.

At the open videoconference held on 19 June,³⁸⁰ the Special Representative of the Secretary-General informed Council members that the spread of COVID-19 was accelerating in Haiti and its effects were only starting to be felt by its citizens, a majority of whom were already living in bleak socioeconomic conditions. As a result of the multiple, interconnected crises that had affected the country in recent years, Haiti's economy had contracted by 1.2 per cent in 2019 and was projected to shrink by a further 4 per cent in 2020. In the absence of adequate resources to support Haiti's emergence from the recession, the hard-won security and development gains achieved over the past decade and a half were at risk of coming undone and a primarily domestic problem risked being transformed into a regional issue.

In terms of the security and political situation, the Special Representative noted a marked increase in the frequency and intensity of clashes between rival armed gangs as they tried to exert influence on the outcome of elections in the most populous neighbourhoods of Port-au-Prince. Despite the call from parts of the opposition for Haitians to come together to face the pandemic, an initiative that had allowed the newly appointed Prime Minister, Joseph Joute, to govern, a growing number of opposition figures were contesting the length of Mr. Moïse's term in office as President and calling for a transitional administration to take over. A reform of the Constitution was required to create the conditions for institutional stability, good governance and the rule of law. Through the use of its good offices, BINUH had continued to encourage actors from across the political spectrum to constructively engage with one another. The Office had also advised the Haitian National Police in the successful resolution of long-standing labour disputes within its ranks and assisted judicial actors in devising a virtual system to hold hearings during the pandemic.

In her briefing on 5 October,³⁸¹ the Special Representative noted the assassination of the President of the Port-au-Prince Bar Association on 28 August 2020 and the increasing prevalence of unrest, sometimes in the form of violent protests. Gangs continued to challenge the authority of the State, while a fringe group of disaffected police officers had brought disorder to Port-au-Prince on several occasions. Although the Haitian National Police had consistently proved its operational proficiency, it

³⁷⁶ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 7.

³⁷⁷ See [S/PV.8729](#).

³⁷⁸ See [S/2020/123](#).

³⁷⁹ See [S/PV.8729](#).

³⁸⁰ See [S/2020/568](#).

³⁸¹ See [S/2020/979](#).

required at least an additional 10,000 well-trained and well-equipped police officers to meet internationally accepted policing standards. Similarly, continued support, steadfast political resolve and decisive action was necessary to ensure that the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, which was being operationalized, was capable of performing its tasks. As the country was preparing to enter a new electoral cycle, it was paramount that key aspects of the process, such as the electoral framework and calendar, were addressed so as to reduce the risk of contested elections and further violence. She urged Member States to amplify their support for a process that, if properly managed, would contribute to renewing Haiti's elected leadership, lead to a greater representation of women in political life and reinvigorate the social contract between Haitian citizens and the State.

In her statement at the meeting on 20 February,³⁸² the Executive Director of Fondasyon Je Klere, a Haitian human rights organization which conducted human rights training, monitoring and inquiries with respect to public institutions, stated that Haiti was facing widespread and systematic violations of human rights. She cited examples of violations of the right to life, physical integrity and dignity, with numerous accounts of killings, kidnappings, beheadings, rapes, diversion of supplies, abductions and forcible confinement committed by armed gangs. The Executive Director expressed the view that those crimes were being committed with the support, at least tacitly, of the Government, while the perpetrators enjoyed official impunity. Drawing attention to the fight against corruption, she stressed the need for the implementation of the law on wealth declaration and the holding of fair and equitable trials on the management of the PetroCaribe funds. The Executive Director called on the Council to support ensuring the success of the transition period in Haiti and a return to democratic order; weakening of the firepower of armed gangs; the organization of trials in relation to the PetroCaribe funds, the La Saline and Carrefour Feuilles massacres and cases of rape; ending corruption; and auditing the police with a view to boosting its credibility and ensuring that it was able to discharge its mission to protect and serve.

On 19 June,³⁸³ the President of the Bars Federation of Haiti pointed to a massive rise in human rights violations in Haiti, with the incident at La Saline in 2018 as one of many. According to the President of the Federation, the problem was primarily one of

impunity, while the question of the involvement of the authorities was also raised in many reports, including those of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) and BINUH. Those shortcomings were closely linked to the dysfunction in the justice system, while a perversion of the electoral process had led to interference, violence and the instrumentalization of power. In connection with the role of the United Nations in Haiti, he raised the question of reparation for the victims of the cholera tragedy and accountability for sexual abuse by peacekeepers. Regarding the mandate of BINUH, he noted that respect for human rights and supporting a weak State were conflicting mandates and cautioned that by linking its fate to the State, the Office risked losing objectivity, even if only in the interpretation of indicators. The President of the Federation called for the strategy of continued international support to be revisited when there was a lack of national will and stressed that civil society actors needed to be listened to and supported.

In their discussions during the meeting and open videoconferences, Council members expressed concern regarding the continued political impasse in Haiti, increased levels of insecurity and human rights violations, including gang violence, as well as deteriorating humanitarian and socioeconomic conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Council members called on all political stakeholders to engage in an inclusive and open dialogue to define a calendar for legislative elections, leading to the formation of a new Government and constitutional reform. A number of Council members stressed the responsibility of the Haitian authorities for ensuring the security of their citizens and the rule of law and for addressing the underlying causes of instability.³⁸⁴ Statements referred to the importance of full accountability for human rights violations, including the incidents at La Saline in 2018 and Bel Air in 2019,³⁸⁵ and for corruption.³⁸⁶ Some speakers welcomed the progress made in the professionalization of the Haitian National Police, but noted that sustainable resources and increased capacity

³⁸⁴ See [S/PV.8729](#) (United States, China, Viet Nam, Niger and Belgium); [S/2020/568](#) (Indonesia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines); and [S/2020/979](#) (China, France, Indonesia and Viet Nam).

³⁸⁵ See [S/PV.8729](#) (United States, Germany, Estonia and Belgium); [S/2020/568](#) (Belgium, Estonia, France, United Kingdom and United States); and [S/2020/979](#) (Estonia, Germany, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of the Niger, South Africa and Tunisia) and United States).

³⁸⁶ See [S/PV.8729](#) (United States, France, Tunisia, Germany, Estonia and Belgium); and [S/2020/979](#) (France, Germany and Indonesia).

³⁸² See [S/PV.8729](#).

³⁸³ See [S/2020/568](#).

were required to enable it to function effectively.³⁸⁷ The representatives of France, Tunisia, Germany and the United Kingdom recognized that the deployment of BINUH in 2019 was undertaken within the context of particularly difficult circumstances in Haiti.³⁸⁸ Council members commended and underscored the important work of the Office in facilitating political dialogue and supporting justice and governance reforms. Recalling its disagreement with regard to the withdrawal of MINUJUSTH in the midst of a fragile elections process, the representative of the Dominican Republic expressed hope that the decision to do so, without an adequately equipped police force, would serve as a lesson to illustrate what the Council should not repeat in another country.³⁸⁹

On 15 October, the Council adopted resolution [2547 \(2020\)](#) by which it extended the existing mandate of BINUH for a period of one year until 15 October 2021.³⁹⁰ The Council reiterated the essential constitutional role of Haiti's Parliament and the urgent need for an inclusive inter-Haitian national dialogue to address longstanding drivers of instability by creating a sustainable and commonly accepted framework to permit the organization of free, fair and transparent elections as soon as technically feasible.³⁹¹

³⁸⁷ See [S/PV.8729](#) (United States, Tunisia, Germany, United Kingdom, Estonia, Indonesia and Haiti); [S/2020/568](#) (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of the Niger, South Africa and Tunisia) and United States); and [S/2020/979](#) (Dominican Republic, Germany, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of the Niger, South Africa and Tunisia) and United States).

³⁸⁸ See [S/PV.8729](#).

³⁸⁹ Ibid.

³⁹⁰ Resolution [2547 \(2020\)](#), para. 1.

³⁹¹ Ibid., third preambular paragraph.

Resolution [2457 \(2020\)](#) was adopted with 13 votes in favour and two abstentions, by China and the Russian Federation. In their statements after the vote,³⁹² the representative of China indicated that, in adopting a mere technical rollover resolution, the Council had failed to demonstrate the importance it attached to the grim situation in Haiti. Moreover, the draft did not take into account the constructive and highly consensual amendments proposed by his country's delegation related to human rights, reducing violence, protecting civilians, implementing good governance, combating corruption and conducting free, fair, transparent and credible presidential elections. The representative of the Russian Federation added that the document failed to mention the most serious problems with violence vis-à-vis civilians, encroachment on human rights and corruption, and the need to respect the country's Constitution when adopting momentous decisions. While voting in favour of the resolution, the representative of the Dominican Republic expressed regret that Council members had not had a more extensive, cross-cutting and inclusive conversation in order to come up with a more robust, multidimensional mandate for BINUH, including at least the strengthening of human rights safeguards and accountability. The representative of the United States maintained that the resolution ensured that BINUH had the mandate to continue efforts to support democratic institutions, strengthen the rule of law, promote stability and protect human rights, in partnership with the United States, Haiti's neighbours, the core group and the international community. The representative of France welcomed the fact that the resolution recalled the urgent need to engage in a nationwide dialogue in order to facilitate the conduct of free, fair and transparent elections.

³⁹² See [S/PV.8768](#).

Table 1
Meetings: the question concerning Haiti

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8729 20 February 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) (S/2020/123)		Haiti	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of BINUH, Executive Director of Fondasyon Je Klere	All Council members, all invitees ^a	

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.8768 15 October 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on BINUH (S/2020/944)	Draft resolution submitted by the United States (S/2020/1011)			5 Council members (China, Dominican Republic, France, Russian Federation, United States)	Resolution 2547 (2020) 15-0-2 ^b

^a The Special Representative and the Executive Director of Fondasyon Je Klere participated in the meeting by videoconference from Port-au-Prince.

^b *For*: Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam; *against*: none; *abstaining*: China, Russian Federation.

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19 June 2020	S/2020/568	Letter dated 23 June 2020 from the President of the Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
5 October 2020	S/2020/979	Letter dated 7 October 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

14. Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2016/53](#))

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings and adopted one resolution under the item entitled “Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2016/53](#))”. More information on the meeting, including on participants and speakers, is provided in table 1 below. Council members also held two open videoconferences in connection with the item.³⁹³ More information on the videoconferences is provided in table 2 below. In addition to the meetings and videoconferences, Council

members held informal consultations of the whole in connection with the item.³⁹⁴

In 2020, Council members received quarterly briefings under the item by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General.³⁹⁵ Council members were also briefed once by a member of the Municipal Association of Women and once by a consultant of the World Wildlife Fund and Colombian Ambassador for One Young World. Colombia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs in the

³⁹³ For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

³⁹⁴ See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 41.

³⁹⁵ [S/2019/988](#), [S/2020/603](#), [S/2020/943](#) and [S/2020/1301](#).