

MIDDLE EAST

23. The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

During the period under review, the Security Council held 31 meetings in connection with the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. The Council adopted one presidential statement expressing its strong support for the call by international partners and the Secretary-General for an immediate and unconditional humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, allowing for the delivery of urgently needed assistance.⁸⁴ One draft resolution submitted by Jordan on behalf of the Group of Arab States, which set parameters and a timeframe for a negotiated solution and the creation of a Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel, was not adopted by the Council.⁸⁵

During 2014, the Council discussions focused on the resumption and subsequent suspension of direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians towards a two-State solution, and the deteriorating humanitarian situation and intensification of the violence in and around Gaza. During 2015, discussions focused on the reconstruction in Gaza, and on the increase in tensions with respect to holy sites in Jerusalem. Meetings during the two-year period also focused on the escalation of activities that undermined a two-State solution in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Developments in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the overall political situation in the Middle East were also discussed during the period, but are featured elsewhere in this part.⁸⁶

⁸⁴ [S/PRST/2014/13](#), paragraph 3.

⁸⁵ [S/2014/916](#).

⁸⁶ For more information, see the section concerning the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”.

Meetings: the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

<i>Meeting 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.7096 and S/PV.7096 (Resumption 1) 20 January 2014			26 Member States ^a	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See	Secretary-General, all Council members ^b , all invitees	
S/PV.7118 25 February 2014				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
S/PV.7140 18 March 2014				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
S/PV.7164 29 April 2014			29 Member States ^c	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States.	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.7178 20 May 2014				Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
S/PV.7204 23 June 2014				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	

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<i>Meeting 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.7214 10 July 2014			Israel	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine	Secretary-General, all invitees	
S/PV.7220 18 July 2014			Israel	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.7222 22 July 2014			40 Member States ^d	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	Secretary-General, all Council members ^e , all invitees	
S/PV.7225 28 July 2014			Israel	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine		S/PRST/2014/13
S/PV.7232 31 July 2014			Israel	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	
S/PV.7243 18 August 2014				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	
S/PV.7266 16 September 2014				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	

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S/PV.7281 21 October 2014			35 Member States ^f	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See	Secretary-General, all Council members, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See, 34 Member States ^g	
S/PV.7291 29 October 2014			Israel	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.7312 17 November 2014				Assistant Secretary-General ad interim for Political Affairs	Assistant Secretary-General ad interim for Political Affairs	
S/PV.7339 15 December 2014				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	
S/PV.7354 30 December 2014		Draft resolution submitted by Jordan (S/2014/916)	Israel	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine	All Council members ^h , all invitees	Draft resolution not adopted (S/2014/916) 8-2-5 ⁱ
S/PV.7360 15 January 2015			27 Member States ^j	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Assistant Secretary-General ad interim for Political Affairs, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the	All Council members ^k , all invitees	

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<i>Meeting 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>
				Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People		
S/PV.7386 18 February 2015				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
S/PV.7417 26 March 2015				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	
S/PV.7430 21 April 2015			29 Member States ¹	Deputy Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See	Secretary-General, all Council members ^m and all invitees	
S/PV.7446 19 May 2015				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	
S/PV.7470 24 June 2015				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
S/PV.7490 23 July 2015			26 Member States ⁿ	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Minister Counsellor in the Delegation of the European Union, Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of	All Council members, ^o all invitees	

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<i>Meeting 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>
				the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See		
S/PV.7506 19 August 2015				Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs	
S/PV.7521 15 September 2015				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	
S/PV.7536 16 October 2015			Israel	Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.7540 and S/PV.7540 (Resumption 1) 22 October 2015			33 Member States ^p	Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Observer State of Palestine, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See	Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members ^d , all invitees	
S/PV.7562 19 November 2015				Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General	
S/PV.7584 16 December 2015				Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs	

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^a Brazil, Cuba, Djibouti (speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement as well as in his national capacity), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

^b Three Council members were represented at the ministerial level: Jordan (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and Expatriates Affairs), Luxembourg (Minister for Foreign and European Affairs) and Republic of Korea (Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs).

^c Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, Guinea (speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement as well as in his national capacity), Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Namibia, Oman (speaking on behalf of the Arab Group), Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey.

^d Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Viet Nam, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

^e One Council member was represented at the ministerial level: Luxembourg (Minister for Foreign and European Affairs).

^f Algeria, Bahrain, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the South African Development Community).

^g Algeria, Bahrain, Belize, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

^h One Council member was represented at the ministerial level: Luxembourg (Minister for Foreign and European Affairs).

ⁱ For: Argentina, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Luxembourg and Russian Federation; against: Australia and United States; abstaining: Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, and United Kingdom.

^j Botswana, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, Iceland (Minister for Foreign Affairs), India, Indonesia, Iran (the Islamic Republic of) (speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia (speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey and Zimbabwe (speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community).

^k One Council member was represented at the ministerial level: Chile (Minister for Foreign Affairs).

^l Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (speaking on behalf of the

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Non-Aligned Movement), Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia (speaking on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation), South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

^m One Council member was represented at the ministerial level: Jordan (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and Expatriates Affairs). ⁿ Bangladesh, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait (speaking on behalf of members States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Lebanon, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.

^o One Council member was represented at the ministerial level: New Zealand (Minister for Foreign Affairs).

^p Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait (on behalf of the member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Lebanon, Maldives (Foreign Secretary), Morocco, Norway (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Pakistan, Qatar (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

^q Six Council members were represented at the ministerial level: Jordan (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and Expatriates Affairs), Malaysia (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), New Zealand (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Spain (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation), United States (Permanent Representative of the United States and Member of President Obama's Cabinet) and Venezuela (Minister for Foreign Affairs).

24. The situation in the Middle East

During the period under review, the Security Council held 57 meetings, including six private/closed meetings,⁸⁷ in connection with the item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”. The Council adopted seventeen resolutions and seven presidential statements. The Council did not adopt a draft resolution by which the Council would have referred the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic to the International Criminal Court.⁸⁸ During the meetings, the Council considered: (a) the humanitarian and political situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; (b) the humanitarian situation and political transition process in Yemen; (c) the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF); (d) the situation in Lebanon and the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL); and (e) the victims of attacks and abuses on ethnic or religious grounds in the Middle East.

The Council renewed the mandate of UNDOF⁸⁹ four times for periods of six months⁹⁰ each, and renewed the mandate of UNIFIL⁹¹ twice for periods of one year each.⁹² In February 2014, the Council established the Committee pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) to oversee the sanctions measures imposed on individuals or entities engaging in or providing support for acts that threatened the peace, security or stability in Yemen.⁹³ By resolution [2204 \(2015\)](#), the mandate of the Panel of Experts was extended for 13 months. By the same resolution, the Council renewed the travel ban and assets freeze, imposed by resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#), for 12 months, respectively, and by resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#) the Council expanded the sanctions regime by imposing a targeted arms

⁸⁷ For private meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries to UNDOF, see [S/PV.7200](#), [S/PV.7333](#), [S/PV.7462](#) and [S/PV.7579](#). For private meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries to UNIFIL, see [S/PV.7241](#) and [S/PV.7503](#).

⁸⁸ [S/2014/348](#).

⁸⁹ For more information, see part X, sect. I, with regard to the mandate of UNDOF.

⁹⁰ Resolutions [2163 \(2014\)](#), [2192 \(2014\)](#), [2229 \(2015\)](#) and [2257 \(2015\)](#).

⁹¹ For more information, see part X, sect. I, with regard to the mandate of UNIFIL.

⁹² Resolutions [2172 \(2014\)](#) and [2236 \(2015\)](#).

⁹³ For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) concerning Yemen and the mandate of the Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. B with regard to committees established under Chapter VII of the Charter.