



ECUADOR

UN SECURITY COUNCIL, 2023-2024



REPUBLIC
OF ECUADOR

Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and
Human Mobility





President Daniel Noboa Azín, Presidential Statement of the Security Council on Transnational Organized Crime, 2023.

"I wanted to come personally to the Council to reiterate my Government's commitment to the search for peace ...we must increase the fight against transnational organized crime, which includes the threats that we are suffering within our borders"





Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Gabriela Sommerfeld chairing the Security Council, 2023.





ECUADOR IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2023-2024

February, 2025

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Human Mobility**

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The Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and... shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

UN Charter, Article 24.



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HUMAN MOBILITY OF ECUADOR, GABRIELA SOMMERFELD



During 2023 and 2024, Ecuador was part of the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member, under the guidelines, management, and determination of the President of the Republic, Daniel Noboa Azín, to contribute to international peace and security, based on the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

As Foreign Minister, I had the honor of directing Ecuador's foreign policy during much of Ecuador's participation in the Security Council, whose results allow me to attest that conflict resolution and the search for peace are enriched by the individual contribution of each Member State, regardless of its size, development or economic and military power. I am convinced that the solid ties we have forged with the members of the Security Council throughout this unforgettable journey will endure and continue to inspire our work in the multilateral arena.

In January 2023, Ecuador, its authorities, and its Foreign Service assumed complex and delicate responsibilities in a period of geopolitical uncertainty, aggravated by the intensification and spread of new and old conflicts. Therefore, from the beginning of its mandate, with the firm conviction that the only way to address these threats is through dialogue and cooperation, Ecuador established five priorities: the peaceful resolution of disputes; sustainable peace and emerging threats; the protection of civilians and the agenda of children in armed conflicts; non-proliferation and the fight against illicit arms trafficking; and, the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

In line with the priorities of the National Government, Ecuador organized its signature event on the growing challenges posed by organized crime, on the occasion of its presidency of the Security Council, in December 2023. We opened a space for Member States to discuss the scope and repercussions of this scourge for international peace and security. Political responses and initiatives at the sub-regional, regional, and international levels were reviewed to address this phenomenon.

The President of the Republic, Daniel Noboa Azín presided the signature event. As a result of an intense process of diplomatic negotiations, the Member States of the Security Council agreed to the "Statement by the President of the Security Council" which recognizes, among other issues, the importance of improving international and regional cooperation to counter transnational organized crime.

We must not undermine the careful consideration and deliberate response to transnational organized crime, narco-terrorism and associated crimes. Combined, the tentacles of these scourges infiltrate the sovereignty of our countries to create a parallel State with multinational and multidimensional reach, seriously disturbing the peace and stability of our nations and corroding their social fabric.

Joint deliberation and concerted action in response to these threats constitute the only way forward to forge a new comprehensive concept of peace and security. The urgency of providing a significant dose of credibility to the Council, based on the political will to overcome any pretext of barriers that may hinder its functioning, can no longer be overlooked.

During these intense twenty-four months, Ecuador chaired several Committees of the Security Council and led relevant processes for the international community, such as the work on the situation in Haiti and the promotion of actions aimed at combating transnational organized crime. As part of the group of non-permanent members (E10), we are proud to have presented several proposals that were able to mobilize the Council, underlining the catalytic effect that this group can generate in association with the permanent members. Quito hosted the Seventh Annual Dialogue of the E10 and the 5 incoming members (i5), which constituted a valuable opportunity for them to strengthen their collaboration, capacity, and institutionality in order to promote international peace and security in the agenda and decisions of the Council.

The objective of this publication is to present the work carried out by Ecuador as a member of the Security Council, in which it remained faithful to the traditional principles of its foreign policy: the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion and protection of human rights, and sustainable development.

Without a doubt, our country contributed to the timely treatment of highly relevant issues, ranging from the promotion of multilateral dialogue to the structural challenge of achieving inclusive representation and tangible effectiveness in the decision-making of this body.

I trust that the pages that follow will demonstrate this.

Gabriela Sommerfeld
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility



MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN ECUADOR, LENA SAVELLI



“The spirit that guided the creation of the United Nations must prevail and inspire humanity to persist on the path of peace.”

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Security Council, 2024.

We live in a complex, interdependent, and constantly changing world. A world where global challenges such as climate change, pandemics, armed conflicts, inequality, and poverty require global solutions, based on cooperation, dialogue, and solidarity between nations. In this context, multilateralism, embodied in the United Nations and its Security Council, stands as a critical path to building a future of peace, prosperity, and human rights for all.

The Security Council, as a principal organ of the United Nations, responsible for maintaining international peace and security, plays a fundamental role in preventing and resolving conflicts, as well as in promoting international law, which are fundamental elements to promote sustainable development. That is why the active and committed participation of Member States in the Security Council is essential to strengthen the multilateral system and move towards a more just, equitable, and peaceful international order.

In this regard, the election of Ecuador as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2023-2024 was of particular importance. The country, recognized for its firm commitment to peace and international law, has demonstrated throughout its history an unwavering multilateralist vocation. Its participation in the Security Council has been characterized by its leadership in crucial issues such as the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and the fight against transnational organized crime. In addition, Ecuador assumed with responsibility and commitment the role of co-penholder on Haiti, demonstrating its leadership in the search for solutions to the humanitarian and political crisis in the Caribbean country.

This publication, which documents the achievements and significance of Ecuador's participation in the Security Council during the term 2023-2024, is a testimony to the country's commitment to building a better world. Through its pages, the reader will be able to appreciate the work carried out by Ecuador in the Security Council, as well as its contributions to international peace and security.

I hope that this publication will serve as a source of information and inspiration for all those interested in understanding the challenges and opportunities of the multilateral system in the 21st century and that it will contribute to strengthening the commitment of the international community to peace, justice, and sustainable development.

Lena Savelli
United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ecuador





President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa Azín at the United Nations General Assembly, 2024.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF ECUADOR IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Ambassador Jaime Barberis Martínez,
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs



“The Security Council can and must cooperatively exercise its responsibility, whether dealing with a traditional or an emerging threat... Wars, conflicts and transnational organized crime have one ingredient in common: weapons.”

Daniel Noboa Azín, President of Ecuador, 2024.

Throughout the history of the United Nations Security Council, non-permanent members have played a crucial role in the debate and adoption of key resolutions for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Prior to Ecuador's membership in the Security Council for the period 2023-2024, which is the subject of this publication, Ecuador occupied that vacancy on three occasions: 1950-1951, 1960-1961, and 1991-1992. In these participations, the country, based on its foreign policy principles, has reaffirmed its commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

Ecuador's track record in the Security Council is notable for its consistency in upholding and promoting respect for international law, the defense of sovereignty, the peaceful resolution of disputes, the promotion of total disarmament, the self-determination of peoples, and the strengthening of the rule of law. These principles have guided its performance in the different historical contexts in which it has had to act, from the conflicts that arose after the Second World War, through to the Cold War and its subsequent tensions.



Galo Plaza (standing), Ambassador to the United States and member of the Ecuadorian Delegation, addressing a Committee of Commission I (General Provisions) held on 15 June 1945, at the San Francisco Conference. Seated in front of him is Victor Andrés Belaúnde, of Peru.



Period 1960-1961: The First Participation in a Polarized World

Between 1950 and 1951, the work of the Security Council took place within the framework of the first five years of the existence of the United Nations, in the context of the Cold War, characterized by the political-ideological confrontation between the United States and the then Soviet Union. In mid-1950, the Korean War broke out and the Jammu and Kashmir controversy between Pakistan and India intensified.

During this period, Galo Plaza Lasso was President of the Republic of Ecuador, while Neptalí Ponce Enríquez was in charge of the Foreign Ministry. For his part, Antonio José Quevedo Moscoso served as Ecuador's representative to the Security Council.

One of Ecuador's greatest achievements was its proposal to investigate situations that could lead to international conflicts, which allowed the representative of the Central Government of the People's Republic of China to attend sessions of the Security Council between 1950 and 1951. Regarding the Korean War, Ecuador, along with other nations, presented a draft resolution urging States not to support North Korea, stressing its commitment to international law and global peace (Ponce, 1951).

On other issues, such as the controversy between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the Ecuadorian delegation advocated solutions based on dialogue, reflecting its conciliatory approach. In this regard, "(...) the actions of the Ecuadorian representative in the Security Council regarding the Kashmir problem have been guided especially by the desire to seek an agreement between the two parties" (Ponce, 1951). Likewise, in the context of the conflict between Syria and Israel, Ecuador supported initiatives emphasizing the importance of preserving stability in the Middle East. Indeed, "(...) Ecuador supported within the Security Council all draft resolutions aimed at maintaining, in full force, the Armistice Agreement and the authority of the United Nations" (Ponce, 1951).

It is worth noting that the work of the Security Council in this period resulted in 18 resolutions (11 in 1950 and 7 in 1951). In 1950, the following were non-permanent members of the Council: Ecuador, Cuba, Egypt, India, Norway and Yugoslavia. In 1951, the following countries: Brazil, Ecuador, India, the Netherlands, Türkiye, and Yugoslavia (Narváez, 2017).

Period 1960-1961: Leadership in Human Rights and Disarmament

In its second participation, Ecuador faced an international scenario characterized by growing tensions in the Cold War and the emergence of decolonization movements in Africa and Asia. In this context, the Ecuadorian delegation played a prominent role in promoting human rights and fighting racial discrimination.



During the Ecuadorian presidency of Camilo Ponce Enríquez (1956-1960), Carlos Tobar Zaldumbide continued to serve as Foreign Minister and José Antonio Correa Escobar led the Ecuadorian Mission to the United Nations, being primarily responsible for managing the new election of our country as a non-permanent member of the Security Council (Narváez, 2017).

One of the most significant milestones of Ecuador's membership as a non-permanent member of the Security Council in this period was the presentation of a draft resolution against apartheid in South Africa, unanimously approved by the Council. Thus, "(...) The Representative of Ecuador adopted a vigorous attitude against the policy of racial discrimination and in favor of equal rights and the universal validity of human rights" (Tobar, 1960).

This action underlined the country's commitment to the principles of equality and justice, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

In 1960, Ecuador was one of the four countries that presented a resolution through which the Council urged the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the then Soviet Union to seek a negotiated solution or use other peaceful means, after the failure of the Paris Summit between Western nations and the Soviet Union for disarmament (Egas, M, et al. 2022).

During this period, the Security Council also addressed critical issues such as the situation in Congo, Cuba's denunciation of external aggression, and the crisis generated by the Eichmann case.

During this participation in the Security Council, 38 resolutions were approved (28 in 1960, and 10 in 1961). These resolutions addressed issues of great complexity and critical relevance in a context, as mentioned, marked by the extreme tension of the Cold War, which was on the verge of becoming a nuclear conflict after the serious crisis between the United States and the Soviet Union at the end of 1962 (Narváez, 2017).

In 1960, in addition to the permanent members, the following non-permanent members served with Ecuador: Argentina, Ceylon, Italy, Poland, and Tunisia; and, in 1961: Ceylon, Chile, Liberia, the United Arab Republic, and Türkiye (United Nations, 2025).

Period 1991-1992: The Challenge of the Post-Cold War World

In its third participation in the United Nations Security Council, Ecuador worked in a profoundly transformed international context. The end of the Cold War marked the beginning of a unipolar system led by the United States, and the Council faced new challenges, such as the situation in the Middle East, the events in Central America and Cambodia, the sanctions imposed on Libya, the crisis in Somalia and the process of disintegration of Yugoslavia.



President of Ecuador Rodrigo Borja appointed Diego Cordovez as Foreign Minister for the period 1988-1992, while President Sixto Durán Ballén appointed Diego Paredes Peña to occupy that position for the term 1992-1994. During these presidential transitions, Ambassador José Ayala Lasso served as Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations from April 1989 to May 1994, also participating in the Security Council in 1991 and 1992.

During this period, Ecuador reaffirmed its commitment to disarmament and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. It participated in the adoption of 162 resolutions, highlighting its support for initiatives related to peace in El Salvador and the political transition in Cambodia. In addition, it emphasized the importance of international cooperation in a world that sought to redefine its order after the collapse of the Soviet Union (Narváez, 2022).

Likewise, during the first half of 1991, Ecuador continued to contribute with its military in the United Nations mission in Kuwait, until the end of the mandate of that peacekeeping operation. In addition, it began its participation in the operations of the ONUSAL mission, whose objective was the verification of the peace process in El Salvador (Cordovez, 1992).

In 1991, with the increase in the number of non-permanent members that had risen to ten, the following were in the Security Council as non-permanent members with Ecuador: Austria, Belgium, Ivory Coast, Cuba, India, Romania, Yemen, Zaire and Zimbabwe. In 1992, our country was accompanied, in the same capacity: by Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde, Hungary, India, Japan, Morocco, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe (United Nations, 2025).



The Security Council held its first Summit and issued a Statement on its central role in maintaining world peace and security, in 1992.



Historical Legacy and Current Projection

Ecuador's participation in the Security Council has left a significant legacy in the country's international politics. These historic achievements have been fundamental in positioning Ecuador as a relevant actor in international diplomacy. In the current context, Ecuador's participation in the Council for the period 2023-2024, as will be seen in the next articles of this publication, took up this legacy, adapting it to the challenges of a changing world.

The Ecuadorian contribution to the Security Council has not only increased its international visibility but has also consolidated a wealth of knowledge that serves as a basis for future generations. This commitment to peace, cooperation, and the fundamental values of the United Nations continues to be a guide for Ecuadorian foreign policy in the 21st century.



José Ayala-Lasso Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN, Security Council Meeting, 1991.





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Delegation of Ecuador to the Security Council. 2024.

RELEVANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

**Ambassador Andrés Montalvo Sosa, Permanent Representative
of Ecuador to the United Nations, New York**



“Ecuador firmly wishes to strengthen the United Nations and the Security Council in their primary functions of preserving international peace and security, and believes that this process can only be carried out in strict compliance with the principles, foundations, and powers established in the Charter, as the only guarantee to safeguard the full validity of the international legal order and the integrity and sovereignty of States, as well as their peaceful coexistence.”

José Ayala-Lasso, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and First United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1994-1997), 1991.

In December 2023, regarding the situation in Gaza, Secretary-General António Guterres requested that the Permanent Representative of Ecuador, José De La Gasca, in exercise of the rotating monthly presidency, “draw the attention of the Security Council to a matter that [...] may aggravate existing threats to the maintenance of international peace and security” (Security Council, 2023).



President Daniel Noboa Azín, Security Council Open Debate on Transnational Organized Crime, 2023.

In January 1946, almost eight decades ago, the “Iranian claim,” in which Iran alleged interference in its internal affairs by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), was the first issue brought to the Security Council’s attention. The situations in Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza, which are currently attracting world attention, as well as historical review of its broad agenda, such as the aforementioned “Iranian claim” or the “situation in Spain” which dealt with initiatives against Francoism, illustrate the relevance of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, which has not changed throughout its existence.

For this reason, and due to the advancement of communication technologies, it is a fact that for two years Ecuador was in the spotlight of the international community.

The scrutiny of the work of the Security Council, sometimes relentless and often unfounded, often confuses its actions as a collegiate body with those of individual countries, attributing



generalized blame that may stem from what is often described as “the paralysis of the Security Council” which results from the ineffectiveness of the tools at its disposal to fulfill its responsibility or from geopolitical tensions that can translate into the so-called veto.

The urgent need to reform the Security Council to adapt it to the reality of the contemporary world, making it “more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective and democratic and with more accountability” (General Assembly, 2024), as stated in the Pact for the Future adopted by world leaders in September 2024, does not diminish the importance of its work.

Consequently, what could be interpreted as paralysis of the Security Council does not detract from the recognition gained by Ecuador, particularly since December 2023 when it held the presidency of this main body of the global peace and security system.

As regards Ecuador’s management, it was guided by the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador and the principles of Ecuadorian foreign policy, as well as by the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. The fact that, for the first time in Ecuador’s history, a President of the Republic led a meeting of the Security Council at which, a Statement unanimously agreed upon by the members of the Council was adopted speaks for itself.

For reasons of space, this section will summarize the normative basis of the Security Council, some background that informs it, and certain practices, not always known to those who have not experienced the reality of the Security Council, which will contribute to gauging its importance.

Normative Basis and Background

Chapters V (The Security Council), VI (Pacific Settlement of Disputes), and VII (Action in the event of threats to the peace, breaches of the peace or acts of aggression) of the Charter constitute the normative basis for the action of the Security Council (Bentwich and Martin, 2024).

The difference between permanent members (P5 or Permanent 5) and non-permanent members (E10 or Elected 10) established in Article 23, and the third paragraph of Article 27, which establishes a differentiated voting system between the E10 and the P5, was a hurdle imposed on the signatories and subsequent adherents of the San Francisco Charter, as a condition *sine qua non* for the United Nations to be established and for the error of the League of Nations, its predecessor, not to be repeated, which privileged consensus in decision-making, which in practice meant the widespread granting of vetoes.

Although not exclusively, but mainly due to the veto, the P5 have unique rights and responsibilities, which has generated a vast specialized literature. Therefore, without entering into a legal and political analysis, it is worth remembering that the “Great Powers” debated the issue at Dumbarton Oaks (1944) and Yalta (1945); at the San Francisco Conference, the formulation of Article 27 was the most controversial, as it was considered to violate the principle of sovereign equality of States.



The entry into force of the Charter in October 1945 did not stop the debate in the first years of the United Nations, to the point that in 1954 the possibility of convening a General Conference of the members of the UN for the purpose of revising the Charter was anticipated, in accordance with its Article 109. For the United States, one of its main concerns was precisely the proposals for the “abolition” or “limitation” of the veto, which motivated its legislature to evaluate its possible repercussions, a finding that cannot go unnoticed because it confirms that the Security Council, since its origin, because of the veto, has operated under the shadow of that obstacle, “original sin” or, in the words of the U.S. Congress, “a kind of monkey wrench in the machinery of the organization” (U.S. Congress, 1954).

The fact is that the only reform concerning the Security Council, in force since 1965, increased the number of members from 11 to 15, that is, from 6 to 10 in the case of non-permanent members, as stated in the current wording of Article 23 of the Charter, and from 7 to 9 the number of votes required for the adoption of decisions, in accordance with Article 27.

Intergovernmental negotiations have been taking place since 2008, as stated in Decision 62/557 adopted by the General Assembly in 2008:

(...) on the question of equitable representation in the Security Council, the increase in its membership, and other matters relating to the Council, to seek a solution that could enjoy the widest possible political acceptance among Member States.

The Code of Conduct of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (ACT), of which Ecuador is a party, seeks to have the Security Council act against cases of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, or the Franco-Mexican initiative that advocates limiting the veto in these same cases, can be seen as an example of dissatisfaction with serious humanitarian situations. Similarly, the so-called “veto initiative” embodied in Resolution A/76/262 requires, from April 2022, that the General Assembly meet to discuss any veto that occurs in the Security Council, which constitutes an additional step on the path of accountability established in the third paragraph of Article 24 of the Charter.

It is worth mentioning Resolution A/377, known as “Union for Peace,” adopted by the General Assembly in 1950. This resolution originated as a political counterweight to the use of the USSR’s veto on initiatives of interest to the West. In that context, in 1950, Ecuador first experienced the reality of the veto on four occasions.

Therefore, beyond an essential reform that cannot wait, the reality is that the Security Council maintains its historical relevance and that the appetite of the membership to integrate it does not diminish, as demonstrated by the fact that there are candidates from countries in the Regional Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) to be part of the Security Council until 2056.



The Power of Representation

Article 24 of the Charter, in the opinion of the author, constituted the basis for what would be Ecuador's actions during the 2023-2024 biennium, that is, a management based on principles clearly defined in the regulations that bind it. In essence, Article 24 establishes the delegation by the Member States of the United Nations to the Security Council to act on their behalf, "in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations," which constitutes a transfer of sovereignty, an assertion that is clearly confirmed in Article 25, which prescribes the binding nature of decisions taken by the Security Council.

The centrality of Article 24, furthermore, lies in the fact that its third paragraph establishes a true accountability to the General Assembly, to which, as practice shows, only the E10 are subject.

The discussion of the architecture of international peace and security is not limited to the Security Council, Thus Ecuador as can be deduced from this section in the General Assembly and its committees, the Peacebuilding Commission, or any instance where the issue is addressed, even in non-governmental or academic spaces, will be able to firmly affirm that it complied with the international community, which underpinned Ecuador's standing as a responsible actor in a multilateral system based on respect for the international rule of law.

Along these lines, it is enough to refer to the recognition in one of the most recent books on the Security Council (Khalil and Lavaud, 2024), when evaluating the growing role of the E10 in the Security Council, including the "use of the pen to overcome impasses", the book recognizes Ecuador's work as co-responsible with the United States in the peace efforts in Haiti, and with France in the humanitarian aspect in the context of the aggression against Ukraine (Akbaruddin, 2024).

The issues mentioned are addressed in this publication and are probably those that had the greatest visibility during this period in the Security Council, along with Ecuador's chairmanship of the Committee established by Resolution 1540 on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, which produced more than 1,300 documents. However, they represent only a part of Ecuador's broad engagement with the Security Council's agenda.

The clarity of conscience that has always accompanied Ecuador since its preparation, elected with 190 votes out of a possible 192 at the meeting of the General Assembly, held on 9 June, 2022, made the centrality of Article 24 of the Charter the compass of its management.



Final Comment

In June 2022, together with Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland, the other candidates for the 2023-2024 period, a joint ceremony to present candidacies and priorities was organized for the first time before the entire membership. In September 2024, as coordinator of the E10, Ecuador jointly with the Slovenian presidency of the Security Council, invited a ministerial dialogue of the E10 and the incoming (i5 or incoming 5), sending a message that the elected members are strengthened when they work together. Foreign Minister Gabriela Sommerfeld hosted the aforementioned event, which has been welcomed as an initiative that must be “institutionalized” as a legacy of good practices by the E10.

On issues of even greater significance or public knowledge, the Security Council considered two resolutions regarding a ceasefire in Gaza, which were presented jointly, for the first time, by all elected members. The first was adopted as Resolution 2728 in March 2024, and the second, presented in November 2024, obtained the favorable vote of 14 members and the veto of one permanent member.

The negotiation process of these drafts took long hours and weeks, constituting a full exercise of diplomacy that resulted in safeguarding general interests, even at the cost of sacrificing firm individual positions for the sake of unity. These unprecedented initiatives of the E10 will be recognized in the history of the Security Council. Therefore, the feeling of frustration or rejection in the face of a temporary result should not serve as the basis for generalized negative judgments or for pointing fingers at all members of the Council. This is applicable to many areas in which Ecuador acted based on the Charter of the United Nations, acting as a bridge of agreement, particularly among the P5.

To conclude, one can freely paraphrase a thought by Kishore Mahbubani (2024):

“Many people, including many of my friends [...], have little idea of how brutal international relations can be, especially with small states. Small states are routinely reminded of the small space they have to maneuver, especially among the great powers.”

This vision of realpolitik is amplified in the Security Council because it is the body with “primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security” (Article 24), which did not prevent Ecuador from exercising, during this biennium, a “deliberative, constructive, clear and proactive action, with its voice and positions” (Egas, M, et al. 2022), thereby reaffirming its prestige before the international community.





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CHAPTER 1

PRIORITIES OF ECUADOR AND THE PREPARATORY PROCESS TOWARD THE 2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP



Jonathan Viera

“A country’s membership in the Security Council represents an opportunity to strengthen ties and cooperation with countries from all regions of the world and to improve synergies and processes within their Ministries of Foreign Affairs.”

Luis Gallegos, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, 2019.

During the campaign to occupy a seat on the Security Council for the biennium 2023-2024, Ecuador highlighted its traditional support for global efforts for international peace and security, based on respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and the promotion of a more just and equitable democratic world order. In addition, it highlighted its role as a promoter of universal disarmament, peaceful coexistence, and the self-determination of peoples, categorically rejecting the threat or use of force.

Between 2019 and 2022, in the hundreds of bilateral meetings to promote the candidacy, both at the United Nations headquarters in New York, in Quito, and the Foreign Ministries of all regions of the world, Ecuador reiterated its intention to continue supporting the peaceful solution of international disputes and conflicts, through dialogue, as a central axis of foreign policy.

Within the framework of this narrative, five priority axes were outlined and promoted to address critical issues in the area of international peace and security: i) the peaceful settlement of disputes and the global ceasefire; ii) strengthening sustainable peace and addressing emerging threats; iii) the protection of civilians and the Children in Armed Conflict agenda; iv) the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security agenda; and v) supporting non-proliferation efforts and the fight against illicit arms trafficking.

In the same sense, as a sounding board for challenges at the internal and regional level, Ecuador committed to supporting the efforts of the Security Council to promote synergies in order to support cooperation between States to overcome the challenges posed by transnational organized crime, whose adverse effects undermine security at all levels, reducing the space and effectiveness of actions aimed at ensuring peace.

Recognition of the symbiotic relationship between peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights was also reiterated by Ecuador.

The Peaceful Settlement of Disputes and the Global Ceasefire

Ecuador promoted, as one of its priorities, its commitment to continue defending the peaceful settlement of conflicts and a world order based on international law and placed special emphasis on promoting preventive diplomacy.

As one of Ecuador's identifying aspects in peace and security work and after significant leadership in this regard, the urgent need for a global ceasefire was reiterated, not only while the harmful effects of COVID-19 persisted, but as a necessary step towards peace in each of the conflict zones.



In this regard, during its membership, Ecuador supported and promoted the implementation of relevant resolutions on the matter and, when appropriate, the incorporation of ceasefire provisions in Security Council resolutions. The ceasefire matter was also included in Ecuador's working methods commitments during its presidency in December 2023.



Military personnel of Peacekeeping Operations working in the field. The United Nations has approximately 100,000 uniformed personnel from more than 120 countries.

Strengthening Sustainable Peace and Addressing Emerging Threats

For Ecuador, it is essential that the Security Council and the entire United Nations System generate synergies and joint efforts to strengthen sustained peace, which is why it prioritized this issue in its preparatory process for membership, reiterating the need to provide peacekeeping operations with technical capabilities and mandates to assess security risks.

Regarding the emerging threats, and as previously mentioned, Ecuador, during its presidency, organized a signature event on transnational organized crime and promoted the adoption of a Presidential Statement (PRST), agreed by all members of the Security Council, which promotes the strengthening of international and regional cooperation to counter this scourge.



Protection of the Civilian Population and the Children and Armed Conflict

The protection of civilians in contexts of armed conflict has traditionally been a component of Ecuador's foreign policy. Given that, despite having a robust regulatory framework, there are still permanent challenges on the ground, Ecuador established as one of its priorities to promote the Security Council's ability to respond and protect people in conflict contexts, whose situation is precarious and tragic, with enormous gaps that were exacerbated by the pandemic.

Ecuador's efforts within the Security Council were guided by the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, considering the differentiated impact of conflicts on women and children, as well as on the humanitarian situation of the most vulnerable sectors.

In line with this traditional position, Ecuador held the vice-chairmanship of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, throughout its membership. In addition, it co-led with France the humanitarian file on Ukraine. Ecuador played a key role in the efforts developed in the thematic file on "hunger and conflict", influencing the negotiations on the subject in a transversal manner, for example, including all the recommendations of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on food insecurity in Haiti, in the resolutions of that file.



The promotion of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda

Ecuador also raised as a priority that the Security Council encourage greater participation of women at the local, regional, and international levels, and pay special attention to the prevention of violence against women and girls related to conflict, trafficking, harassment, violence, and sexual exploitation.

During the 2023-2024 biennium, Ecuador continued to promote, in the Security Council, gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as their participation in peacebuilding efforts and in processes to promote international security. Additionally, at the national level, the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry presented the Women, Peace, and Security Action Plan, 2025-2029, which establishes a comprehensive framework that promotes the participation of women at all levels of decision-making, as well as their protection against the disproportionate impacts of violence and conflict.



Non-Proliferation and the Fight Against Illicit Arms Trafficking

The definition of this priority responds to the concern about the dramatic impact of illicit arms trafficking on peace and security, by undermining global compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (indicator 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development). The destabilizing accumulation of firearms and their unrestricted flow affects social peace.



Likewise, small arms and light weapons not only fuel and prolong armed conflicts but also make traditionally stable areas fragile; they fuel terrorism, drug trafficking, crime, mafias, and violent extremism, undermining democratic institutions.

Already during its membership and while serving as President of the Security Council for December 2023, Ecuador organized an open debate on the theme “Addressing the threat posed by the diversion, illicit trafficking, and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition to peace and security”. The meeting represented an opportunity to discuss the Secretary-General’s biennial report on the topic and allowed the Council to assess its trends and impact, as well as the multitude of cross-cutting implications for international peace and security.

Ecuador’s Preparatory Process

Since the registration of Ecuador’s candidacy to fill one of the vacancies of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULAC) as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2023-2024, in 2011, the strategies in the multilateral area for the exchange of reciprocal support agreements were aimed at strengthening that candidacy.

These policies, combined with Ecuador’s diplomatic work, the active participation and substantive contribution of the Ecuadorian delegations in the General Assembly, as well as in the open debates of the Security Council and, in general, the Ecuadorian leadership in the different areas and bodies of the United Nations system, resulted in Ecuador being elected as a non-permanent member of the Council in June 2022, with 190 votes out of 193.

The policy to strengthen and ensure Ecuador’s election was gradually intensified as the election year approached. Thus, starting in 2019, months before the lockdown due to the pandemic, through the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations, a significant number of written endorsements for the candidacy were obtained. During the COVID-19 lockdown, Ecuador transmitted written statement for the Security Council debates. Likewise, as soon as face-to-face meetings were resumed, Ecuador actively participated in all open debates of that body, as well as in all activities that allowed participation by members of the General Assembly, such as the thematic Arria formula meetings or the wrap-up sessions of the monthly Presidencies of the Council, and even the wrap-in sessions.

This strategy allowed for greater familiarization with the Council’s issues and processes, which would later be of great use during the membership.

In June 2022, once elected, Ecuador joined the activities of the non-permanent members (E10) as well as their communications network, so that, both in the Permanent Mission in New York and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Quito, the intense preparatory process and coordination of work continued, which included retreats, working meetings (virtual





Meeting of the General Assembly to elect non-permanent members of the Security Council, 2022.

and in person) with representatives of the Foreign Ministries of members and former non-permanent members of the Security Council, as well as Ecuador's participation in the fifth dialogue of the E10 and the five incoming members (i5) in Oslo.

Additionally, in accordance with the practice of the Security Council, as of 1 October 2022, Ecuador had access to the Council's private meetings, negotiations, and communications network of the 15 members, so that it participated and contributed to the workshop on Working Methods in Tirana, organized by Albania, in October 2022, with the permanent members and the E10. The Ecuadorian delegation in New York held workshops with the GRULAC countries, which had occupied a vacancy in that body in recent years, as well as with each of the Council members, including those who were ending their terms.

Likewise, in order to streamline the decision-making and instruction processes within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Instruction System for the Security Council was developed, which included an app for mobile phones, which allowed the officials involved to operate immediately and efficiently, in the day-to-day management of Ecuador. At the end of the membership, the System registered 735 processed cases. This information was systematized and represents another legacy and part of the memory of Ecuador's participation in the Council in the 2023-2024 biennium (statistics in the annex).



Participation of the Foreign Minister of Ecuador, Gabriela Sommerfeld, in the High-Level Session of the Security Council, 2024.



SOME MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, DURING THE 2023-2024 BIENNIUM

ECUADOR IN SUBSIDIARY BODIES

- **Chaired the 1540 Committee** (Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction).
- **Chaired the 1988 Committee** (Afghanistan).
- **Held the Vice-Chairmanship of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.**
- **Held the Vice-Chairmanship of the 1636 Committee** (Lebanon).

WORKING METHODS AND COLLABORATION WITH THE E10

- **Facilitated a joint statement of the E10** on Working Methods.
- **Facilitated the first ministerial statement** of the E10.
- **Hosted** the Seventh Annual E10-i5 Dialogue.
- **Facilitated the definition** of commitments to be implemented by the E10.
- **First E10 Ministerial Meeting.**

HAITI FILE:

As co-penholder promoted:

- **Strengthening** BINUH.
- **Authorization** for the Multinational Security Support Mission requested by Haiti and led by Kenya
- **Strengthening** the arms embargo on non-state actors

Facilitated the adoption of:

6

RESOLUTIONS



4

PRESS STATEMENTS



1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENCY TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL

AFRICAN FILES:

3

SECURITY COUNCIL VISITS:

- Central African Republic: Sanctions Committee.
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: Formal Security Council Meeting.
- African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa: Joint meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council.

RESOLUTION 2719 (2023)

on the financing of African Union-led peace operations. Adopted during the Ecuadorian presidency.

IHL

- Unrestricted access to humanitarian aid and respect for IHL were promoted in the various files, highlighting Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

ECUADOR'S MEMBERSHIP IN FIGURES

The Security Council held

556

PUBLIC MEETINGS

39

PRIVATE MEETINGS

248

CONSULTATIONS

AND

8

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES

186

decisions and products were adopted

96

Resolutions,

13

Presidential Statements, and

77

press statements.

The Instruction System processed

735 CASES

THE ECUADORIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL

• High-level open debate on transnational organized crime.

The Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2023/6) on transnational organized crime proposed by Ecuador and France was adopted.

• High-level open debate on the threat posed by the diversion, illicit trafficking, and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition to peace and security.

• Meeting of the trio of Latin American and Caribbean presidencies of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and the Security Council.

WE ADOPTED

9

RESOLUTIONS



1

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT



5

PRESS STATEMENTS

We held

35

FORMAL MEETINGS

33

PUBLIC MEETINGS

» 2

PRIVATE MEETINGS

We held

14

CLOSED CONSULTATIONS

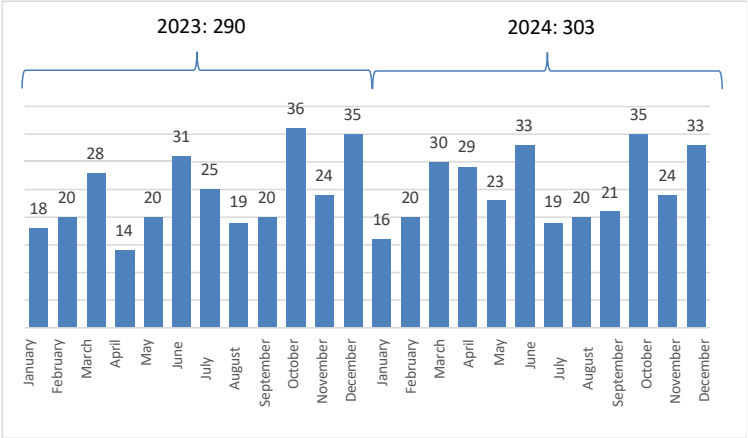
WE INVITED

13

WOMEN FROM THE UNITED NATIONS, ACADEMIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY AS BRIEFERS

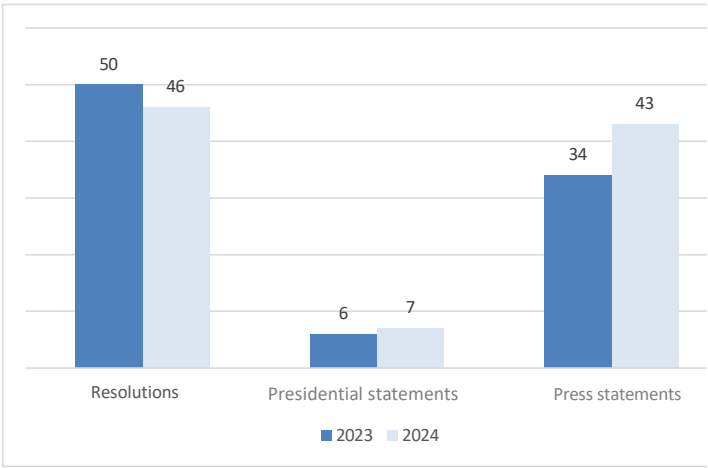
ANNEX: Statistics on Ecuador’s Membership in the Security Council, 2023-2024

Formal meetings of the Security Council during Ecuador's membership 593 during the biennium 2023-2024



Source: United Nations
Prepared by: Author

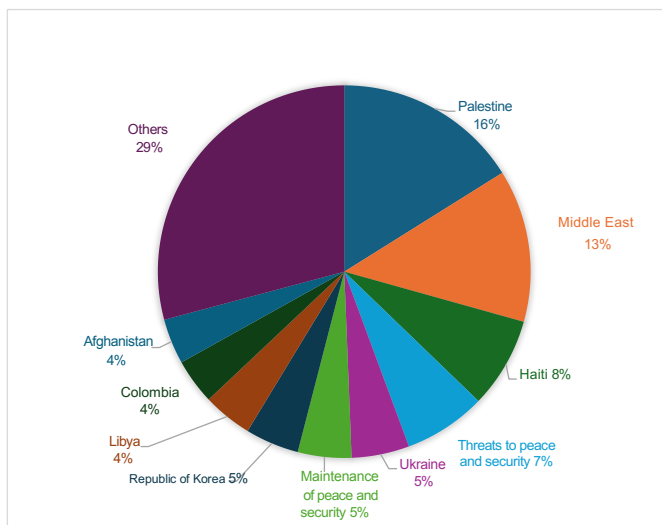
the biennium 2023-2024



Source: United Nations
Prepared by: Author

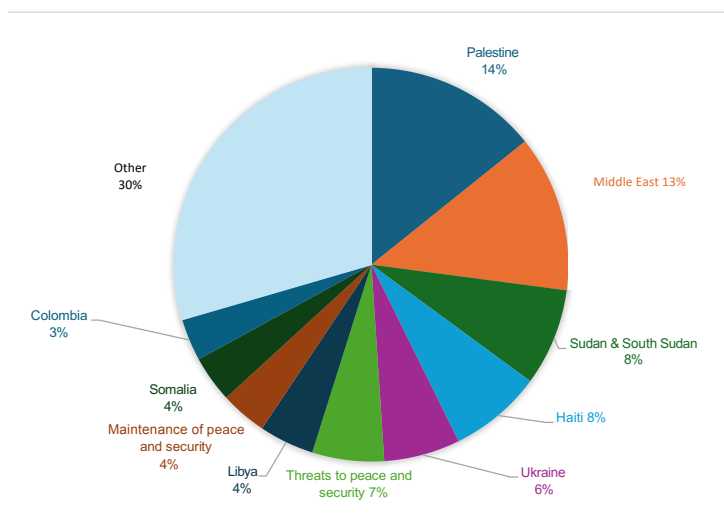


Cases processed in the Security Council Instruction System, by topic 361 during 2023



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility
Prepared by: Author

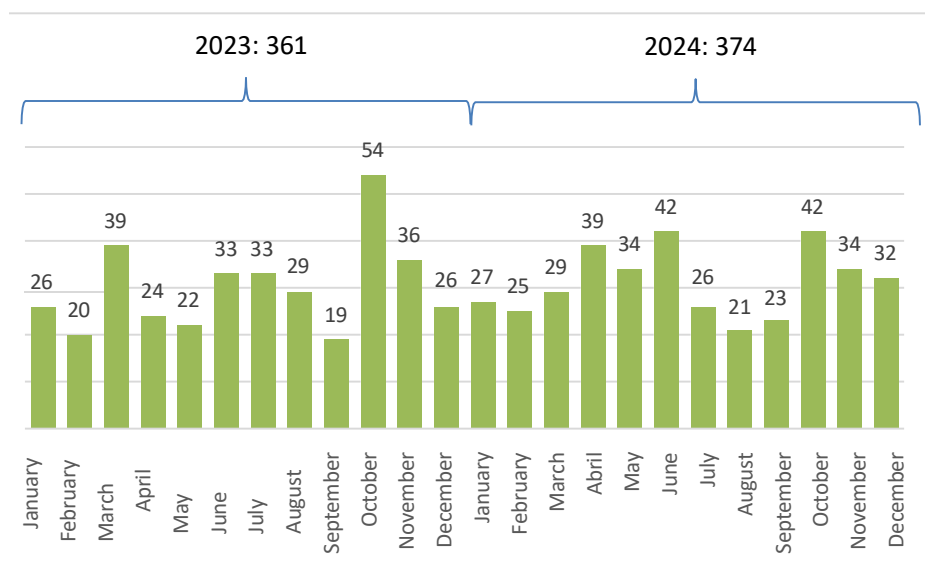
Cases processed in the Security Council Instruction System, by topic 374 during 2024



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility
Prepared by: Author



Number of cases processed in the Security Council Instruction System 735 during the biennium 2023-2024



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility
Prepared by: Author





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The President of the Republic of Ecuador, Daniel Noboa Azín, and the Secretary General of the UN António Guterres.

CHAPTER 2

ECUADOR'S LEADERSHIP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

Mario Zambrano



“...Peace is the central promise of the United Nations Charter. But what peace can there be amid the resurgence of organized crime?”

Daniel Noboa Azín, President of Ecuador, 2023.

One of Ecuador's priorities in the United Nations Security Council was to address critical and emerging issues in the area of international peace and security, such as transnational organized crime, whose direct effects have impacted the country, mainly due to the increase in violence related to drug trafficking and other forms of crime, which represents a complex challenge for internal security and regional stability, and cannot be faced by one country alone.

Ecuador prioritized the mainstreaming of this issue during its membership in the Security Council, promoting the inclusion of language on transnational organized crime in resolutions, statements, and other initiatives in the multilateral arena, which was reflected, for example, in its role as penholders of the different products adopted by the Council on the situation in Haiti, as well as in its participation in sessions related to African countries.

The main objective of this policy was to strengthen collective and supportive action to combat these criminal activities, which in many cases exceed the resources and financial capacities of the countries themselves.



The knotted pistol is a symbol of non-violence, it was donated to the United Nations by Luxembourg, artist Carl Frederik Reuterswärd, in 1989.



Ecuador's Drive to Combat Transnational Organized Crime

During the 24 months that Ecuador was a member of the Security Council, it demonstrated its determination to maintain international peace and security, promoting within its priorities, a comprehensive approach regarding new global threats, such as transnational organized crime.

Thus, Ecuador organized during its presidency of the Council, an open debate on “Threats to international peace and security: Transnational organized crime, challenges, new threats”, which was held on 7 December 2023, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, and was chaired by the President of Ecuador, Daniel Noboa Azín. The event was attended by more than 60 delegations.



The debate aimed to share recent information on the fight against this phenomenon, examining initiatives and policies implemented to overcome the challenges posed by transnational organized crime. This provided an opportunity to identify trends and propose elements for a coordinated response that strengthens international cooperation in this area (Permanent Mission, 2023).

Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized the following three priorities:

- i) strengthen multilateral cooperation: when facing a global challenge, global solutions are required;
- ii) strengthen the rule of law to tackle transnational organized crime's multifaceted threats; and, finally,
- iii) strengthen prevention and foster inclusion, creating better economic and social conditions for the population.

Likewise, the Secretary-General referred to “...the everchanging nature of organized crime and reimagine the essence of our approaches to our working methods and our cooperation with others. Our efforts must be coherent, coordinated, context-specific and focused on prevention.” (United Nations, 2023a).



During the debate, several delegations expressed concern about transnational organized crime's threat to peace, security, and sustainable development. Some interventions by Council members are highlighted below (United Nations, 2023b):

- **The United States** indicated that it is carrying out concrete initiatives to countering this scourge, such as the establishment of the Council against Transnational Organized Crime, which was accompanied by a comprehensive strategy, as well as the launch of the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats to expand international cooperation to address synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl.
- **France** referred to the importance of extinguishing the sources of financing for illegal trafficking that fuel terrorist networks.
- **The United Kingdom** emphasized threats such as cybercrime, fraud, and new technologies such as artificial intelligence, which could aggravate the risks arising from transnational crimes.
- **China** stressed that the Security Council should coordinate responses to the nexus of terrorism and transnational organized crime to prevent them from colluding and penetrating each other, which threatens international peace and security.
- **Russia** stated that it is open to constructive cooperation in resolving global tasks related to the eradication of any manifestations of crime. It noted that it is vital to strengthen States and enhance their law-enforcement capabilities.
- **Brazil** maintained that there are no automatic or intrinsic linkages between transnational organized crime and terrorism. Different problems require specific approaches and resources to combat them.

Ecuador, in collaboration with France, proposed a Presidential Statement, which was negotiated and agreed by the members of the Council. The Presidential Statement S/PRST/2023/6 constitutes a tool to guide policies and promote joint actions at the multilateral level to confront transnational organized crime. This marked a milestone in the work of the Security Council on this issue and represents a legacy of Ecuador in its fourth membership.

The Presidential Statement also expressed concern about the increase in illicit trafficking in drugs, arms, migrants, human trafficking, and other crimes "...which undermine the authority of States and threaten peace and security in many regions of the world" (United Nations, 2023c). The importance of preventing and countering transnational organized crime and terrorism in coordination with the United Nations was highlighted, and the need to enhance international and regional cooperation between States, including judicial cooperation, and thus effectively counter these threats.

These initiatives by Ecuador reflected the country's commitment and leadership in the matter.



The Security Council and the Fight Against Transnational Organized Crime

Addressing the threats posed by organized crime in its various forms is not new to the Security Council. In fact, in December 2009, the Council's first thematic debate on drug trafficking and transnational organized crime was held, under the agenda item "Peace and Security in Africa", followed by the adoption of Presidential Statement S/PRST/2009/32, which promoted international cooperation (United Nations, 2009).

In this debate, the members of the Security Council expressed a common interest in fighting the different forms of transnational crime, which can hardly be addressed by a single State, and which requires the support of all countries involved, including countries of origin, destination or third parties affected by cross-border crimes.

In recent years, the Council has continued to consider organized crime through various resolutions and initiatives, holding meetings on the following subjects (Permanent Mission, 2023):

- Drug trafficking (2011)
- West Africa and the Sahel (2012, 2013, 2018, 2019)
- Human trafficking in conflict situations (2015, 2016, 2017)
- The nexus between organized criminal groups and terrorism (2017, 2019)
- Trafficking in cultural property (2017)
- Organized crime at sea (2019)
- Piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea (2022)
- The sanctions regime against Somalia (2022).

In 2009, the Security Council included in its discussions on Haiti references to the impact of organized crime on the stability of the country, and more recently, with Resolution 2700 (2023), the Council supported United Nations initiatives to help national authorities improve their capacities against transnational crime, notably the launch of technical programmes by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Permanent Mission, 2023).

The Security Council has analyzed transnational organized crime from various cross-cutting approaches and on specific topics linked to this scourge, as seen in Haiti, where sanctions were established for individuals related to armed groups that promote violence in the country. Similar measures were adopted in Libya, while in Afghanistan, Resolution 2593 (2021) refers to the fight against terrorism. These examples represent a sample of how the Council broadly addresses threats to international peace and security in their various forms.



Conceptualization

Threats to global stability go far beyond the dangers arising from the increase in armaments and direct military confrontation between countries. Today, other non-military factors have a negative impact on collective well-being, which exacerbate social, economic, and political inequalities, foreign interference, the effects of climate change, demographic changes, transnational organized crime, illicit financial flows, and the challenges posed by new technologies, among other aspects (HLAB, 2023).

Although the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) does not have a specific definition of transnational organized crime, this concept includes international criminal activities, related to more than one country carried out to obtain economic gains. These activities include drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering, trafficking in firearms, adulterated products, wild flora and fauna, and cultural property, which may also be linked to cybercrime (UNODC, 2024).

For Ecuador, it is a priority to advance in the fulfillment of SDG 16, which states “...promote peaceful and inclusive societies, facilitate access to justice for the entire population and create effective, responsible and inclusive institutions at all levels...” (United Nations, 2024a). This objective is directly aligned with Ecuador’s interest in promoting actions in favor of peace and security with a firm commitment to achieve respect for international law for the good of all peoples.

Ecuador considers it relevant to promote collaboration and actions that contribute to providing lasting solutions to conflicts and establishing a climate of stability in the population.

It is necessary to better understand the serious consequences that transnational organized crime operations have for the population, affecting local institutions, economies, and societies, generating instability, and limiting opportunities to achieve sustainable development. Faced with this challenge, Ecuador has recognized that, since this type of crime knows no borders, its fight requires a firm and proportional response from the international community.



To illustrate the scale of transnational organized crime operations, some of the following figures obtained by UNODC can be mentioned (United Nations, 2024b):

- According to the latest World Drug Report, it is estimated that almost 300 million people used drugs in 2021, including cocaine, methamphetamine, and opium. An increase of more than 20% compared to the previous decades.
- The latest Global Report on Trafficking in Persons shows that in 2020, some 50,000 cases were reported to UNODC in more than 140 countries.
- According to the United Nations report on financial integrity for the year 2020, it is estimated that around US\$ 1.6 trillion or 2.7% of global GDP is laundered annually, distorting economies, hindering development, and eroding confidence in the financial system.



ANNEX SECURITY COUNCIL

Statement by the President of the Security Council 7 December 2023

At the 9497th meeting of the Security Council, held on 7 December 2023, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council reaffirms its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Security Council recalls the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption of 2003, and the international counter- terrorism conventions and protocols, as well as all relevant resolutions it has adopted.

The Security Council stresses that States are primarily responsible to prevent and combat transnational organized crime and that securing their borders is their sovereign prerogative and, in this context, reaffirms its commitment to the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter, including the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and political independence.

The Security Council also reaffirms that States have the primary responsibility to counter terrorist acts and recalls its resolution 2482 (2019) which calls upon Member States to enhance coordination of efforts at all levels in order to strengthen a global response to linkages between international terrorism and organized crime, whether domestic or transnational, that pose a threat to international security.

The Security Council expresses concern with the serious and growing threats posed by transnational organized crime and acknowledges that in specific contexts and regions terrorists may benefit from organized crime, whether domestic or transnational such as the trafficking in arms, drugs, cultural property and trafficking in persons, as well as the illicit trade in natural resources including gold and other precious metals and stones, minerals, charcoal and oil, timber, illicit trafficking in wildlife and other crimes that affect the environment.



The Security Council notes that transnational crimes may threaten the security of countries on its agenda, including post-conflict states, and expresses its intention to consider such threats, as appropriate. In this context the Security Council expresses its serious concern over the increase of drug trafficking, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking and smuggling of small arms and light weapons by land, air and sea, and other criminal activities by organized criminal groups and networks which undermine the authority of States and threaten peace and security in many regions of the world. The Security Council notes with concern the link between organized crime and the financing of terrorism in some cases and some regions.

The Security Council recognizes the importance of enhancing international and regional cooperation to counter transnational organized crime, piracy, and armed robbery at sea.

The Security Council calls on all Member States to improve border management and international cooperation to effectively constrain the spread of transnational threats and acknowledges that distinct strategies are required to address threats related to border security and further insists on the importance for Member States to adopt a comprehensive and balanced approach, as necessary.

The Security Council expresses concern with the development of organized crime groups and networks, which are better equipped with new information and communication technologies, and are becoming more decentralized diversified and connected in their illicit operations, which in some cases may aggravate threats to international security.

The Security Council recognizes the need for Member States to take appropriate measures consistent with international law to address the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including to transnational organized crime and terrorism; and urges Member States at national level to Strengthen, where appropriate, their judicial, law enforcement and border-control capacities, and developing their investigation capabilities of arms-trafficking networks.

The Security Council expresses grave concern on the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons which pose threats to international peace and security in various regions of the world, cause significant loss of life, and contribute to instability and insecurity.

The Security Council emphasizes the importance of Member States taking appropriate measures, at the national, regional and international levels, in accordance with international law and their domestic legal frameworks, to prevent the illicit trafficking of weapons to transnational criminal organizations and terrorists, and to prevent, within this context, diversion, as well as looting



or acquiring small arms and light weapons from national stockpiles by terrorists and organized criminal groups and networks, and stresses in this regard the importance of assisting States, upon request, in particular in countries and regions affected by conflict, to enable them to monitor and control stockpiles of small arms and light weapons, in order to prevent criminal and terrorist groups from acquiring such weapons.

The Security Council stresses the importance of international cooperation to prevent and eliminate the diversion and illicit supply of weapons to terrorists, organized criminal groups and networks, and encourages Member States in this regard to enhance in particular their judicial and law enforcement cooperation, consistent with their international obligations and domestic legal framework.

The Security Council calls for strengthening the coordination of United Nations actions, including those of its agencies, funds and programmes, in order to enhance the effectiveness of appropriate international efforts.

The Security Council encourages the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) and its Global CT Compact Entities as well as regional and subregional organizations to continue their endeavours to provide, within their respective mandates technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States, upon their request to support them in preventing and countering transnational organized crime and terrorism, respectively, as well as to continue to prepare relevant reports.

The Security Council recognizes the importance of enhanced political and conflict-related analysis including, where relevant, on the criminal networks which support transnational organized crime and terrorism and invites the Secretary-General as appropriate to consider these factors in United Nations' conflict prevention efforts, conflict analysis, and integrated missions' assessment and planning and to consider including this in his reports related with the situations on the agenda.

The Security Council recognizes the importance of civil society, including community-based civil society, grassroots organizations, the private sector, academia, think tanks, media, youth, women, and cultural, educational, and religious leaders in increasing awareness about the threats of terrorism and more effectively tackling them.





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In 2013, Ecuador contributed a military contingent to Haiti and supported the construction of two bridges and 80 kilometers of paved roads with double bituminous treatment, among others.

CHAPTER 3

ECUADOR'S LEADERSHIP IN THE HAITI FILE

Andrés Fiallo - Sofía Osorno



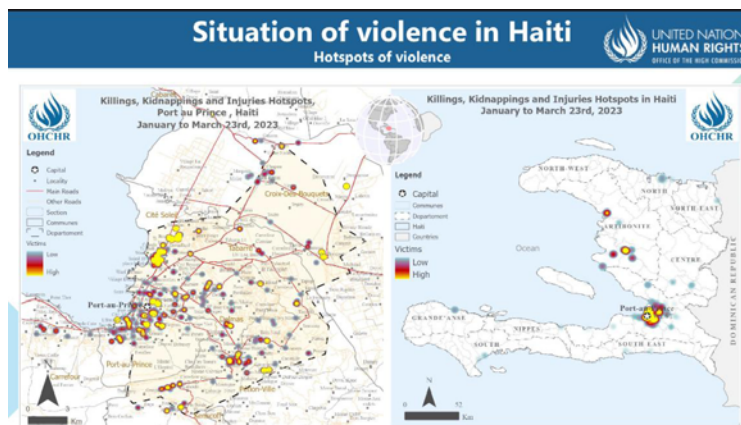
“As we stated in this Security Council a year ago when resolution 2699 (2023) was adopted, the support provided by the Multinational Security Support Mission is essential, but it is not a panacea on its own. The adoption of this resolution reaffirms Ecuador’s priority commitment to the Haitian people and to the search for sustainable solutions that address the structural causes of violence.”

José De La Gasca, former Permanent Representative of Ecuador
to the United Nations, New York, 2024.

Ecuador began its mandate in the Security Council as an elected member for the term 2023-2024, in the context of one of the largest crises in Haiti, as a result of organized crime and criminal gangs, as reflected in the Secretary-General's Report S/2023/41 of January 2023 (United Nations, 2023) and amid the political crisis exacerbated by the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse on 7 July 2021.

The surge in murders, rapes, and abuses against the population by criminal gangs, along with their territorial expansion and the takeover of Haitian territory reached its peak with the siege of Haiti's largest fuel terminal, "Varreux", which began on 18 September, 2022, and was accompanied by widespread violence that forced the closure of schools, shops, markets, transportation and even the closure of hospitals and the suspension of humanitarian assistance services.

In November 2022, the Haitian police managed to regain control of the terminal, but violence intensified in the country. There were attacks against United Nations teams, to the point of spoiling food and emergency response supplies. Consequently, the Government of Haiti, in October 2022, requested the Secretary-General to deploy a specialized security force (United Nations, 2022).



The delegations of Mexico and the United States, co-penholders in the Haiti file in 2022, supported the request, although the process did not move forward. However, a sanctions regime was established targeting individuals and entities responsible for or complicit in the gangs, and an arms embargo was adopted in Resolution 2653 (2022).

Ecuador filled the non-permanent vacancy left by Mexico and assumed the responsibility and role as penholders of the Haiti file. Ecuador immediately set the goal of supporting Haiti's needs and avoiding the mistakes of the past in the Caribbean country. It must be remembered that interference and interventionism, in addition to being illegitimate, had proven to be ineffective and counterproductive. It should be noted that, in this case, it was the Haitian people and the Government of that country that called for international help for their police, which had been overwhelmed by transnational organized crime.

Considering Haiti's historical contribution to freedom in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the responsibility of the United Nations to support the efforts of the Republic of Haiti to overcome the challenges in the areas of security, peace, development, and human rights, Ecuador co-facilitated the consultation processes with a view to: i) strengthening the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH); ii) authorizing the deployment of



a Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) and iii) expanding the arms embargo and strengthen the 2653 Committee, all of these objectives within the framework of the greatest respect and commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Haiti.

In the first quarter of 2023, Ecuador supported the work of BINUH under Helen La Lime and, as of April, under María Isabel Salvador in her role as Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti and head of that office. In both cases, the security crisis exceeded the design and logistical and institutional capabilities of BINUH, which at that time had authorization for only 42 civilian personnel to advise on police and penitentiary matters.

The work of BINUH is central to supporting and promoting efforts that seek to facilitate greater political stability and support Haitian dialogue. At that time, the strengthening of the National Consensus of 21 December, 2022, was encouraged, with a view to moving towards a democratic transition, until February 2024, a deadline that was not possible to reach due to the precarious security conditions that did not allow guaranteeing the logistics required for an electoral process.

In the context of major international conflicts and crises that were capturing the attention of the Security Council, Ecuador stated that, if that body was not able to provide the necessary attention to the Haitian crisis and support concrete solutions, then there was little that the Council could do to resolve other larger conflicts, where geopolitical factors have a significant impact.

Close work was carried out with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPA)¹¹, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and multiple stakeholders, also with the support of William O'Neill, human rights expert for Haiti designated by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. In the Security Council, close work was carried out with all delegations, highlighting the collaboration with Brazil during its membership in 2023 and, subsequently, with Guyana in 2024. Outside the Council, active coordination was maintained with the delegations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The Ecuadorian delegation always reiterated that the solution in Haiti could not be limited to the security aspect, but required greater comprehensive international cooperation, including in matters of penitentiary and judicial reforms and social and sustainable development, where according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP), by the end of 2023, 4.9 million people - half of the population - were affected by acute food insecurity (FAO, 2023).

¹¹ DAPCP coordinates UN political missions involved in preventing, maintaining and consolidating peace



Following negotiations on the resolutions proposed and facilitated by the co-penholders, Resolution 2692 (2023) was unanimously adopted on 14 July 2023, strengthening BINUH's mandate by expanding the ceiling of the police and corrections unit to 70 personnel, and also strengthening the strategic and advisory support to the training and investigation capacities of the Haitian National Police. The Resolution also included language to encourage the appointment of women's protection advisers and prevent sexual and gender-based violence, as well as prioritize child protection as a crosscutting issue throughout the mandate. Humanitarian aid arrangements were also included. On 12 July 2024, Resolution 2743 (2024) extended that mandate for another year aiming to ensure effective coordination between the transitional authorities, BINUH, and the MSS.

In any case, after intense negotiations prompted by Kenya's decision to lead the MSS, Resolution 2699 (2023) was adopted on 2 October 2023, authorizing the deployment of that Mission for an initial period of 12 months to provide operational support to the Haitian National Police, provide security to critical infrastructure, and facilitate access to humanitarian aid.

Resolution 2699 (2023) incorporated strong human rights provisions, mechanisms to prevent gender-based violence and sexual abuse, and proper wastewater management systems to curb the spread of water-borne diseases. It was also established that the rules of engagement should fully respect Haiti's sovereignty, and it was decided to extend the ban on the sale or transfer of arms from abroad to any actor other than the Haitian public force or the MSS, with a territorial arms embargo, which was ratified on 19 October 2023, with the adoption of Resolution 2700 (2023).

The MSS, its Complex Deployment in Haiti, and Possible Transformation

The rapid deployment of the MSS was expected at the beginning of 2024. However, the internal process in Kenya was delayed after the January 26 court ruling of the Kenyan High Court in Nairobi, which required the signing of a "reciprocal agreement" with the host government. In this context, the President of Haiti, Ariel Henry, traveled to Kenya on 1 March to sign the said agreement.

During President Henry's absence, "coordinated gang attacks against state institutions, critical infrastructure and other symbols of state authority in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area posed significant challenges to political stability and governance" (United Nations, 2024a), even preventing the president from returning to the country. Against this backdrop, CARICOM facilitated a meeting on 11 March involving a broad range of Haitian political actors in which a transitional governance arrangement was established, including the formation of a Transitional Presidential Council and the appointment of a new Prime Minister. On 12 March, Kenya paused the MSS deployment after Prime Minister Henry announced his intention to resign, once a new government was formed.



In this context of deteriorating security and new governance agreements, Ecuador and the United States requested two private meetings of the Council: the first to address the deterioration of the security situation and the second, to discuss the agreements reached during the meeting facilitated by CARICOM on 11 March 2024. Two press statements were issued, SC/15620 and SC/15636, with elements related to the need for the rapid deployment of the MSS, the necessary progress of the political process led by Haiti, humanitarian recovery efforts, and the importance of continuing the work of the 2653 Sanctions Committee.

Logistical difficulties, as well as delays in finalizing governance agreements, further complicated the deployment process; almost nine months after its authorization, on 25 June it began with a first contingent of 200 Kenyan police officers. By December 2024, only 16% of the planned 2,500 troops had been deployed. Kenyan authorities, as well as representatives of the United Nations, stated that for the deployment to proceed, sufficient financial, equipment, and logistical support was needed for the MSS to fulfill its mandate (United Nations, 2024b). However, the resources in the trust fund, established by the United Nations for the Mission, at the end of 2024, had US\$96.8 million, an amount that did not represent 20% of the estimated US\$600 million required for its annual operation.

On 30 September 2024, Resolution 2751 (2024) extended the authorization of the MSS, with language regarding the need to encourage greater contributions, a key issue for the capabilities and sustainability of the mission.

On 21 October 2024, the Haitian Government requested that the Secretary-General act urgently to transform the MSS mission into a United Nations peacekeeping operation (United Nations, 2024c). For Ecuador, just as the authorization of the MSS marked a milestone in the effort to restore peace and security in Haiti, it was inevitable to advance discussions on an exit and transformation strategy for the Mission. Provision 18 of Resolution 2692 of July 2023, had already included the possibility of a peacekeeping operation among the United Nations support options

Ecuador, which in 2023 had supported statements by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on Haiti, circulated to the Security Council, together with its co-penholder, Resolution CP/RES.1268/24² of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), which supported the Haitian Government's request for a peacekeeping operation (United Nations, 2024d), just as in 1991 when both countries transmitted to the Council OAS resolution MRE/RES.1/91³, which demanded the restoration of constitutional order in Haiti after the 1991 coup d'état (United Nations, 1991).

² S/2024/847

³ S/23109



Ecuador's role and the strong support of the region demonstrated by its participation⁴ in the Security Council meeting on 20 November 2024, were essential to unblock the extensive negotiations that sought to address Haiti's new request, thus reaching an agreement for the Presidency of the Security Council to send, on 29 November 2024, a letter to the Secretary-General requesting him to present strategic recommendations that consider all options on the future role of the United Nations in Haiti.

Ecuador, as co-penholder of the Haiti file in 2023 and 2024, sought to represent the interests of the region and ensure that the response to Haiti was comprehensive, coordinated, and respectful of its sovereignty. To this end, it led important initiatives, such as the meeting on Haiti organized by the Trio of Latin American Presidencies of the principal organs of the United Nations (General Assembly, Economic, and Social Council, and Security Council), held on 18 December 2023 during the Ecuadorian presidency of the Security Council.

Resolutions 2692 (2023), 2699 (2023), 2700 (2023), 2743 (2024), 2751 (2024), and 2752 (2024), co-led by Ecuador, serve as solid milestones on which the Security Council can build, supporting a Haitian solution to the challenges in Haiti, guiding its people without further delay towards a future of peace and sustainable development.

⁴ Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico and Panama. The presidency of the Security Council received more requests for participation from other countries in the region, but was not granted because of the high number of GA members states already participating.



ANNEX 1

Security Council products on Haiti co-penholder by Ecuador

Signature	Product type	Date	Electronic link
SC/15277	Press Statement	May 8, 2023	https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15277.doc.htm
S/RES/2692 (2023)	Resolution	July 18, 2023	https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4015573/files/S_RES_2692_%282023%29-ES.pdf
S/RES/2699 (2023)	Resolution	October 2, 2023	https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/287/22/pdf/n2328722.pdf
S/RES/2700 (2023)	Resolution	October 19, 2023	https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/313/34/pdf/n2331334.pdf
SC/15620	Press Statement	March 11, 2024	https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15620.doc.htm
SC/15636	Press Statement	March 21, 2024	https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15636.doc.htm
S/RES/2743 (2024)	Resolution	July 12, 2024	https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4054146/files/S_RES_2743_%282024%29-ES.pdf
S/RES/2751 (2024)	Resolution	September 30, 2024	https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4062838/files/S_RES_2751_%282024%29-ES.pdf
S/RES/2752 (2024)	Resolution	October 18, 2024	https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4064280/files/S_RES_2752_%282024%29-ES.pdf
SC/15954	Press Statement	December 23, 2024	https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15954.doc.htm
S/2024/868	Letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General	November 29, 2024	https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4068045/files/S_2024_868-ES.pdf



ANNEX 2

SECURITY COUNCIL

Statement by Ecuador 9368th SESSION S/PV.9368.

Agenda: The issue concerning Haiti.

Ambassador Andrés Montalvo Sosa, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations

6 July 2023

I recognize the presence in the Council of the Foreign Ministers of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as well as the Permanent Representative of Barbados. I am grateful for the briefings by Prime Minister Andrew Michael Holness of Jamaica, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community, Ambassador Michel Biang of Gabon, in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 2653 (2022) concerning Haiti and Ms. María Isabel Salvador, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), whom I also commend for advancing the work of BINUH in three short months. I especially appreciate the briefing by civil-society leader Ms. Marie-Yolène Gilles of the Fondasyon Je Klere, which reflects the precarious situation, the horror in which the Haitian people are living and their cry for help.

It was not her first time speaking before the Council, but her briefings are always very informative.

Here in the Chamber in April (see S/PV.9311), I asked a question. If we on the Security Council are unable to contribute to overcoming the state of gang-generated violence and cruelty in Haiti, how can we hope to resolve the much larger conflicts around the world? That is why addressing the issue of Haiti is vital to ensuring trust in the United Nations and in multilateralism. In that context, I urged the leaders of the United Nations system to spare no effort in conveying our message of solidarity and in transmitting the voices and cries of the people in Haiti. In that regard, I appreciate Secretary-General António Guterres's visit of Saturday, 1 July, in solidarity with Haiti, as well as the recent working visits to the country by Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Executive Directors of UNICEF and the World Food Programme, the Chair of the Sanctions Committee and Mr. William O'Neill, the Independent Expert on human rights in Haiti appointed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Haitian people have indeed received the message. Now they are waiting for concrete action by the Council. In that regard, while I acknowledge that the Council did strengthen BINUH last July with its adoption of resolution 2645 (2022), the speed with which Haiti's security and humanitarian situation is deteriorating is beyond the institutional capacities of any special political mission. For that reason, I agree with the delegation of



China's assertion in the Council on 15 July last year (see S/PV.9095) that a fundamental adjustment is imperative.

BINUH, which is responsible for supporting political stability and good governance and has assisted and encouraged the expansion of the Haitianled dialogue, needs the capacity to support efforts to strengthen the effective implementation of the political commitments that have been made. In Ecuador's view, the Secretary-General's visit to Haiti also demonstrated his support for BINUH, which is a political mission that plays a key role in supporting anti-corruption efforts and in fully restoring the judicial system and the rule of law.

Given that Haiti's transition process has been delayed by the security situation, we must stop repeating the self-contradictory notion that in order to take concrete steps it is first necessary to hold elections, when we all know that organizing an electoral process requires significant protection and security efforts, which are currently impossible to ensure without international assistance through the provision of a support force for the Haitian police.

We call on all members of the Council to be guided by the declaration made in January by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, in which my region welcomed the signing of the 21 December agreement on a national consensus for an inclusive transition and transparent elections and called on States to consider the possibility of participating in a multinational support force for the Haitian police, whose deployment the Secretary-General recommended nine months ago at the request of the people and Government of Haiti.

I should point out that in the context of the implementation of resolution 2645 (2022), the Secretary-General provided recommendations for enhanced security support, specifying in his letter dated 8 October 2022 (S/2022/747) – which for clarity I will cite it in its original language – that (spoke in English) "A return to a more robust United Nations engagement in the form of peacekeeping remains a last resort if no decisive action is urgently taken by the international community, in line with the options outlined, and if the national law enforcement capacity proves unable to reverse the deteriorating security situation." (S/2022/747, p.8)

In the context of the humanitarian note on Haiti of 23 April by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, based on the Council's own request that it be promptly informed when a risk of famine caused by conflict and widespread food insecurity arises, the Council's action is critical. If we fail to act, the repercussions in Haiti and the Latin American and Caribbean region could be unprecedented, including in terms of persons displaced and in other precarious situations.

As of May, the number of children suffering from acute malnutrition has increased by 30 per cent compared to 2022, and half of Haiti's children depend on humanitarian aid to survive.



The need for psychosocial support and mental health care in the context of the situation in Haiti is self-explanatory. I would like to once again acknowledge the work of the humanitarian actors in that regard.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Council and to acknowledge the commitment of their delegations in the negotiations we are conducting for the renewal of BINUH's mandate, with the confidence we need to achieve a more robust mission and more decisive support from our Organization.

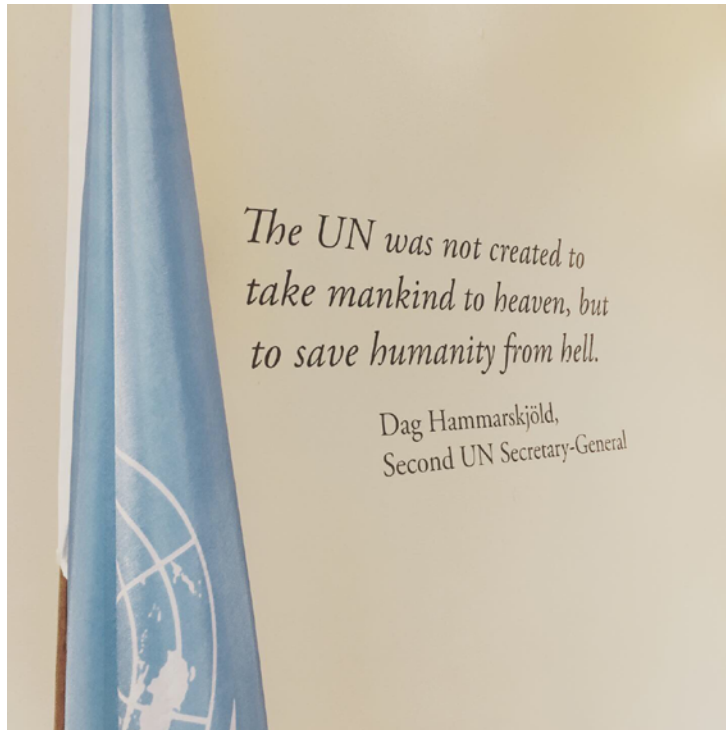




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CHAPTER 4

ECUADOR'S LEADERSHIP IN THE HUMANITARIAN FILE ON UKRAINE

Santiago Durán



“So we are not resolving conflicts. We are not using dialogue where we had committed ourselves to using dialogue. And the founders of the UN back in 1945 – in those words of the Charter, saving subsequent generations from the scourge of war – we’re failing them right, left and centre. And the humanitarians, I think, are doing a great job, heroically, in the field, scraping together support where they can, but they’re not the saviors – the saviors of this world are people who end wars and build peace.”

Martin Griffiths, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, 2024.

Ecuador's Humanitarian Approach: Principles and Priorities

Prior to joining the Security Council, Ecuador established the protection of civilians in armed conflict as one of its priorities, guided by its commitment to respect and promote international humanitarian law (IHL).

In addition, Ecuador has advocated for the universalization of core IHL treaties, including the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as a key means to ensure the protection of victims of armed conflict.



Security Council meeting, 2024.

The Magnitude of the Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine has unleashed a humanitarian crisis of a magnitude unprecedented in Europe since World War II. According to the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Ukraine 2024 of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 14.6 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance. Of this total, 8.5 million people face critical conditions, mainly due to mass displacement, severe damage to infrastructure, and loss of access to essential basic services (OCHA, 2023).

Hostilities have also led to the destruction of critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, and power systems, leaving millions of civilians, especially in the eastern and southern regions, in vulnerable situations, particularly during the winter.



This humanitarian crisis disproportionately affects women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, who face risks of gender-based violence and restricted access to food, water, and shelter.

The start of the conflict also affected hundreds of Ecuadorian citizens residing in Ukraine, mainly students, who faced risks to their safety due to the escalation of hostilities (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, 2022a).

The Government of Ecuador facilitated a humanitarian evacuation operation that included the coordination of safe corridors to neighboring countries such as Poland, Hungary, and Romania, where Ecuadorian citizens received basic assistance, including food, shelter, and immediate medical care (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, 2022b). Subsequently, the Government organized humanitarian flights, allowing the safe return of more than 700 Ecuadorians to the country (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, 2022c).

Ecuador, Co-Penholder of the Humanitarian File on Ukraine

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Since the beginning of the conflict in February 2022, the Security Council established two main files: the political and security file, led by the United States and Albania, and the humanitarian file, initially led by France and Mexico. These files seek to maintain a comprehensive approach to address both the strategic and security aspects and the humanitarian consequences of the conflict.

The conflict in Ukraine has been one of the issues that has occupied the Security Council's agenda the most. Since the beginning of hostilities, the Council has held more than 100 meetings to address the multiple aspects of the war.

With Mexico's ending its term as elected member of the Security Council in December 2022, Ecuador, along with France, assumed the leadership and co-penholdership of the humanitarian dossier in January 2023. Given the impossibility of the Council to adopt resolutions related to Ukraine, the role of the co-penholder involved organizing regular meetings to keep the Council and the international community informed about the most urgent needs of the population affected by the war.

Ecuador worked closely with organizations such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as with various non-governmental humanitarian organizations working in Ukraine, in order to ensure that the priorities of the humanitarian file were aligned with the real needs of the affected communities.



As co-penholder, Ecuador convened 11 meetings of the Security Council, where briefings from OCHA were received. These meetings allowed the assessment and visibility of the urgent needs of the civilian population in Ukraine and facilitated the participation of experts and representatives of civil society to provide testimonies on the reality on the ground.

Ecuador used this space to make visible the humanitarian challenges in Ukraine and to highlight the importance of strengthening protection mechanisms for affected people. Among the priority issues that Ecuador highlighted in its interventions, the following can be mentioned:

- **Protection of civilians and humanitarian workers**

One of the pillars of Ecuadorian leadership was the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers in conflict zones. Ecuador insisted on the need for the parties to respect their obligations arising from IHL, including the principles of humanity, distinction, proportionality, and precaution.

Likewise, Ecuador advocated for the creation of safe corridors to guarantee unrestricted access to humanitarian aid to the most affected regions. In addition, it reiterated the importance of avoiding attacks on critical infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, and energy systems, which are essential for the wellbeing of local communities.

In its interventions, the Ecuadorian delegation defended the work of humanitarian organizations, stressing the need for them to be able to operate without interference in a safe environment, and called for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2730 (2024) and those relating to the protection of humanitarian personnel.

- **Response to food insecurity**

The Black Sea Grain Initiative, established in 2022 under the auspices of the United Nations and Türkiye, was a crucial response to the interruption of agricultural exports from Ukraine due to the conflict.

Ecuador defended the importance of this initiative as a fundamental measure to mitigate the impacts of the conflict on global food security. The parties were also urged to keep the established corridors open, guaranteeing the safe transport of food and fertilizers to international markets, especially to those countries most affected by food insecurity.

Likewise, Ecuador reiterated the need to strengthen multilateral efforts to avoid the use of starvation and hunger as a tool of pressure in armed conflicts and to ensure that supplies reach the countries that need them most.



• Preparations and response to winters

Ecuador convened specific meetings to address humanitarian needs during winter in Ukraine, when extreme temperatures aggravate the vulnerable conditions of the civilian population.

Ecuador emphasized the importance of guaranteeing the protection of energy infrastructure and other essential services for the civilian population, taking into account that the impact on power plants, electrical distribution networks and urban heating systems limits the energy supply in residential areas and interrupts the operation of hospitals, schools, and shelters for displaced persons.

In addition to this, Ecuador urged the international community to step up assistance efforts in the face of the coming winters, and advocated for the implementation of contingency measures to ensure that the most affected population had continuous access to basic services such as electricity, water and heating.

• Attention to vulnerable groups

Ecuador gave special attention to the specific needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. In multiple interventions, underlined the risks faced by these populations in the context of the conflict and promoted the implementation of psychosocial support programs, education in emergencies, and child protection networks.

Likewise, highlighted the psychological impact of the conflict, especially on children, and called on the international community to guarantee their well-being through concrete initiatives.

• Protection of nuclear facilities

The conflict in Ukraine has raised serious concerns about the safety of nuclear facilities, particularly the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the largest in Europe, which has been the target of attacks and fighting in its surroundings.

In this context and in order to prevent nuclear disasters with devastating impacts on the civilian population, neighboring countries, and the global environment, Ecuador repeatedly urged the parties in conflict to act responsibly, to respect the seven pillars of nuclear security and safety proposed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to implement the five security principles promoted by its Director General, which include avoiding attacks on nuclear facilities and guaranteeing access for technical personnel.



A legacy of Principles and Action

Ecuador's leadership in the humanitarian file on Ukraine is a testament to its commitment to the core values of the United Nations. By taking an active role in a polarized environment, it demonstrated that elected members of the Security Council could significantly influence the defense of IHL and the search for solutions that prioritize the needs of affected people.

Despite the political divisions that characterize the Security Council, Ecuador managed to maintain a principled position, based on respect for IHL and the promotion of people-centered solutions. This approach consolidated the country as a key player in the defense of IHL and the search for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

Ecuador's legacy in this file reinforces its position in the multilateral arena and serves as a guide to other elected members of the Security Council on the importance of assuming leadership roles in the protection of IHL.



ANNEX

SECURITY COUNCIL

Statement by Ecuador 9816th SESSION, S/PV.9816.

Agenda: Maintaining peace and security in Ukraine.

Ambassador Andrés Montalvo Sosa, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

16 December 2024

Mr. Montalvo Sosa (Ecuador) (spoke in Spanish):

I thank Ms. Doughten for her briefing.

Since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine more than 12,000 civilians have been killed and 26,000 wounded. The deaths of combatants number in the hundreds of thousands. Nearly 4 million people remain internally displaced and more than 6.8 million have fled Ukraine. In Russia's Kursk region, 130,000 civilians have had to be evacuated because of the hostilities and many have lost their lives. Forty per cent of the Ukrainian population is dependent on humanitarian assistance and more than 55 per cent of them are women and girls, many of whom face risks of gender-based violence and exploitation. More than 60 per cent of the country's power generation facilities have been damaged, leaving millions of people without access to electricity and heating in the harsh winter.

Children have been among the most vulnerable victims of the conflict. The psychological impact of living under constant bombardment, together with displacement and the loss of loved ones, is immeasurable. The implementation of psychosocial support programmes, as well as the strengthening of child protection networks and the full participation of women, must be central pillars of post-conflict recovery initiatives. There is a real and constant threat to the civilian population, especially in the communities closest to the front lines of this unjustifiable war.

In that context, the work of the United Nations and humanitarian organizations has been a beacon of hope for millions. I would like to convey Ecuador's profound thanks to all the humanitarian actors operating in Ukraine, and to reiterate our call for the implementation of resolution 2730 (2024), as well as all resolutions related to the protection of humanitarian personnel. As the penholder responsible for the Ukraine humanitarian dossier for the past two years, Ecuador has advocated for a people-centred approach and for easing human suffering during a critical time for the world, with a surge in conflicts in which global norms and structures designed to protect civilians have been deliberately eroded. Ecuador will continue to insist on the parties' obligation to protect the civilian population, safeguard civilian infrastructure and comply with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, as established under international humanitarian law. The recent attack on International Atomic Energy Agency personnel en route to the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power



plant is deplorable, and we call on the parties to act with the utmost restraint in order to avoid a nuclear catastrophe, including an unintended one.

Although Ecuador's term as a member of the Council is about to end, our commitment to the principles we have defended remains firm. On 24 February 2022, the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations – the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State – were violated. And the invasion of Ukraine further defied another fundamental principle of international law, which is the invalidity of territorial conquest through the use of force. Ecuador believes firmly that even during military action, the ongoing efforts to take diplomatic and political steps to resolve the issue must be enhanced. The civilized conscience of humankind and all the nations of the world reject war. In responding to that plea, diplomacy must be fully deployed in the search for peaceful and good-faith solutions. History has taught us that in order to bring about genuine peace, we must look at the root causes of a conflict as well as the circumstances that exist now and that will exist in the future. Despite the parties' obstinate determination to settle conflicts militarily, we must continue to seek negotiated solutions that make peace possible through the re-establishment of the rule of law. This war has gone on for far too long, and as it escalates, the casualties and the levels of suffering will only increase.

In conclusion, I reiterate Ecuador's appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts to bring about peace, and I once again urge the Council and the international community to ramp up diplomatic efforts to end this war and exorcise the spectre of a nuclear threat. The people of Ukraine, the people of Russia and the world demand and deserve peace.





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CHAPTER 5

MIDDLE EAST AND ASIA, AFRICA, AND EUROPE



Irina Barba, Pablo Escobar, Miguel Egas, Marcel Gross, Elizabeth Méndez, Santiago Durán

“We reiterate our commitment to peace and international cooperation... We strongly call on the international community to engage in dialogue and negotiation as the only path to reconciliation and lasting peace to end human suffering, loss of life, and destruction.”

Daniel Noboa Azín, President of Ecuador, 2024

1. Middle East and Asia

Middle East issues were the most active item on the Security Council's agenda during 2023-2024. Before the latest escalation of violence, the Palestinian issue was discussed in a monthly session, including a quarterly open debate, in addition to emergency sessions that were convened in response to specific events. However, starting in October 2023, the number of sessions grew significantly.

The Palestinian Issue

During its period as a non-permanent member, Ecuador participated in more than 100 Security Council meetings to discuss the Palestinian issue, of which 16 took place before the terrorist attacks of 7 October 2023, and the outbreak of the war in Gaza.

Ecuador maintained its historic position based on the principles of international law, supporting a political solution that is definitive and fair for the parties, with the existence of two States: Palestine and Israel, based on the 1967 borders and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. It also expressed its solidarity to both peoples. It reiterated its commitment to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, as well as to the right of the people of Israel to live in security and peace.

In its statements before the escalation of violence that began on 7 October, Ecuador expressed concern about the continuation of settlement activities, which affect the possibility of achieving a two-state solution; it urged respect for the status quo of the Holy Places in Jerusalem; it called on the parties to refrain from any unilateral decision or measure that could exacerbate the conflict; and it recalled the obligation to comply with the norms of international law and international humanitarian law.

As of 7 October 2023, Ecuador unequivocally condemned the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas; demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages taken that day; and expressed its condolences to the families of the victims and its solidarity with the people of Israel. Likewise, it stated that the terrorist attacks by Hamas do not represent the Palestinian people, their inalienable right to self-determination, nor their legitimate aspirations for justice and dignity, and expressed its regret for the unacceptable death of civilians in Gaza, as well as solidarity with their families.

Likewise, Ecuador recognized the right of all States to defend their population, and constantly recalled the obligation to always respect the principles of international law and international humanitarian law, and to make every effort to prevent hospitals and schools from being considered military objectives, as well its rejection of the use of civilians as human shields. All parties were repeatedly called upon to show restraint, avoid exacerbating tensions, and prevent an expansion of violence to other areas.



Ecuador continually pointed out the need for humanitarian aid to reach those who need it without obstacles, in the necessary quantity, and in the necessary time. It also demanded an immediate, lasting, and respected ceasefire, and supported all the negotiation initiatives that were carried out for that purpose.



United Nations military contingent.

The Change in Dynamics in the Security Council

The Security Council had not adopted any resolution or presidential statement on the Palestinian issue since 2016. However, its working dynamics underwent a significant change starting in 2023 in response to the serious situation in the area.

In its two years as a member of the Security Council, Ecuador took part in the negotiation of a presidential statement, adopted by consensus, and eleven draft resolutions that were voted on. Of these, five were vetoed by a permanent member, two were vetoed by two permanent members and four were adopted. Ecuador acted in a manner consistent with the principles of upholding international law and the peaceful resolution of disputes and voted in favor in all cases.

Presidential Statement S/PRST/2023/1, adopted on 20 February 2023, expresses the Security Council's "deep concern and dismay" at the announcement that the construction and expansion of settlements in the West Bank would continue, in addition to calling for "the strengthening of ongoing efforts to counter terrorism in a manner consistent with international law" and for "all parties to clearly condemn all acts of terrorism and refrain from incitement to violence" (Security Council, 2023a).



On 15 November 2023, Ecuador supported the adoption of Resolution S/RES/2712 (2023), which aimed to alleviate the living conditions of the civilian population in Gaza, especially women and children. The text calls for the establishment of humanitarian pauses and corridors, “the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups” and demands that all parties “comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law” and the protection of civilians (Security Council, 2023b).

On 22 December 2023, during its presidency of the Council, Ecuador pushed for the adoption of Resolution S/RES/2720 (2023), which marks a milestone in the conflict by focusing on the expansion of humanitarian aid. The resolution thus calls for “urgent steps to immediately allow, safe unhindered, and expanded humanitarian access and to create the conditions for a sustainable cessation of hostilities” and requests the Secretary-General to appoint a Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator to establish a mechanism to accelerate humanitarian aid deliveries to Gaza (Security Council, 2023c).

On 25 March 2024, Resolution S/RES/2728 (2024), proposed by the 10 elected members of the Security Council, including Ecuador, was adopted. The resolution demands an immediate, time-limited ceasefire during the Muslim month of Ramadan, leading to a “lasting sustainable ceasefire” and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, while deploring all acts of terrorism, reiterating the need to expand humanitarian assistance, and strengthening the protection of civilians in Gaza (Security Council, 2024a).

On 10 June 2024, Ecuador supported the adoption of Resolution S/RES/2735(2024), proposed by the United States, in which the Security Council welcomed the proposal for a three-stage ceasefire presented on 31 May by United States President Joe Biden. The resolution also states that this proposal is acceptable to Israel and calls on Hamas to accept and implement it. Furthermore, it rejects any attempt at demographic or territorial change in Gaza and reiterates the Council’s commitment to “the vision of the two-State solution where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders” (Security Council, 2024b).

In October and November 2024, the 10 elected members of the Security Council, including Ecuador, led a new negotiation process with a view to the adoption of a new resolution focused on demanding a ceasefire, the release of hostages still held by Hamas, and the entry of humanitarian aid for civilians in Gaza. The draft received 14 votes in favor but was not adopted due to the veto of a permanent member.

The Regional Impact of the Conflict in Gaza

The conflict in Gaza had repercussions throughout the Middle East, and on several issues that were already part of the Security Council’s agenda.

This was the case in Yemen, a country about which there was marked optimism at the beginning of 2023 regarding the prospects of reaching a peace agreement. However, the Houthis used the outbreak of this conflict as an excuse to justify attacks on commercial vessels in the Red



Sea and against Israel, which generated retaliation that threatens to drag Yemen into a deeper regional conflict and worsen the humanitarian crisis experienced by its population. Ecuador repeatedly condemned the Houthi attacks and supported the mediation work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen.

This was also the case in Lebanon, where hostilities between the Hezbollah militia and Israel escalated following the attacks on 7 October 2023, until the signing of the provisional agreement for the cessation of hostilities between Lebanon and Israel on 26 November 2024. Ecuador congratulated the mediation efforts deployed by France and the United States to achieve this agreement and called for ensuring objectivity in the work of the monitoring mechanism.

During the sessions held by the Council on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Ecuador regretted the repeated failure to comply with the provisions of Resolution 1701 in the Blue Line and its surroundings, and urged the parties to prioritize political and diplomatic tools that allow for the conclusion of ceasefire agreements; to respect UNIFIL facilities and its personnel; and to ensure the protection of the civilian population in Israeli and Lebanese territory.

In the case of Syria, political stalemate and humanitarian crisis characterized the situation for almost the entire period of Ecuador as an elected member of the Security Council. These conditions were exacerbated by the escalation of regional violence that followed the attacks of 7 October 2023, particularly the confrontation between Israel and Hezbollah and the attacks between Israel and Iran.

In December 2024, Syria faced the challenges that followed the fall of the government of Bashar al-Assad and the beginning of a transitional government. The situation of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), deployed in the Syrian Golan Heights since 1974, was also affected by Israeli military operations initiated after the fall of the Syrian regime. In this context, Ecuador was consistent in its call for restraint; for the resumption of a process of dialogue towards national reconciliation; for guaranteeing the accessibility of humanitarian assistance; and for the Syrian population to have accurate information on the fate of more than one hundred thousand missing persons.

Finally, the Council's agenda for the 2023-2024 period also included issues related to Myanmar, Afghanistan, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

2. Africa

The 2023-2024 biennium was marked by significant shifts in global security dynamics, the effects of which have also been felt in Africa, a region that occupies around 38% of the work of the Security Council (United Nations, 2025).



In the Sahel region, the lack of opportunities has led many individuals to resort to either violence or migration, which has, in turn, fueled terrorism and transnational crime in the region.

In this context, the Security Council received in the summer of 2023 the request of the transitional government of Mali to withdraw the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). This decision, driven by tensions with international actors and a growing feeling of rejection of cooperation with traditional partners, left a security vacuum in Mali and the sub-region, and set a trend in other countries hosting peacekeeping missions.

In April 2023, conflict broke out in Sudan. A clash between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), two factions that had initially been allies after the overthrow of Omar al-Bashir in 2019, quickly escalated into full-scale armed conflict. The escalation of the conflict was driven by political and military rivalries, the struggle for control of strategic resources, and the collapse of mediation efforts to establish a civilian government. In this context of political and social deterioration, the Sudanese Transitional Government decided to terminate the mandate of the Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) in December 2023. The conflict has caused one of the worst humanitarian and migration crises globally, further exacerbated by widespread famine in several regions of the country.

Recurrent violations of the arms embargo on Sudan have contributed to perpetuating the cycles of violence. That is why Ecuador, together with other members of the Security Council, insisted on the need to respect the arms embargo as a key measure to mitigate violence. Likewise, Ecuador condemned human rights violations; stressed the importance of ensuring unrestricted access to humanitarian aid, and urged that cross-border routes to the most affected areas remain open. The UN also reaffirmed the need for the parties to respect the Geneva Conventions and Security Council resolutions and stressed the importance of fighting impunity as a basis for achieving sustainable peace.

In South Sudan, the situation remains fragile due to the constant extension of the Revitalized Peace Agreement, which has hindered the advancement of the democratic transition process. In response to reports of human rights violations, Ecuador promoted the protection of human rights defenders in the text of the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), adopted in March 2023.

In Abyei, the presence of South Sudanese security forces contravenes the demilitarized status and hinders the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). On this matter, Ecuador stressed the need to address the deterioration of security in the demilitarized region, established in the 2011 agreements, and called for dialogue between Sudan and South Sudan to resolve the final status of Abyei and border issues with the support of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

In the peacekeeping missions in the Horn of Africa, Ecuador has contributed 151 Ecuadorian military observers and personnel in Abyei, Sudan, and South Sudan, thus reaffirming its commitment to the region.



The displacement of thousands of Sudanese has hampered the work of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), which provides support in the protection of civilians and the deepening of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement with the signatory armed groups. The greatest challenge in the Central African Republic and the Central African region is the effective control of the territory by the State, particularly on the vast borders that, due to their porosity, facilitate the illegal trafficking of natural resources, weapons, and other criminal activities.

The reconfiguration of geopolitical alliances is not strange to the situation in the Central African Republic nor to the work of the Security Council, which prompted extensive debate and negotiations that resulted in the lifting of the arms embargo for the Central African government. Despite modest progress, challenges remain that could be addressed through a preventive approach, in line with the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), a body of which Ecuador was a member in 2023 occupying a seat allocated to the Latin American and the Caribbean region of the members of the Security Council.

The request for the gradual withdrawal of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) marked a turning point in efforts to stabilize one of the longest-running conflicts in Africa. This decision, motivated by the population's discontent with MONUSCO (United Nations, 2023), has turned the northeast of the country into a hotbed of violence that threatens the entire Great Lakes region. Since its establishment, it has played a crucial role in protecting civilians and containing illegal exploitation of natural resources by armed groups, as reflected in the Security Council's official visit to the country in March 2023—the only such visit during the 2023–2024 term.

Despite the deployment of the Southern African Development Community Mission (SAMIDRC), approved by the African Union and with the logistical support of MONUSCO in the fight against the M23, the main armed group in the region, the security situation in South Kivu remains worrying. Various factors, including the persistent activity of armed groups, have contributed to an escalation of violence that aggravates the difficult conditions in the region. As a result, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is facing a serious crisis with over six million people displaced as a result of armed conflict and natural disasters (United Nations, 2024).

Allegations of Rwandan involvement in providing military capabilities to the M23, corroborated by the Panel of Experts of the sanctions regime (United Nations, 2023), have marked the stagnation of the Luanda process which, together with the Nairobi process, are the immediate avenues for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During Ecuador's two years of participation in the Security Council, the United Nations mediation offices in Africa were strengthened. This is the case of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes, which has the mandate to facilitate the implementation of the Framework Agreement on Peace, Security, and Cooperation to end the recurring cycles of conflict and violence that have devastated the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Likewise, in the renewal of the mandates of the Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and Central Africa (UNOCA), preventive diplomacy and mediation were strengthened, that are particularly relevant in an environment marked by the breakdown of constitutional order in several African countries. Likewise, the priority in the dissemination of the agendas of Women, Peace, and Security as well as Youth, Peace and Security, and the treatment of the adverse effects of climate change, stands out.

On this last point, Ecuador supported that the United Nations peacekeeping missions have access to data to react to natural disasters and prepare the humanitarian response on the ground. Also, Ecuador recognized the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the main forum to address the response to this anthropogenic phenomenon and supported the strengthening of national capacities to access climate funds.

One of the milestones in the treatment of African files by the Security Council was the adoption of Resolution 2719, led by the African Group and supported by Ecuador during its presidency of the Council in December 2023. This resolution, historic in nature, establishes that up to 75% of peacekeeping missions in Africa may be financed through ordinary contributions from the United Nations budget. Its adoption reflects the search for greater regional ownership and leadership to address problems on the continent and the sustainability of financing.

A year later, in December 2024, Resolution 2719 was applied in the approval of the mandate of the African Union Transitional Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). The adoption of this resolution set a precedent for future missions and reaffirmed the Security Council's commitment to strengthening African capabilities.

Another African issue on the Security Council's agenda is Libya, a country where a political stalemate persists that prevents the unification of institutions, increasing the risk of a return to hostilities. That is why Ecuador focused its interventions on three points: the need for the parties to resume the political process for the establishment of a unified government capable of holding presidential and legislative elections; supporting the work of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL); and expressing its concern about the human rights violations suffered by migrants and refugees.

Regarding the situation in Western Sahara, Ecuador supported the Secretary-General's envoy in his efforts to move towards a peaceful and definitive political solution to the dispute and voted in favor of renewing the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), which is essential to maintaining stability in the region.



Final Comment

The 2023-2024 period highlighted the prevalence of African cases on the Security Council agenda. Ecuador's role during this period was to support key initiatives and contribute to debates on the effectiveness and sustainability of peacekeeping missions, including MINUSMA, UNITAMS, and MONUSCO.

Ecuador also prioritized the protection of civilians, respect for international law, international humanitarian law, and human rights. This principled position was reflected in its firm support for the processes of return to democracy, highlighting the inclusion of women in political processes as an essential component.

Motivated by the conviction that the underlying causes of violence must be addressed as the most suitable way to avoid further conflicts in Africa, and in light of the difficulties faced by the Security Council in responding effectively to immediate crises, Ecuador positioned itself as a constructive bridge-builder among divergent positions, particularly among the five permanent members.

3. Europe

The Security Council agenda covers several issues related to Europe, a region marked by historical tensions and challenges that continue to demand the attention of the Council and the international community.

While the war in Ukraine focused most of the Security Council's attention on European issues, the body also addressed other issues of importance to the stability of the continent. These included meetings on tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the situation in Georgia, as well as the analysis of the Secretary-General's reports on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

In addition, Ecuador participated in the annual meetings of the Security Council dedicated to strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union (EU), under the theme "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security."



ANNEX SECURITY COUNCIL

Statement by Ecuador 9819th SESSION, S/PV.9819.

**Agenda: The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian issue. Ambassador Andrés Montalvo Sosa, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations
18 December 2024**

I thank Assistant Secretary-General Khiari for his report and reiterate my country's support for the work of the United Nations and all its agencies. I also thank Ms. Efron and Mr. Levy for their statements.

The first meeting on this issue in which Ecuador participated as an elected member of the Security Council was held on 5 January 2023 (see S/PV.9236). On that day, my country stated that remembering the history of the issue was essential to preventing the reoccurrence of acts that had already caused violence, destruction and death in Israel and Palestine in the past. Since then, Ecuador has repeatedly called on the parties to refrain from acts of provocation and incitement, avoid acts of violence and terrorism, halt the expansion of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, control settler violence, respect the status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem and comply with the relevant Council resolutions. Although those calls have not been heeded, we reiterate them today, for they are as valid now as they were then – because if those calls been followed, the situation today would be different.

On Sunday, 8 October 2023, the Council held emergency consultations. On that occasion, my country expressed its strongest and unequivocal condemnation of the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas the previous day and demanded that the hostages be released immediately and unconditionally. Since then, we have consistently reiterated that there is no possible justification for attacking innocent civilians and that such appalling acts are the immediate cause of the war raging in Gaza to this day. On the same occasion, Ecuador pointed out that Hamas' terrorist attacks do not represent the Palestinian people, or their inalienable right to self-determination, or their legitimate aspirations to live in security, freedom, justice, opportunity and dignity.

There were warnings that such a grave escalation of the conflict would lead to the deaths of innocent civilians, including women and children; that violence would lead to more violence; and that the already precarious humanitarian situation of the civilian population would be aggravated, making the events of 7 October all the more incomprehensible. It was stressed that the principles of international humanitarian law must be respected at all times, that it was necessary to avoid affecting the civilian population, that the right to self-defence was not a carte blanche for revenge and that it was necessary to break the vicious circle that had led to the current situation.



On that 8 October, my delegation said that “Ecuador will support from the Council any measure or initiative that encourages the parties to stop the violence and to resume those negotiations”.

Today, at the final meeting scheduled on this subject during our current term, I can say that Ecuador has fulfilled its commitment. My country has influenced and voted in favour of all the initiatives that have pursued





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CHAPTER 6

NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND EMERGING THREATS: CYBERSECURITY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Paola Díaz



“Digital technologies are increasingly challenging for existing legal, humanitarian and ethical norms, non-proliferation, international stability, peace and security.”

Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, 2021

We live in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, and the evolution of information and communications technologies, including emerging ones such as artificial intelligence, high-speed Internet, and quantum computing (a threat to data encryption), have increased the threats to international peace and security.

This evolution has undoubtedly provided significant opportunities for the development of peoples in many areas in recent decades, be it medicine, trade, agribusiness, or transport, as well as communications, while it has also been a constant matter of concern for the security of States, especially when financial resources for research and access to this technology mark the path and pace of development.

However, what does interconnection mean for individual and the State per se? It implies opportunities, but at the same time, cyberattacks and the malicious use of technologies are not only a risk to the enjoyment of human rights, but also represent an imminent danger to the security of States, further polarizing the current geopolitical environment.

Concerns are deepened by the frequency, scale, and severity of cyber incidents that are substantially increasing by state and non-state actors, mainly to attack critical infrastructures – sources of energy or power plants, whether electricity or gas; water supply and treatment; transport systems, navigation, ports or airports (S2GRUPO, 2024). An attack on these infrastructures could be devastating since human lives are exposed and can represent a substantial economic impact.

Additionally, there are well-founded concerns about the proliferation of threats to the security of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), namely: i) the massive dissemination of disinformation and hate messages that polarize the current geopolitical situation, fuel conflicts and undermine human and digital rights, including the disproportionate impact on women and girls; ii) the malicious use of technology to disrupt electoral processes to the detriment of democracy and the rule of law; the use of malicious programs, such as hijackers and information erasers, and techniques such as identity theft, interception and denial of Internet service; iii) support for terrorist activities and the financing of illicit activities, including the financing of weapons of mass destruction; and, iv) the design of autonomous weapons systems with artificial intelligence that may not be designed in strict compliance with international law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law (United Nations-GTCA, 2024).

Ecuador in the Security Council

The Security Council has convened high-level briefings and discussions on cybersecurity, cyber threats such as ransomware, malicious use of technology, artificial intelligence, and the impact of emerging technologies. Its members have organized several Arria⁵ formula meetings on these topics since 2016.

⁵ Highly informal in nature, they enable Security Council members to exchange views in a frank and confidential manner, within a flexible procedural framework, with persons whom the inviting Council member(s) (who also act as moderators or organizers) believe would be interested in listening to or who might wish to convey a message. These meetings offer interested Council members the opportunity to engage in direct dialogue with senior representatives of governments and international organizations, often at the latter's request, as well as with non-State parties, on issues affecting them and falling within the Security Council's area of responsibility.





Participation of the Foreign Minister of Ecuador, Gabriela Sommerfeld, in the High-Level Session of the Security Council on Artificial Intelligence, 2024.

During Ecuador's membership in the Security Council, the following were organized: in July 2023, a high-level briefing on the opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence for international peace and security; in July 2024, an open debate on cybersecurity; in October 2024, a briefing on the impact of scientific advances on international peace and security; in November 2024, a briefing on the threats posed by ransomware attacks against hospitals and other health facilities and services; and, in December 2024, a high-level meeting on artificial intelligence in which the Foreign Minister of Ecuador, Gabriela Sommerfeld, participated (Security Council Report, 2025).

Today, Ecuador is decisively promoting cybersecurity. The Global Cybersecurity Index 2024, issued by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), places Ecuador, along with Canada, Mexico, and Uruguay, in level T2 of five levels – T5 being the lowest – with significant progress, going from 26.3 points in 2020 to 87.18 points out of 100 in 2024 (MINTEL, 2024).

For Ecuador, digital transformation is a priority, therefore, it has proposed promoting cybersecurity and implementing its National Cybersecurity Strategy, which includes the launch of its Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), while establishing mechanisms and initiatives with artificial intelligence in a safe, ethical and responsible manner (MINTEL, 2022).

Thus, during the debates and briefings of the Security Council on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, Ecuador recognized and insisted that international law, including international humanitarian law, applies in cyberspace, as it defends its exclusively peaceful use. It has also condemned cyberattacks, regardless of their origin, in particular when critical infrastructures are put at risk, as they undermine global efforts for the peaceful use of information technologies. Strictly speaking, regarding artificial intelligence, Ecuador has recognized that



this technology, like any other, is a tool that can significantly contribute to peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts or can be used to undermine those objectives, since access to these technologies by non-state actors, especially terrorist and criminal groups, poses a threat to collective security, since their malicious use can lend itself to recruitment, coordination, and incitement to hatred and violence.

Likewise, Ecuador has been emphatic that the uncontrolled development of these technologies, without adequate regulation and a human rights approach, poses significant risks such as the possibility of undermining global stability, alarmingly concentrating power and access, exacerbating geopolitical tensions, and weakening democratic processes.

A point of great concern on which Ecuador has expressed the need to continue deliberating in a committed manner is the use of increasingly autonomous weapons that raise ethical and moral concerns. Thus, the use of lethal autonomous weapons undoubtedly leads to an increasing dehumanization of armed conflicts and weakens the considerations for going to war, which would strengthen these conflicts, maximizing an imminent risk of generating an arms race.

On the other hand, the country has been vocal in highlighting how important it is for the region and for developing countries to build and strengthen capacities and transfer technology so that cybersecurity threats can be countered and an open, stable, secure, accessible, and peaceful environment can be fostered for the benefit of all.

Ecuador has highlighted the need to ensure equal, full, and effective participation of women in the negotiation processes on cybersecurity and other areas that include the cyberspace dimension among its components that allow eliminating the existing gender gap, taking into consideration that, in addition, with rapid technological changes, threats in cyberspace have a differentiated impact on women and girls.

Ecuador is convinced that the rapid advance of information and communications technologies requires global and collective responses, so its governance, which transcends national borders, must be the result of a coordinated international effort, promoting international cooperation and allowing all States to take advantage of the opportunities of the digital age.

In this regard, the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has expressed his deep concern about the risks and challenges brought about by the rapid evolution of technology, and about its malicious use. In his statement, within the framework of the Security Council, in the briefing session of July 2024, he mentioned that the New Agenda for Peace places prevention at the center of all our peace efforts and called for the development of a solid framework in accordance with international law, human rights and the Charter of the United Nations, which concentrates efforts on preventing the spread and escalation of conflicts in and through cyberspace; and indicated that, given the growing link between cyberspace and international peace and security, the Council could play a key role by integrating cyber-related considerations into its existing work streams and resolutions (United Nations, 2024).



Multilateral Framework for Discussion of Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence

These well-founded concerns about the accelerated advance of technology, at all levels, have acted as a trigger for international actions to examine how humanity can benefit from them, but at the same time, be certain of how to face the challenges and risks inherent to them.

Thus, within the United Nations, the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in Information and Telecommunications in 2015 marked a significant milestone in the history of ICT security discussions, as it agreed on 11 voluntary norms of responsible state behavior in cyberspace, aimed at promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment; it also determined that the principles of State sovereignty, the peaceful resolution of disputes and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States apply to cyberspace (United Nations-GEG, 2015).

On the other hand, the Open-ended Working Group on the security and use of information and communications technologies, in the context of international security, for the 2021-2025 period, seeks to promote a common understanding of existing and potential threats in the field of ICTs, which includes discussions on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence; rules, norms, and principles governing cyberspace; the application of international law; confidence-building measures; capacity building; and regular institutional dialogue that refers to the future mechanism that will allow these deliberations to be held (United Nations- WGCA, 2022).



Specifically on artificial intelligence, the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence (HLAB-AI) published its final report in September 2024, which contains proposals for global governance of artificial intelligence. The worrying fact about the management and access to this technology is that out of the 193 Member States of the United Nations, only 7 are part of the recent and relevant initiatives on the governance of artificial intelligence; and 118 states, mainly from the Global South, are completely absent.

In addition, the HLAB-AI report highlights that, as there is no global governance framework and, with its development in the hands of a few countries and a few multinational companies, there is a risk that the effects of releasing artificial intelligence will be imposed on the majority of the population, without any opportunity to participate in the decisions to do so (HLAB-AI, 2024).

For its part, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has the "Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" which serves as the first universal normative framework on the ethics of artificial intelligence, adopted by the 193 UNESCO Member States in November 2021. This instrument:

(...) considers ethics as a dynamic basis for the normative evaluation and guidance of AI technologies, taking as a reference human dignity, well-being, and the prevention of harm and relying on the ethics of science and technology (UNESCO, 2021).

As Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs has pointed out, with more than 4.6 billion Internet users in the world, digital advances revolutionize human life, but "we must remain alert to insidious technologies that could endanger the security of future generations."

Technology is not a threat in itself, so our common goal must be to prevent its malicious use, without restricting innovation and opportunities for people's development. As Secretary-General António Guterres has put it, we must engage in a "race for the common good."



ANNEX

SECURITY COUNCIL

Statement by Ecuador

Ministerial Meeting: High-Level Briefing in the Security Council on Maintaining International Peace and Security: Artificial Intelligence

Gabriela Sommerfeld, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility

19 December 2024

1. I thank the United States for organizing this important session. I also thank Secretary-General António Guterres and the speakers for their briefings.
2. We are at a decisive moment for humanity, characterized by the rapid advance of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, whose development presents both unprecedented opportunities and significant risks.
3. Artificial intelligence has transformative potential: it can revolutionize key sectors, advance the Sustainable Development Goals, and strengthen peacekeeping operations through early warning systems and support for conflict mediation.
4. However, the uncontrolled development of these technologies, without adequate regulation and respect for human rights, poses significant risks. These include the possibility of undermining global stability, worryingly concentrating power, exacerbating geopolitical tensions, and weakening democratic processes.
5. Furthermore, access to these technologies by non-state actors, particularly terrorist and criminal groups, represents a threat to international security. These tools can be misused for purposes of recruitment, coordination, or incitement to hatred and violence.
6. Ecuador recognizes that the speed of progress in artificial intelligence requires global and collective responses. The governance of these technologies, which transcend national borders, must be the result of a coordinated international effort.
7. In this regard, we welcome the initiatives that led to the adoption of resolutions on artificial intelligence in the General Assembly, which Ecuador had the honor of co-sponsoring.
8. The launch of a global dialogue within the framework of the United Nations, as agreed in the Global Digital Compact, is a fundamental step towards balancing the opportunities and risks associated with these technologies, and ensuring that artificial intelligence becomes a driver of collective well-being, leaving no country behind.



9. Ecuador will continue to advocate for artificial intelligence systems designed and used ethically, in strict respect of human rights that promote comprehensive sustainable development encompassing its economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

10. While celebrating the potential of artificial intelligence to decode global challenges and even contribute to the eradication of poverty, the global South must not allow critical barriers to its adoption to be erected.

11. Universal, secure, and accessible digital connectivity must be ensured, which drives innovation, facilitates the achievement of the SDGs, and promotes international cooperation, allowing all States to take advantage of the opportunities of the digital age.

12. At the national level, Ecuador already encourages the adoption and ethical development of artificial intelligence. We work in collaboration with UNESCO and UNDP to ensure that these technologies are used for the benefit of our society and in a responsible manner.

13. In the military field, it is urgent to address the challenges arising from the use of artificial intelligence in weapons systems.

14. It is imperative to move towards a legally binding regulatory framework to govern the design and use of lethal autonomous systems, ensuring their ethical development in accordance with international law.

15. In the current race for leadership in the development of artificial intelligence, it is essential that governance and regulatory practices advance at equal speed to ensure that international peace and security are safeguarded.

16. Geopolitical conflict must not prevent the eventual adoption of a new international regulatory body for the physical products that comprise artificial intelligence, nor sharpen divisions over the intangible assets necessary for the technology.

17. Again, the emerging legal regime we call for must not serve to consolidate a divided world order in which broad-based collective solutions fail, nor instigate a new technological arms race.

18. Rather, in this era of faltering global resolve, our common goal must be to prevent the misuse of artificial intelligence without restricting innovation in the process. As proposed, the idea of creating an international panel similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change looks appealing, to inform governments about the current state of AI capabilities and to present evidence-based forecasts of what lies ahead.

19. As the Secretary-General put it, we must engage in a “race for the common good” – a race to develop AI that fosters peace and enables us to build a more equitable, secure, and sustainable future for all nations, with a special emphasis on supporting developing countries.



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CHAPTER 7

THE AGENDA ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Elizabeth Méndez



“We reiterate the Security Council’s call for the full, equal, meaningful, safe, and effective participation of women at all levels of decision-making and in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control efforts.”

Gabriela Sommerfeld, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility on behalf of the signatory countries of the Shared Commitments on Women, Peace and Security, 2023.

One of Ecuador's priorities during its participation as an elected member of the Security Council was to contribute to the efforts towards the effective and concrete implementation of the Agenda on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS).

Ecuador adhered to the Statement of Shared Commitments on Women, Peace, and Security; promoted the inclusion of gender-sensitive language in mandates, resolutions, conclusions, and other products of the Security Council; participated in the drafting and presentation of press statements to make visible the situation of women in various conflict scenarios; during its presidency it promoted the participation of women briefers in the sessions of the Council; called for the elimination of barriers that limit the participation of women in the processes of consolidation and maintenance of peace; and, stressed in its interventions that there is no possibility of building tolerant and peaceful societies without the full participation of women in all social processes.

Examples of Ecuador's commitment to the WPS Agenda include the resolutions adopted by the Security Council on Haiti resulting from its work as co-penholder. Thus, resolutions 2692 (2023), 2699 (2023), 2700 (2023), and 2743 (2024) contain language that encourages the political participation of women; calls for the establishment of a framework for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; and encourages increasing the number of advisors on gender-based violence issues at the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti.

Ecuador also expressed concern about the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan. In its interventions, it insisted that any strategy aimed at supporting the resolution of problems in that country must be linked to the recovery of civic space and the rule of law, the return of girls and young women to the classroom, the promotion and respect of human rights, and the restoration of the full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women in all discussions on the future of that country.

Resolution 1325 (2000) as the Cornerstone of the Agenda on Women, Peace, and Security and Other Resolutions

Resolution 1325 (2000) was the first product of the Security Council to recognize that, in conflict scenarios, violence and its related dynamics disproportionately affect the lives and security of women and girls. The resolution emphasizes that the presence and contribution of women is essential in any initiative aimed at preventing and resolving conflicts, as well as for the consolidation of sustainable peace.

In compliance with the mandate established in Resolution 1325, each year the Secretary-General submits to the members of the Security Council the annual report on "Women, Peace, and Security". The report for 2023 recorded an increase in the number of women and girls who are victims of multiple forms of violence, who suffer restrictions in their rights to social, political, and economic participation, and who are victims of institutionalized systems of gender-based

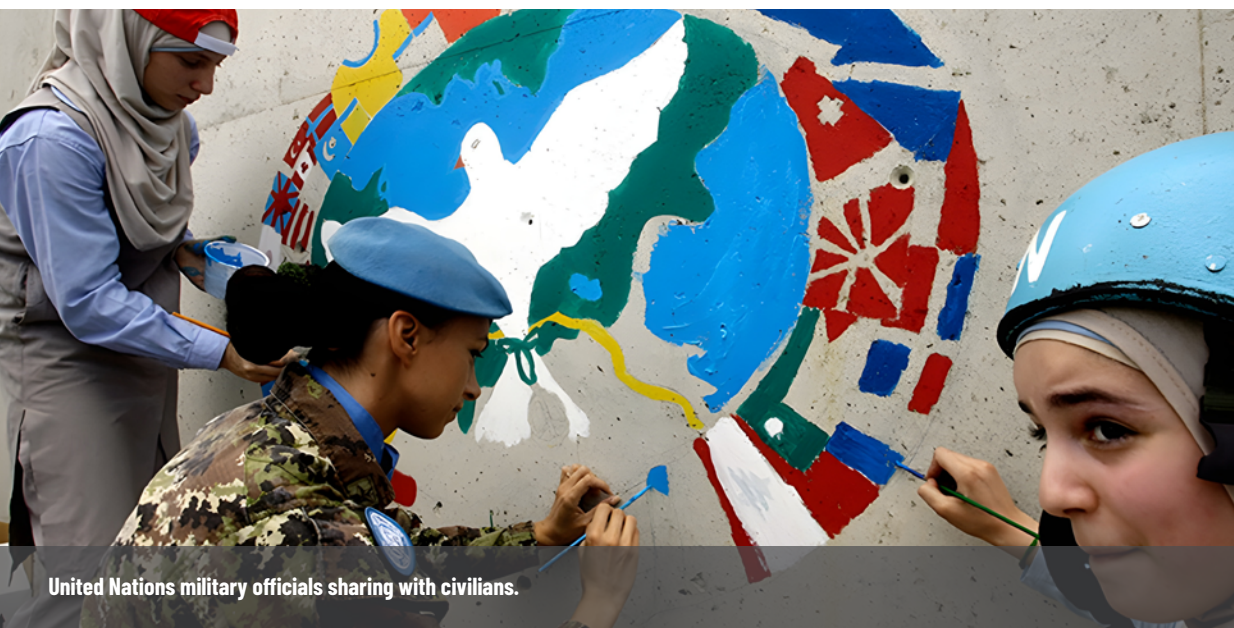


discrimination, as in the case of Afghanistan (United Nations, 2024a). Likewise, annually, the Council is called upon to organize an open debate to discuss the findings of the report and examine mechanisms that allow the implementation of its recommendations.

During their chairmanships of the Security Council, members have the prerogative to convene discussions on various topics from the WPS perspective, which include “Arria Formula” meetings, informal discussion spaces, as well as focusing briefings on the States examined on the situation of women and girls. During its coordination of the E10 in September 2024, Ecuador organized a briefing with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Roza Otunbayeva, which served as a preliminary analysis of the quarterly report.

In the 2023-2024 period, the Council held 13 sessions related to the WPS agenda. In these meetings, Ecuador’s position was geared towards making visible that women and girls suffer the disproportionate impact of violence in conflicts; insisting on the need to implement victim-centered accountability systems to avoid impunity; to increase funding and support from the international community to generate the capacities, presence and participation of youth and women at the peace negotiation tables, as well as in political and peacekeeping missions; and to recognize that the role of women is indispensable to promote national reconciliation, restore the rule of law, and achieve inclusive and sustainable peace.

On the other hand, Ecuador worked with the United Nations in the construction of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2025-2029 (Foreign Ministry of Ecuador, 2024), in order to ensure that the prevention, protection, attention, and punishment of violence against women and girls is a cross-cutting and priority principle of public policy.



United Nations military officials sharing with civilians.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

Resolution 1820 (2008) is the first to recognize that the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war can exacerbate conflicts and constitute a threat to international peace and security.

Each year, the Secretary-General presents a report on the systematic use of sexual violence related to armed conflict and strategies to protect women and girls from this type of violence. The 2023 report documented verified cases of the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war, forced marriages, and unwanted pregnancies, and established a correlation between the persistence in the commission of these crimes and the exacerbation of armed conflicts (United Nations, 2024b).

The results of the report are discussed during an annual debate convened by the Security Council. At these meetings, Ecuador reiterated that having information verified by the United Nations on the number of cases of sexual violence in conflict, as well as the list of possible perpetrators, contributes to efforts to take preventive measures, and is a determining factor in eradicating impunity through the establishment of systems of accountability and transitional justice.

In addition, Ecuador insisted on the importance of promoting joint work between different actors to ensure that United Nations teams on the ground have access to conditions of security and freedom of movement in the most complex areas so that they can continue to collect statistics that give voice to victims and guide decision-making by the Security Council and the international community (De La Gasca, 2024b).

Ecuador also contributed to the discussions on sexual violence associated with conflict in the framework of the signature event organized during its presidency in December 2023, which addressed the threat to peace and security posed by the diversion, illicit trafficking, and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. In this regard, it proposed as one of the elements of the discussion that the majority of violent incidents related to the misuse of small arms and light weapons multiply the episodes of sexual violence in conflict and impunity.

The Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security

In order to promote a systematic and institutionalized discussion of WPS principles and the circumstances faced by women in country files examined by the Security Council, the Informal Expert Group (IEG) on WPS was established by Resolution 2242 (2015). It is made up of an expert delegate from each of the Council members and is supported by UN Women, the agency that acts as the group's secretariat.



In 2023, the IEG met six times to analyze the situation of women and girls in Syria, Haiti, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Palestine. In December 2023, the group traveled to South Sudan to gather information on the situation of women and girls in that country. In 2024, the IEG held seven meetings focused on Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Libya, Myanmar, and Ukraine.

Ecuador actively participated in all informal meetings of the IEG, requesting detailed information on violations and abuses committed against women and girls, as well as greater precision on the methodology for collecting and systematizing information. Likewise, it encouraged States to implement the group's recommendations, especially those related to the design of national action plans on WPS, regulatory frameworks for prevention, and accountability for victims and survivors.

Statement of Shared Commitments for principles on Women, Peace and Security

This instrument was born in 2021 as an initiative of Kenya, Ireland, and Mexico, to transform the principles of the WPS Agenda into concrete realities. Since then, a large number of countries have joined the initiative, including Ecuador. Its priority objective is to ensure that the pillars of the WPS Agenda are mainstreamed in all discussions, actions, and products of the Security Council and, under this logic that the adhering members, during their chairmanships, focus on promoting the participation of women speakers from civil society in the meetings of the Security Council. During its presidency, Ecuador invited 13 women briefers to inform the Council on various agenda items.

However, facilitating the participation of women briefers in the Security Council is a complex process that requires robust institutional capacities from States; the coordination of efforts with the United Nations, especially with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with the teams on the ground, as well as compliance with a plan for prevention and mitigation of risks of retaliation that is activated before, during and after the participation of the briefers.



Final Comment

In a global scenario in which violations and abuses against women have increased dramatically, and the regression in access to rights for women and girls threatens to undermine the progress made towards gender equality and the construction of societies free of gender violence, Ecuador's position during its participation in the Security Council was supported by the principles of international law and the international frameworks for the protection of women's rights.

Ecuador maintained its position that the definitive solution to violence against women and girls is to silence the weapons and address the causes of conflicts. We also stressed that the international community's efforts should focus on supporting States in conflict to identify the specific needs of women and girls; design national action plans on WPS; build institutional capacities to strengthen systems of accountability and transitional justice; and promote the presence, participation and leadership of women at the negotiating table and all levels of political representation, in order to dismantle the patriarchal structures that discriminate against and exclude them, and to achieve the ideal of a world free of sexual and gender-based violence.



ANNEX

SECURITY COUNCIL

Statement by Ecuador 9760th SESSION, S/PV. 9760.

Agenda: Women and peace and security

Ambassador José de la Gasca, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

24 October 2024

1. Allow me to thank the speakers for the considerations raised during their interventions. I listened to all of them attentively.

2. The record of conflicts and crises around the world has increased the number of women and girls who are victims of multiple and intersecting forms of violence; they are restricted in their right to social, political, and economic participation; and they are prisoners of institutionalized structures of gender-based discrimination. Ecuador expresses its concern at the lack of full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women in the processes of establishing and maintaining peace; the alarming increase in the number of women and girls murdered and victims of sexual violence associated with the conflict; and the funding gap to accelerate their access to rights.

3. Ending violence and addressing the root causes of conflict is the ultimate solution and, although it is a difficult ideal to achieve, we believe that this is an opportune moment to increase investment in social promotion programs and in the economic and political empowerment of women. The role of multilateralism and the promotion of women's participation at all levels of this sphere is essential in mainstreaming the principles of the agenda on women and peace and security; in identifying the needs of women and girls; and in seeking gender-sensitive solutions, including preventing and combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. Throughout these two years on the Security Council, my country has conveyed the message that the time of women and youth has come.

4. Today, October 24, United Nations Day, is a good time to reflect on the Organization's achievements for women, but also on the pending challenges. We believe that the time has come for a woman to hold the position of Secretary General. Women's perspectives make a difference, by giving victims a voice and promoting their empowerment. This is crucial to eradicating impunity and ensuring that the rule of law persists in fragile environments. For this reason, the presence of women is imperative in the exercise of preventive diplomacy; at the negotiating tables of peace agreements; in strengthening the capacities of the State, transitional justice, security sector reform, in the issue of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and of course, in electoral processes and political life.



5. Along these lines, as co-penholder of the resolutions approved by the Security Council on the situation in Haiti, Ecuador has promoted the incorporation of robust language to promote the political participation of women; establish a framework for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; and increase the number of specialized advisors on sexual and gender-based violence at the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti.

6. Generating environments of security and trust, in which women and girls can access their rights and exercise them without restrictions, is the responsibility of all States, whether or not they are in a situation of conflict. The reconfiguration of old threats and the emergence of new ones forces us to create frameworks for the promotion and protection of their rights. Resolution 1325 (2000) is a clear expression of the indissoluble link between peace and development, which is why Ecuador has worked with the United Nations in the construction of the national action plan on women and peace and security 2025-2029, to ensure that the prevention, protection, attention, and punishment of violence against women and girls also allows us to accelerate the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. I take this opportunity to welcome the written opinion (see S/2024/757) of the Peacebuilding Commission for this meeting. Many relevant points outlined there have been incorporated into this intervention, which in turn are based on the Commission's Gender Strategy and Plan of Action.

8. Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated that in societies torn apart by war, the work of women peacebuilders is the only hope for the future. Therefore, less than a year after commemorating the 25th anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1325 (2000), we believe that efforts must be redoubled to ensure that girls in all corners of the world can return to the classroom without delay and grow up in stable, safe and peaceful societies.

9. I would like to conclude with the following quote from Secretary-General António Guterres: "Women and girls will not be silenced, their demands for rights and freedoms resonate throughout the world." Ecuador always listens to them.





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President of the Republic of Ecuador, Daniel Noboa Azín, and UN Secretary General, António Guterres.
Office of the President of the Security Council, 2023.

CHAPTER 8

ECUADOR'S PRESIDENCY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Mónica Sánchez



“An institutionalized system for international peace and security can only function if, and to the extent that, the members of the international community are willing to make it work. Once that willingness is genuinely manifested, the global capacity to guarantee peace will definitively be strengthened, and the original optimism expressed in 1945 will finally be justified.”

Diego Cordovez, former Foreign Minister of Ecuador and
former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1987.

The United Nations Charter (Article 24 of Chapter V) grants the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and establishes the obligation of Member States to accept and comply with the decisions adopted by it.

In January 2023, 31 years after its last participation as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council, Ecuador once again have a seat at the table of greater global influence.

The Security Council members assume the presidency on a monthly rotating basis, following alphabetical order. The country holding the presidency is responsible for leading meetings, proposing and reaching consensus on the monthly work program among members, coordinating activities, organizing meetings, facilitating debates, and representing the Council before other UN bodies. It is also responsible for requesting and authorizing the Security Council Affairs Division to publish and distribute documents, such as resolutions and decisions.

On 1 December 2023, Ecuador assumed the rotating presidency of the Security Council, leading the main international peace and security organ of the United Nations, at a time marked by escalating conflicts in the Middle East, Russia and Ukraine; complex conflict situations in Africa; and even a worsening of issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.



President of Ecuador, Daniel Noboa Azín at the United Nations General Assembly.

This presidency marked a significant milestone in Ecuador's diplomacy—not because it was the first or only time the country actively participated in major multilateral and international forums, but because it provided Ecuador with a platform within the United Nations, perhaps the most influential at the international level, during a critical historical moment.

Geopolitical tensions fueled the debate over Security Council reform, largely due to the “indiscriminate” use of the veto by permanent members and growing pressure to expand the Council's membership.



At that time, Ecuador and the region faced significant domestic challenges. The first and most complex was the fight against the escalating violence at various levels. This led Ecuador to push for the Security Council to resume discussions on the threat posed by transnational organized crime—not only to Ecuador but to the region and the world—due to its cross-border nature

The second challenge was the beginning of a new government administration on 23 November 2023, that is, seven days before Ecuador assumed the presidency of the Security Council. Despite this transition, Ecuador's team at the Council continued its work seamlessly, maintaining the same level of professionalism, dedication, and commitment to representing the country in its new leadership role.

The preparation of officials, both in New York and in the capital, allowed them to master UNSC working methods, the provisional rules of procedure, and gain in-depth knowledge of global conflict situations. Equally important—if not more so—was the work carried out by the delegation in the months leading up to the presidency, aimed at strengthening Ecuador's leadership through its active and prominent participation in several key issues.

Some of the key activities that marked Ecuador's participation included: be co-penholder, alongside France, on the file on humanitarian situation in Ukraine and, with the United States, addressing the dire situation in Haiti. Additionally, Ecuador held the presidency of the 1988 Committee on the Taliban and the 1540 Committee on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It also served as vice-chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and played a significant role in advancing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.

As a member of the E10, Ecuador played a fundamental role in facilitating and delivering joint statements and consensus positions on behalf of this group of nations. This visibility and strength enabled Ecuador to overcome difficulties that could arise on the part of the permanent members on several occasions, even in the context of the so-called veto power.

Furthermore, Ecuador's work at the Security Council strengthened alliances with elected members and fostered partnerships with permanent members. It could even be said that Ecuador was perceived as a catalyst country, a role that became evident in its handling of highly sensitive and complex issues.

The proposed program, was presented in private consultations with Security Council members, being carefully designed and negotiated with all 14 delegations for approval. On its first day, Ecuador emphasized that its work would focus on addressing critical issues through five key priorities: seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts and ceasefires; promoting sustainable peace; protection of civilians and advancing the agenda on Children in Armed Conflicts; encouraging the Women, Peace, and Security agenda; and non proliferation and combating illicit arms trafficking.



In the following days, the Ecuadorian presidency organized two signature events:

- On 7 December 2023, Ecuador hosted a high-level open debate on threats to international peace and security, focusing on transnational organized crime. The debate was chaired by President Daniel Noboa Azín and attended by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. As a result, the Security Council adopted Presidential Statement S/PRST/2023/6, which brought significant attention to this complex and controversial issue. This demonstrated Ecuador's leadership and facilitated enhanced cooperation on the matter.
- On 15 December, 2023, Ecuador organized another high-level open debate, this time addressing the threat posed to peace and security by the diversion, illicit trafficking, and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. Foreign Minister Gabriela Sommerfeld chaired the meeting. In her statement, included historical facts that illustrate the global impact of this issue, she also emphasized the collective need to address this challenge and underscored the importance of women's leadership in disarmament efforts, given the disproportionate impact of armed violence on women and girls.

In addition to these events organized by the Ecuadorian presidency of the Security Council, four meetings took place in the "Arria Formula" format: 1) "Women's perspectives on Afghanistan" organized by Switzerland, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates. 2) "Artificial Intelligence and its Impact on Hate Statement and Disinformation" organized by the United Arab Emirates and Albania; 3) "Improving Dialogue and Cooperation between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission" organized by Brazil; and, "Ten Years of Euromaidan in Ukraine: a step towards the abyss", organized by the Russian Federation.

During its presidency, Ecuador secured the adoption of a presidential statement, five press statements, and nine resolutions. Notably, five of these resolutions were adopted unanimously (with 15 affirmative votes), while the remaining four included abstentions.

Ecuador, in compliance with its commitment to highlight the Latin American and Caribbean region, taking advantage of the fact that in December the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council belonged to the region, promoted a meeting of the trio of Latin American Presidencies: Trinidad and Tobago, Chile and Ecuador, to address a comprehensive response of the United Nations to the multidimensional threats in Haiti. This initiative underscored the region's leadership at the helm of three major UN bodies, united at a critical moment to address Haiti's crisis.

As is customary every December, Ecuador's presidency also organized a session where outgoing chairs of subsidiary bodies shared their experiences and key achievements. Four of the five departing Security Council members (Albania, the UAE, Gabon, and Ghana) had chaired a total of 14 subsidiary bodies during their 2022–2023 term.

As President of the UN Security Council, Ecuador presided over 35 formal meetings, including 33 that were public and 2 were private. In addition, 14 closed consultation meetings



were held. Ecuador was decisive regarding the participation of women in all debates and meetings, which was a challenge since intimidation and reprisals against representatives of civil society, which occurred in previous months, would have harmed the possibility of finding panelists.

As stated above, the themes that dominated the number of meetings, debates, and decisions in December were determined by the precipitous escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, the continued effects of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, and the setback against United Nations peacekeeping in Africa.

On 6 December 2023, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent a letter to the President of the Security Council invoking Article 99 of the United Nations Charter, which allows him to draw the attention of the Council to “any matter which, in his opinion, may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.” In response to this request, Ecuador, under the provisions of Article 3 of the Council’s Provisional Rules of Procedure, convened a meeting on 8 December on the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

On the same day, the Council held a closed consultation session and an adoption session to consider a humanitarian draft resolution submitted by the United Arab Emirates. The resolution received 13 votes in favor (Albania, Brazil, China, Ecuador, UAE, France, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Russia, and Switzerland), 1 against (United States), and 1 abstention (United Kingdom).

Ecuador’s presidency also led multiple briefings and consultations on the Middle East, culminating in the adoption of a resolution on 22 December 2023, on the need to increase and monitor humanitarian aid to Gaza. The resolution passed with 13 votes in favor (Albania, Brazil, China, Ecuador, UAE, France, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, United Kingdom, and Switzerland), while the U.S. and Russia abstained.

The second issue that occupied a large part of the agenda was Russia’s military aggression against Ukraine and the escalation of attacks and damage to the civilian population and infrastructure, which further complicated the humanitarian situation as winter approached.

Other key discussions during Ecuador’s presidency, included the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, the Central African region, Haiti, Libya, non-proliferation (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Iran), peace and security in Africa and Somalia, and a letter from the Permanent Representative of Guyana (S/2023/961) regarding the border with Venezuela.

In addition, and as is practice, the Council held thematic meetings on threats to international peace and security, the international residual mechanism of criminal tribunals, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations.



Under “other matters”, the Council discussed threats from the Houthis to security at sea, the protection of United Nations personnel and facilities in conflict zones, and a possible Council mission to Colombia that was materialized in 2024. Similarly, in light of the sudden terminations of the main United Nations peace and security mechanisms in conflict situations in Africa, the Council worked on the possibility of finding solutions that would allow for regional alliances for the future of these missions and ensuring orderly withdrawals.

Ecuador’s leadership in the Council reflected its proactive diplomacy, commitment to multilateralism, and ability to navigate complex geopolitical tensions while addressing pressing global security challenges. The delegation navigated intense political pressures during its presidency, requiring high-level leadership and professional diplomacy from national authorities. The country prioritized transparency, clarity, and national interests while upholding the dignity and responsibility of its role in the Security Council.

At the end of December, Ecuador received widespread recognition from both the Security Council and the General Assembly, not only for the results achieved on issues of enormous complexity and showcasing effective multilateral engagement, evidenced in the table of official statistics (annex), but also for the transparency, negotiating skills and above all the correct handling of the working methods and the provisional rules of procedure that allowed Ecuador to exercise an impeccable presidency.



ANNEX

SECURITY COUNCIL

Statement by Ecuador

Debate on Threats to international peace and security: transnational organized crime, growing challenges and new threats.

President of the Republic of Ecuador, Daniel Noboa Azín 7 December 2023

1. I appreciate the statement by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, which raises essential points that the Security Council will have to consider with increasing urgency.
2. I also extend my thanks to the speakers for their presentations. Their interventions reflect the threats of transnational organized crime to peace and security. This threat has already been confirmed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as by civil society and academia.
3. Illicit arms and drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, and human trafficking are just some examples of the activities of criminal gangs that affect the peace of citizens and the development of our nations. We must always remember that these activities tragically disproportionately harm women and girls.
4. Transnational organized crime has caused more deaths than many of the global conflicts of the last 20 years combined.
5. In this context, to combat this situation we must have a comprehensive approach by the United Nations where the Security Council acts within its powers in favor of peace for the entire international community.
6. Resolution 1459 of the year (2003) on the Kimberley process, which seeks to prevent blood diamonds, was adopted unanimously two decades ago. This resolution demonstrates that this Council can have the capacity to contribute to cross-cutting efforts to face multidimensional challenges.
7. In Haiti, for example, this year, nearly four thousand people were killed, fifteen hundred wounded, and almost three thousand kidnapped, concerning gang violence alone. In these last two years, more civilians have died in Haiti than in several conflicts involving more than one State, in the same period. In the words of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, this situation is a cataclysm.



8. The Council can and must cooperatively exercise its responsibility, whether it is a traditional or an emerging threat. It has done so in various issues that have been on its agenda, such as the G5 Sahel, Afghanistan, and Haiti, among others.

9. This Council also authorized, on October 2, the deployment of a Multinational Security Support Mission, which we hope can be formed as soon as possible under the leadership of Kenya. I take this opportunity to reiterate Ecuador's commitment to continue co-leading with the United States on the issues related to Haiti in this Council.

10. Latin America and other regions of the world have also suffered from the connections created between organized crime and insurgency. This threat generates instability and has become the basis for border conflicts, as well as regional and global tensions.

11. Ecuador has been impacted by the wave of transnational organized crime and its links with armed groups threaten the rule of law, state control, and border security. This is not a mere concept; historically in Ecuador, we have suffered from the impact of non-international armed conflicts that developed outside our country.

12. Ecuador, which has long been considered a country of peace, has seen, in recent years, an unprecedented increase in violence, being the victim of transnational organized crime that seeks to affect control of the territory and weaken borders to favor its routes. Homicides in Ecuador have increased unacceptably in recent years due to the penetration of international criminal gangs.

13. I reiterate what I stated when I took office as Constitutional President of Ecuador. I believe in a State that has as its first objective to reduce violence and make progress a habit.

14. Transnational crime demands a forceful and timely transnational response. For this reason, one of the priorities of my Government is to support international cooperation, as well as to deploy all necessary efforts in our border areas and within the country to confront all manifestations of violence.

15. In the face of transnational threats, there is no alternative but a transnational response. The same thing happened with the pandemic: as long as one State is not safe, no other can be. Therefore, this Council must encourage increased cooperation, capacity building, and technology transfer to overcome the challenges posed by security and cybersecurity threats.

16. Early warning mechanisms, crime prevention efforts, and the promotion of criminal justice must be expanded and incorporated into peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. These are indispensable in cases of security sector reform.



17. Fourteen years ago, France organized a meeting to address this issue under the theme of threats to international peace and security. Today, we seek to give continuity to this proposal by providing more existing instruments and tools, as well as renewing the support of this Council for these efforts to combat transnational organized crime and terrorism.

18. For this reason, we also joined forces with France to propose the Presidential Statement that was adopted by this Council. We appreciate the valuable support received from all delegations for this effort and we are sure that it is one more tool to advance this effort.

19. Tomorrow also marks fourteen years since the United Nations Security Council began the debate on drug trafficking as a threat to international security, under the agenda of peace and security in Africa. It is our responsibility as an elected member of this Council to strengthen the efforts that were undertaken by other delegations to prevent armed violence.

20. Wars, conflicts, and transnational organized crime have one ingredient in common: weapons. Precisely, on December 15 we will organize an Open Debate on the threat that the diversion, illicit trafficking, and misuse of weapons pose for peace and security.

21. Peace is the central promise of the United Nations Charter. But what peace can there be amid the resurgence of organized crime? We agree with the Secretary-General that peace is a global public good that we must protect and manage.

22. I wanted to come to this Council in person to reiterate my government's commitment to the search for peace, which is not limited to the threats we are also suffering within our borders from transnational organized crime. Thank you very much.



ANNEX

STATISTICS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

January 2022 - December 2023

Month	Formal meetings								Consultations			IID	VTC	Hours ¹				Outcomes		
	Total ²	Private	Public	Thematic ³	Formats ⁴				Number	Items ⁵	AOB			M	C	V	T	RES	PRST	Press statements
					A	B	D	OD												
January 2023	18	2	16	2	2	11	0	3	10	11	3	0	0	43.6	13.4	0	57	3	0	3
February	20	1	19	3	1	16	1	1	10	10	3	1	0	43.9	14.6	0	58.5	1	1	3
March	28	3	25	4	6	16	1	2	11	11	2	0	0	51.1	9.1	0	60.2	5	2	1
April	14	0	14	1	1	10	0	3	12	13	2	1	0	35.6	14.8	0	50.4	1	0	4
May	20	0	20	2	2	14	1	2	9	9	2	1	0	42.9	11.9	0	54.7	2	0	1
June	31	2	29	3	7	20	1	1	11	12	2	1	0	51.5	12.9	0	64.4	7	0	5
July	25	1	24	4	4	17	0	3	9	9	2	1	0	52.5	11.1	0	63.6	3	0	5
August	19	2	17	1	3	13	0	1	11	11	2	0	0	35.2	11.3	0	46.5	2	1	3
September	20	0	20	3	3	14	0	3	7	7	1	1	0	37.8	8.8	0	46.6	3	0	2
October	36	4	32	3	11	19	0	3	12	12	2	0	0	63.8	14.2	0	78	7	1	2
November	24	2	22	2	6	14	1	1	8	8	1	0	0	42.8	12.9	0	55.7	7	0	0
December	35	2	33	3	10	20	1	2	14	14	5	0	0	52.6	14.4	0	67	9	1	5
TOTAL 2023	290	19	271	31	56	184	6	25	124	127	27	6	0	553.2	149.4	0	702.6	50	6	34
January 2024	16	2	14	0	2	11	0	1	13	13	6	0	0	27.4	18.6	0	45.9	2	0	4
February	20	2	18	0	1	16	0	1	9	10	1	0	0	42.7	11.5	0	54.2	0	0	4
March	30	3	27	4	8	17	0	2	11	11	3	0	0	50.4	16.0	0	66.4	5	1	7
April	29	1	28	4	3	21	1	2	9	9	1	0	0	58.66	9.65	0	68.31	1	0	5
May	23	1	22	5	7	11	2	2	12	12	3	1	0	45.3	15.73	0	61.03	4	2	2
June	33	2	31	5	9	19	1	2	8	8	1	0	0	54.6	8.0	0	62.6	8	1	2
July	19	0	19	2	4	12	1	2	10	10	3	0	0	40.0	15.0	0	55.0	4	0	2
August	20	1	19	3	4	12	1	1	6	6	4	0	0	39.0	9.0	0	48	4	0	2
September	21	0	21	2	2	17	0	2	9	9	5	1	0	50	8	0	58	2	1	2
October	35	5	30	3	6	22	0	2	14	14	2	0	0	65	13	0	78	5	1	7
November	24	1	23	2	6	16	1	0	9	9	0	0	0	39	10	0	49	4	1	2
December	33	2	31	4	8	22	1	0	14	14	1	0	0	49	16	0	65	7	0	4
TOTAL 2024	303	20	283	34	60	196	8	17	124	125	30	2	0	561	150	0	711	46	7	43

Time spent in (M) formal meetings, (C) consultations and IIDs, (V) VTC meetings and (T) total.

Includes both public and private meetings.

Included in the figure for total meetings.

A: Adoptions, B: Briefings, D: Debates, OD: Open debates.

Scheduled agenda items in consultations, i.e. other than AOB.





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CHAPTER 9

ECUADOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORKING METHODS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND E10

Andrés Fiallo



Battle lines can be drawn within the Council even over such relatively small measures... When opacity seems to surround how the Council works, this can add to a sense of mistrust, and even illegitimacy. Even in divisive times such as these, if the Council is seen as making a good faith effort to give clarity to its working methods, this can help foster a more cooperative partnership with the wider membership.

Loraine Sievers, Director of Security Council Procedure, 2022.

Ecuador returned to the Security Council after 31 years, but the issue of working methods was not unknown and the Ecuadorian delegation was not starting from zero. On the contrary, there was a special responsibility to remain consistent with Ecuador's position, which promoted transparency and inclusiveness for many years in the United Nations General Assembly. The preparation of the Ecuadorian delegation allowed us to understand its importance.

However arid or formal the issue of working methods may seem, it is one of the most relevant dimensions of the Council because it is transversal to all the issues. This is reflected in the frequency with which the blockage and delay in the distribution of the chairmanships of the subsidiary bodies and Working Groups revolves around the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions (IWG). This is the result of both the interest of more than one delegation to preside over it and the zeal with which the five permanent members of the Security Council deal with the issue.

On 27 January 2023, Ecuador, in its role as coordinator of the 10 elected members (E10), facilitated the letter contained in document S/2023/68 unanimously supporting Japan as Chair of the IWG for 2024, a tool that contributed to reaching a solution in the distribution of the chairmanships of the subsidiary bodies with which Ecuador assumed the leadership of Committee 1540⁶ as well as the 1988⁷ Committee.

The issue of working methods also gained special attention during the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the members of the Security Council to make some adaptations that would allow this principal organ to work. When Ecuador began its term, the Council had already largely returned to its traditional practices. However, there was an appetite among the elected members to move forward in the revitalization and improvement of the Council's practices..

Having effective working methods is essential for the vitality of both the Council and the United Nations itself. While several delegations and countries have been negotiating a long-awaited and necessary reform of the Council for decades, without reaching an agreement, this is not a condition for properly implementing the current provisions of the United Nations Charter or the commitments to improve practices in the work of that body.

In addition to the flow of internal procedures between members of the Council, and its subsidiary bodies, Ecuador also focused on the relationship of the Council with the rest of the organs of the UN System. Thus, Ecuador organized the first workshop on the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly on 12 May 2023⁸. A second edition was held on 13 May 2024⁹, and it is expected that this workshop will continue over time.

On 18 December 2023, the trio of Presidents of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Security Council, which were occupied by three Latin American and Caribbean countries, namely Trinidad and Tobago, Chile, and Ecuador respectively, organized a joint meeting on Haiti, in the format of a briefing. This had happened a few times and was appreciated by the broader membership of the organization.

6 1540 Committee. (n.d.) 1540 Committee on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

7 Committee 1988. (n.d.). Taliban Sanctions Committee.

8 UNITAR. (12 October 2023). UNITAR holds workshop on relationship between General Assembly and Security Council. UNITAR. <https://www.unitar.org/about/news-stories/news/unitar-holds-workshop-relationship-between-general-assembly-and-security-council>

9 Naciones Unidas. (12 October 2023). Workshop on relationship between UNGA and UNSC. <https://www.un.org/en/delegate/workshop-relationship-between-unga-unsc>



In that same context, the Ecuadorian delegation, despite being the smallest in the Security Council, both in 2023 and 2024, did not neglect its responsibilities in the General Assembly. Thus, in the biennial negotiations on the revitalization of the Assembly, in Resolution 77/335¹⁰, of 1 September 2023, specifically in the section on the Council, several relevant provisions were proposed on the subject of the annual report that this Body presents to the Assembly, the list of speakers for the Council's debates in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional procedures¹¹, and the preparation of a handbook¹² with background information on the contributions of the General Assembly on peace and security.

The handbook was produced by the President of the Assembly in September 2023 and was considered a milestone in efforts to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations System. The dimension of seemingly simple elements could be appreciated when it was observed that the 5 permanent members, despite their differences on issues of international relevance, often agreed or proceeded with a common position on some elements of working methods. Ireland and Norway had proposed a digital and live list of speakers, which faced several delays and obstacles. Ecuador and Switzerland continued to promote it within the IWG until it was finally circulated. This live list favored transparency and the participation of smaller delegations by allowing better organization in the cases of open debates of the Council. This contrasts with the practice that had been maintained even in times of distancing due to COVID-19, when in face-to-face meetings, despite the health risks, the list of speakers was not distributed electronically and was only published on the day of the meeting, in a single paper copy for consultation in the Council chamber.

Within ACT¹³, Ecuador and Portugal facilitated the position of that group regarding the introduction of the Security Council's annual report¹⁴. With this experience, once in the Council, Ecuador negotiated and contributed to making the introduction of the report more substantive, including in January 2023 references to food insecurity, as well as other threats to peace and security, along with gender-disaggregated language and specific references to the practice of veto, among other aspects. This fulfilled some of the commitments made during Ecuador's campaign for that term.

Ecuador supported the action of the Security Council, contributing to the negotiations in all the files and participating as co-penholder in the Haiti file as well as in the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, in both cases replacing the Mexican delegation. In the latter case, this consisted of calling for meetings aimed at defending the Black Sea Cereals initiative while it was in force, as well as calling on the parties in conflict to respect international humanitarian law, including in relation to the use of weapons, and to defend the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to preserve the safety of nuclear power plants. However, it was not possible to produce a text, due to the position of the permanent members on the issue.

10 A/RES/77/335 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/266/07/pdf/n2326607.pdf>

11 United Nations. (1996). S/96/Rev.7: Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n83/400/20/pdf/n8340020.pdf>

12 Digital Handbook on Peace and Security, General Assembly, September 2024, https://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/108/2024/08/Assembly-for-Peace_GA-Digital-Handbook-on-Peace-and-Security.pdf

13 ACT: Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (ACT)

14 A/77/2 Report of the Security Council, for 2022 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n22/597/82/pdf/n2259782.pdf> A/78/2* Report of the Security Council for 2023 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n22/597/82/pdf/n2259782.pdf>



In the case of Haiti, Ecuador co-facilitated the adoption of six resolutions with broad influence in various areas, three press statements, and a letter from the Security Council to the Secretary-General. It should be noted that Ecuador sought to exercise this critical responsibility equitably, thereby fostering a constructive relationship with the co-penholder, highlighting the perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean, with emphasis on Ecuador's imprint, which was recognized in the relevant sessions of the IWG, when experiences and best practices in the negotiations were addressed.

Before the first negotiations, Ecuador went beyond the practice and proposed to its co-penholder a document with the main elements to be considered in the pre-zero draft resolution. This practice was reflected in the recommendations for incoming non-permanent members.

Inclusiveness and transparency also allowed the Ecuadorian delegation to achieve consensus for the adoption of the Presidential Statement on Transnational Organized Crime S/PRST/2023/6¹⁵ despite the challenges posed by the diverse and sometime incompatible positions of the delegations on the subject. This was a proposal by Ecuador and France.

Within the IWG, Ecuador worked intensively to support a common position of the E10. In December 2023, under the E10 initiative and the Albanian chairmanship the IWG Note 945¹⁶ was adopted, addressing the issue of informal arrangements for penholders or co-penholders, to facilitate negotiation processes, as well as timely initiatives and other related tasks

This note promotes shared responsibility and a fair distribution of the burden between the Council members. It reiterates that every member should have the opportunity to be a penholder or co-penholder and that any member can contribute with their added value, among others due to their respective regional or thematic expertise, or due to the subsidiary bodies they chair. With this, the aim was to provide a tool that favors greater democratization of the role of co-penholders, otherwise concentrated mainly on the three Western permanent members.

In August 2023, note 612¹⁷ was adopted to rationalize the practice of "observance of a minute of silence." Although it may seem irrelevant, this practice has generated tension on several occasions. For example, on 24 February 2023, the representative of Ukraine requested the Council to observe a minute of silence to "honor the victims of the military aggression"; when the room was standing, the minute of silence was interrupted by the representative of Russia, who stated that they were standing to honor all the people who had died in the conflict even "since 2014".

Also in August, note 615¹⁸ was adopted, establishing the contingency for the distribution of the chairmanships of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, in cases where an agreement is not reached until 1 January of each year.

15 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/394/20/pdf/n2339420.pdf>

16 S/2023/945, 1 December 2023 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/380/39/pdf/n2338039.pdf>

17 Note 612 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/246/41/pdf/n2324641.pdf>

18 Note 615 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/246/98/pdf/n2324698.pdf>



More recently, on 13 December 2024, the IWG, led by Japan, with the support of the E10, agreed on the text of the new Note 507, which is a comprehensive compilation of 15 presidential notes on the working methods of the Security Council, since the last issuance of that Note in August 2017.

This also favored the revision of language that strengthens the value of speakers under Article 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure and the need to guarantee their full, safe, and meaningful participation, as well as the principle of full access to the documentation of that Body for all members without distinction of permanence or not. It also sought to strengthen collaboration between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as to highlight the special reports on the use of the veto in the Council's annual report to the General Assembly.

The growing leadership of the E10 in efforts to improve working methods should be highlighted. Ecuador served as E10 coordinator in January 2023, September 2023 and 2024. In this role, it convened coordination meetings and promoted in all cases the improvement of the rules of procedure as a prerequisite for achieving a more effective Security Council. It also organized coordination meetings of Permanent Representatives with the Secretary-General, Deputy Permanent Representatives, Political Coordinators, and experts. Situational awareness meetings, briefings, and workshops were also organized to provide the E10 delegations with greater tools for their work in the Council.

On 9 January, 2023, Ecuador facilitated, negotiated, and delivered, on behalf of the E10, the statement¹⁹ in explanation of position before the adoption of Resolution 2672 (2023)²⁰ that extended the mandate contained in Resolution 2642, regarding the humanitarian border crossing at Bab Al-Hawa. This humanitarian file in Syria was always led by E10 countries.

Albania, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland made up this group in 2023. With these countries, Ecuador led the negotiation of a joint Statement²¹ of the E10, for the Security Council debate on Working Methods, on 5 September 2023. The 5 permanent members intervened in the session, and Ecuador on behalf of the E10, after achieving a consensus text among diverse delegations from all regions and with different perspectives, but with the will to advance on the issues of transparency, inclusiveness, and effectiveness of the Council.

On that occasion, the E10 promoted the negotiation process which later resulted in the above mentioned Note 945. Likewise, it promoted the review, update, codification, rationalization, and digitalization of the Notes on the practices of the Council.

They promoted participatory drafting processes, with reasonable negotiation deadlines to avoid pressure on the delegations. The need for a balance between public and private meetings was raised. The E10 promoted the inclusion of a gender perspective in the working methods and proposed strengthening the shared commitments on women, peace, and security.

19 https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3999870/files/S_PV.9237-EN.pdf

20 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/009/71/pdf/n2300971.pdf>

21 Statement by Ecuador on behalf of the E10 (5 September 2023) <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/pro/n23/260/19/pdf/n2326019.pdf>



Ecuador sought to ensure that the working methods conform to international standards of procedural guarantees. Efforts were also promoted to improve the fairness of the United Nations sanctions procedures so that they are more effective and in no case counterproductive. For this reason, it was insisted that the inclusion and removal of persons and entities on the lists of authorized sanctions regimes could only be carried out based on evidence.

At the fifth annual dialogue of the E10 and the incoming 5 (i5) organized in Oslo, Norway²² between 28 and 30 August 2022, Richard Gowan, Director of Crisis Group, proposed that the E10 should meet at the ministerial level during the high-level week as the P5 used to do. There was little time to organize a meeting, so Ecuador proposed to begin with a brief greeting from E10 Foreign Ministers to be captured in a photo and a statement.

Only the photo was possible, but a common ministerial position had to wait until 20 September, 2023, when Ecuador facilitated and delivered the first Ministerial Stakeout of the E10, with the purpose of uniting the elected members in efforts to improve the practices of the Security Council along with a message of peace in times of conflict and violence in the world.

The Oslo commitment was revitalized in the sixth annual dialogue of the E10-i5, in Glion, Switzerland, between 27 and 29 August 2023 and was later implemented. The first Ministerial meeting finally took place on 24 September 2024, during the Ecuadorian coordination of the E10 and the Slovenian presidency of the Security Council.

Ecuador's leadership in the E10 was once again highlighted by organizing the seventh annual Dialogue of the E10-i5 in Quito, on 2 and 3 September, 2024, as a result of the E10's recognition of the contributions of the Ecuadorian delegations in Oslo and Glion dialogues, as well as the workshop on working methods of the 15 members and the i5, in Tirana, in October 2022. It was also consistent with the contribution of the Ecuadorian delegation to the efforts of the E10 during the term 2023-2024 in the Security Council. As a result of the Dialogue organized by Ecuador, the E10 delegations agreed on a series of ambitious commitments to improve working practices and methods in the Council in 2025.

Ecuador left the vacancy of GRULAC on the Security Council. However, in the UN General Assembly, Ecuador must continue its efforts to promote best practices that favor efficiency of the Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

²² <https://www.norway.no/en/missions/un/news/e10-members-in-oslo-to-strengthen-unity-in-the-security-council/>





ANNEX

SECURITY COUNCIL

Ministerial Stakeout by the Ten Elected Members of the Security Council (E10) **20 September 2023**

On Wednesday 20 September 2023, the Foreign Ministers of the ten elected members of the Security Council for 2023 came together to reaffirm the following:

The ten elected members of the Security Council remain convinced of the critical role of the Security Council in upholding international peace and security, based on the UN Charter and international law, and the sovereign equality of states.

Today we speak with one voice to reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism with the UN at its core.

When the Security Council is united, we have seen the significant actions it can take to secure peace. In this regard, we call for restraint in the use of veto, especially on actions aimed at preventing mass atrocities.

The elected members constitute two thirds of the membership of the Security Council and bring important and diverse perspectives and experience to the Council's work. We aspire and are committed to a Council that is able to tackle the complex and pressing threats to peace and security that we collectively face.

We will live up to the responsibilities and obligations entrusted to us through our election by the members of these United Nations, and uphold the letter and the spirit of the UN Charter.

We highlight the urgent need for Security Council reform. We underscore that improving the working methods of the Council is a prerequisite for a more effective Council. We therefore underline and reiterate the E-10 recent joint statement on 5 September 2023.

We will continue to play a constructive role aiming to bridge divides and identify useful compromises on all issues on the Council's agenda. The E10 and its membership will also continue to lead initiatives that bolster international peace and security.

We will continue to work collectively towards a more effective, transparent, inclusive, representative Council for all.

In the current turbulent global circumstances and their implications for international peace and security, we urge concrete steps towards the complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to redoubling efforts towards reducing nuclear risk.

Finally, the E-10 bring from across the world a demand for peace in line with the UN Charter.





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CHAPTER 10

ECUADORIAN CHAIRMANSHIPS AND VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS IN THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Pablo Escobar, Andrés Piedra, Elizabeth Méndez



“Ecuador, within the framework of its membership in the Security Council and the Ecuadorian chairmanship of the 1540 Committee, has set out to leave a tangible legacy for national institutions, crystallized through the National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1540, which undoubtedly contributes to global efforts for international peace and security.”

Gabriela Sommerfeld, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, 2024.



Ecuador chaired the Committee established under Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the Sanctions Committee established under Resolution 1988. It also served as vice-chair of the Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict.

1540 Committee on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

Resolution 1540, adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 28 April 2004, is one of the pillars of the global architecture for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Its adoption marked a milestone in the history of multilateralism, consolidating a mandatory framework to prevent non-state actors from accessing chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, their means of delivery, and related materials. In order to oversee the execution of its mandate and monitor its implementation, the resolution also created the 1540 Committee.

The Ecuadorian chairmanship of the Committee during 2023 and 2024 took place in a particularly complex international context. In addition, the Committee faced a series of challenges resulting from several factors, including the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic during the negotiation and adoption of the 2022 Comprehensive Review of the Status of Implementation of Resolution 1540 for 2022²³ and Resolution 2663 (2022)²⁴. These documents established a roadmap for the next 10 years, which was promoted under the Ecuadorian mandate.

²³ The final document of the 2022 Comprehensive Review was adopted on 1 December of that year. By resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council decided that the Committee "shall undertake a comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), both after five years and before the renewal of its mandate...". The Committee's mandates are generally 10 years.

²⁴ Resolution 2663 (2022) was adopted unanimously on 30 November 2022.



The national scope of the implementation of Resolution 1540 also posed another challenge to the Ecuadorian chairmanship. Although the country submitted its first national implementation report on 7 April 2005, and two additional reports (on 10 January 2008, and 13 August 2021), it had not developed a national action plan for the implementation of Resolution 1540, which became one of the priorities of Ecuador and its chairmanship from day one.²⁵

In this scenario, Ecuador's leadership took on particular relevance as it faced numerous structural and substantive challenges, including the need to: i) negotiate and adopt a new programme of work after two years without consensus among its members for its adoption; ii) address internal tensions among the members of the 1540 Committee related to the difference of positions on substantive issues as a result of the adoption of Resolution 2663 (2022); and, iii) the restructuring of the Group of Experts.²⁶

Ecuador prioritized the reactivation of the functioning of this subsidiary body, leading to the adoption of two work programs that paved the way to advance the implementation of Resolution 1540 during its chairmanship, and promoting a series of actions under three pillars: 1) implementation; 2) assistance; and, 3) participation and outreach.

The first pillar highlights the reactivation of training courses for national points of contact for Resolution 1540. Ecuador's presidency focused on strengthening and training the network of points of contact, recognizing their fundamental role in the implementation of the resolution. Therefore, after an interruption of more than 4 years, two workshops were organized, one for the Asia-Pacific region in June 2024 in Beijing, China, and another for the African continent in November 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Additionally, Ecuador promoted the largest update of the database of contact points in recent years.

For the implementation of the resolution, the Committee has a Group of Experts that is part of the support structure, also made up of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. Under the chairmanship of Ecuador, three processes of selection of candidates for this Group were carried out, the conclusion of which demanded a large part of the chairmanship's time due to its political complexity. Thus, for example, the first process concluded after a year of negotiations.

Regarding the second pillar, Ecuador's priority was the reform and adoption of a new model of assistance mechanism. The Ecuadorian proposal to improve the procedures and formats of this mechanism, approved in December 2018, was the result of identifying gaps in the processes such as administrative delays in the management of requests and the lack of proper registration and treatment of them.

The reform sought to improve the efficiency of processing assistance requests, along with registration with the Committee, thus ensuring adequate attention. It also included a periodic review of the status of assistance requests, an evaluation of progress, and the proposal of solutions to accelerate response processes through quarterly reports.

²⁵ More information on national reporting can be found on the Committee's website: <https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>.

²⁶ By operative paragraph 5a of resolution 1977 (2011), the Group of Experts was established, acting under the direction and supervision of the Committee to assist it in the execution of the mandate of resolution 1540 (2004) and to facilitate its implementation.



Finally, concerning the third pillar, the organization of the first open briefing of the 1540 Committee on 9 October 2024, stands out.²⁷ Additionally, on 10 October 2024, the Ecuadorian chairmanship organized an informal interactive dialogue to discuss aspects of the Committee's work and promote an open debate on issues of cooperation and assistance.

Two side events were also organized. The first was held with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, whose objective was to highlight the twentieth anniversary of Resolution 1540. The second was organized with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (CICTE/OAS), in which the role played by this regional body in the implementation of Resolution 1540 was highlighted.

Regarding participation in events to disseminate information on the implementation of Resolution 1540, the Committee's latest annual reviews for its implementation, corresponding to the years 2023 and 2024, show an increase in its contribution and the participation of its chairmanship in workshops around the world, thus demonstrating the active role that the Ecuadorian chairmanship played in the work of this subsidiary body.

Participation in events		
YEAR	Total events attended	Participation of the presidency
2024	32	12
2023	33	3
2022	29	0
2021	23	0
2020	19	1

Source: Committee 1540 (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024)
Prepared by: Andrés Piedra

In order to carry out its mandate, the Ecuadorian chairmanship convened 14 formal meetings, 3 informal consultations, and at least 33 informal meetings. In addition, it circulated around 1,300 documents, including correspondence to Member States, periodic assistance reports, non- papers, and working documents, among others. Regarding decision-making, around 370 silence procedures were carried out.

Impact of Ecuador's Chairmanship

Ecuador's leadership of the 1540 Committee had important repercussions at the national, regional, and global levels. At the national level, the adoption of the first voluntary national action plan for the implementation of Resolution 1540 on 12 December 2024, stands out, after a process led by the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of National Defense, and the Ministry of Energy and Mining. This process had the cooperation and support of the 1540 Committee, CICTE/OAS, as well as the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This action plan represents another legacy of Ecuador's chairmanship.

²⁷ Mandated by operative paragraph 26 of resolution 2663 (2022)



At the regional level, Ecuador played a relevant role in expanding the possibilities for assistance in Latin America. The initiatives promoted laid the foundations for a cooperation model that included strengthening collaboration networks, the exchange of best practices, and the mobilization of technical and financial resources for countries in the region. To this end, the chairmanship established a strategic alliance with CICTE/OAS, an entity that, as demonstrated by the Ecuadorian experience, maintains an active role as coordinator for the implementation of Resolution 1540 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the global level, Ecuador's chairmanship of the 1540 Committee reinforced the country's image as a defender of multilateralism and facilitator of the implementation of the mandate of Resolution 1540, promoting its full and effective application.

Final Comment

The effective implementation of the provisions of Resolution 1540 is a long-term task that continues to face challenges including the disparity in national capacities and the need for greater international cooperation.

The work of the Ecuadorian chairmanship therefore focused on reducing the gaps in the implementation of the resolution between regions and, at the same time, improving the institutional capacities of Member States through an approach based on the reactivation of technical assistance and the active participation of the Committee at the global level.

Ecuador's participation consolidates its position as an actor that enjoys credibility in the international arena, having demonstrated its responsibility for global security and peace and its capacity to occupy multilateral leadership spaces such as the chairmanship of the 1540 Committee. With this chairmanship, Ecuador reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of the United Nations and left a legacy in the area of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This legacy marks a chapter in the diplomatic history of the country and underlines the crucial role of non-permanent members in the construction of a more just and effective multilateral system.

Sanctions Committee Established under Resolution 1988

The 1988 Committee is mandated to manage the sanctions regime established by Resolution 1988 (2011), which includes measures such as asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes against individuals, groups, companies, and entities associated with the Taliban that constitute a threat to the peace, stability, and security of Afghanistan. In fulfilling its mandate, the 1988 Committee is supported by the Monitoring Team, established under Resolution 1526 (2004) and made up of independent experts, who prepare reports on the implementation of the sanctions regime.



As Chair of the 1988 Committee, Ecuador facilitated the deliberations regarding the administration of the sanctions regime and organized meetings in various formats to address issues such as the Monitoring Team's reports, the situation in Afghanistan, notably the issue of arms. In addition, Ecuador submitted annual reports to the Security Council and chaired, together with the Chair of the 1267 Committee, briefings open to the entire membership on the activities of the 1988 Committee and the operation of the sanctions regime.

In the context of the application of the sanctions regime established by Resolution 1988, there is growing concern about the detection of unauthorized travel by individuals on the sanctions list, as well as the submission of late or incomplete requests for exemptions. In response to this concern, Ecuador favored the circulation of communications to the entire membership of the United Nations recalling the importance of respecting the sanctions regime and the procedures to be followed, as well as communications to those Member States in which unauthorized travel had occurred. In addition, the Chair promoted the preparation and regular updating of a factual document on requests for exemptions to the travel ban and records of non-compliance.

Unlike other sanctions regimes established by the Security Council, the one imposed by Resolution 1988 faces a challenge in its implementation as a result of the political change in Afghanistan in August 2021, when the Taliban retook power and became the De facto authorities. This change in the political situation in Afghanistan caused certain elements of the relevant resolutions and the guidelines of the 1988 Committee to become inapplicable. An example of this is the requirement to consult the Government of Afghanistan on proposals for designation and delisting from sanctions, or the reference to the High Council for Peace, a body that has ceased to operate.

For this reason, both in its informal dialogues with the members of the 1988 Committee, and in its reports to the Security Council, Ecuador emphasized the need to adapt the sanctions regime to the current circumstances in order to safeguard its validity and effectiveness as a tool that contributes to the stability of Afghanistan. Similarly, a review of the Monitoring Team's mandate was advocated to give it the authority to investigate violations of the sanctions regime, rather than merely collect and collate information.

The evolution of the security situation and respect for human rights in Afghanistan, particularly those of women, together with the eventual international recognition of the Taliban regime, will have a direct impact on the possibility that members of the Security Council decide to adapt the sanctions regime imposed by virtue of Resolution 1988.



Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict

The Security Council Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict was created in July 2005 by Resolution 1612 with the mandate to monitor, verify, systematize, and report to the Council on the commission of the six grave violations against children in conflict settings²⁸ with the support of specialized teams from the United Nations.

Ecuador was vice-chair of the Group and, together with Malta, which held the chairmanship, led the adoption of conclusions on the situation of children in eleven countries in conflict and post-conflict; the discussion of the findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General's Report on the subject; accompanied the negotiation of Resolution 2764 (2024) on the preservation of child protection capacity during the transition processes of United Nations missions; and participated in the Group's trip to Colombia to obtain information on the implementation of plans and policies to reduce violations and abuses against children, and guarantee their safety during the peace negotiation processes.

In its interventions, Ecuador emphasized the need to motivate States to adhere to international frameworks for the protection of children's rights, as well as to redouble efforts to eliminate impunity and build societies that respect the primary interest of children and young people in order to guarantee them a future of peace and security.



²⁸ Operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1612 (2005).

ANNEX

SECURITY COUNCIL

Statement by Ecuador 9814th meeting, S/PV.9814.

Agenda: Statements by Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council. Ambassador Andrés Montalvo Sosa, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations 13 December 2024

1. As an elected member of the Security Council, Ecuador has had the privilege of chairing the Committee established under Resolution 1988 (2011), as well as the Committee established under Resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. During these two years, the 1988 Committee held meetings to discuss various matters, including the annual reports of the Monitoring Team and the situation in Afghanistan, as well as the state of the arms situation in that country. The Committee plans to hold one more meeting on 23 December.

2. In both 2023 and 2024, briefings open to all Member States were held together with the Committee according to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities on the activities of the Committee and the sanctions regime imposed by resolution 1988 (2011).

3. One of the Committee's main tasks has been to process requests for exemptions to the travel ban for Taliban members on the sanctions list, which has not been amended. The Committee approved all requests on the grounds that they contributed to peace and stability in Afghanistan, or on humanitarian grounds. However, unauthorized travel and late or incomplete applications are of concern, highlighting the importance of Member States adhering to the sanctions regime and observing the Committee's guidelines.

4. Furthermore, I would like to highlight the unanimous adoption of Resolution 2763 (2024) this morning, which extended the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team for 14 months. Three years after the Taliban took power, the situation in Afghanistan remains complex. In this context, it is essential that the sanctions regime continues to serve as an appropriate tool to counter threats and contribute to stability in Afghanistan. I therefore present below for the Council's consideration some reflections on the sanctions regime that could improve its effectiveness.

5. First, the political change in Afghanistan has meant that elements of the relevant resolutions and the Committee's guidelines may not be applicable. This situation could undermine the implementation of the sanctions regime and affect its credibility.

6. Second, the reported violations of the travel ban are likely to be at least partly due to the fact that the requirements of the guidelines are difficult to comply with. Furthermore, the lack



of consensus among members to periodically review violations of the travel ban on a strictly factual basis makes it difficult for the Committee to analyze and therefore to take action.

7. Third, the Monitoring Team should devote more time and resources to monitoring the implementation of sanctions and reporting to the Committee on potential violators. In this regard, consideration could be given to reviewing the mandate of the Monitoring Team to provide it with strong authority to investigate violations of the sanctions regime, rather than merely collecting and collating information.

8. Regarding the 1540 Committee, Ecuador assumes its chairmanship after a complex process, which was marked by the coronavirus pandemic, in the context of the negotiation and approval of the comprehensive review and Resolution 2663 (2022). I recognize the work of the previous chairmanship of the Committee with these two achievements, which established the roadmap until 2032, which we have strengthened and promoted in these two years under the Ecuadorian mandate.

9. Under the chairmanship of Ecuador, several actions have been promoted to strengthen the work of the Committee by promoting cooperation, dialogue with Member States, and the execution of the activities established in the work programs approved for its two-year mandate. I would like to point out that, before the adoption of the work program for 2023, the last one was approved in February 2020.

10. Concerning future progress and challenges, I would like to highlight the organization of the Committee's first open briefing session on October 9, together with an informal interactive dialogue with Member States and international and regional organizations on October 10. The Committee should convene open briefing sessions in the coming years as part of its regular calendar of activities. It is recommended that these events continue to be organized in October of each year.

11. The reactivation of training courses for points of contact for Resolution 1540 (2004) is also very important. Two workshops were held, one for Africa and one for the Asia-Pacific region, in 2024. Ecuador recommends that the Committee continue to co-organize these courses in other regions or formats with the participation of all Committee members, as well as to discuss other alternatives to take advantage of the network of contact points, whose database was updated in these two years.

12. After more than a year of discussions and negotiations, the new model of the assistance mechanism was approved. I thank all members and the Group of Experts for their dedication to the review of this document, which was one of the priorities of the Ecuadorian chairmanship. This mechanism is essential to ensure that the Committee's capacity to provide assistance to Member States in the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) is efficient and effective. This is an evolving document and should be updated whenever necessary.



13. I also underline that the Committee has already discussed the first technical reference guidelines for voluntary use and a pilot project on possible activities related to paragraph 12 of Resolution 2663 (2022) to support the implementation by all Member States of Resolution 1540 (2004). I hope that the deliberations will move forward constructively within the Committee and that these documents will be approved soon.

14. During its term, Ecuador has carried out three processes to select candidates for the Group of Experts, which has taken up a large part of the Chair's time. This should not be the case. Concerning the last process to select three available vacancies, despite the efforts of this Chair, it has not been possible to find consensus so far. Other advances promoted by Ecuador are available in the Committee's annual reports.

15. With determination, my delegation has worked actively and tirelessly to guide this Committee, always striving to advance the effective implementation of this historic resolution. At the end of this Chair, I want to assure you of Ecuador's continued commitment to Resolution 1540 (2004) and its willingness to continue contributing to a world free of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of non-state actors. As an example of this, I am pleased to report that my country, Ecuador, today presented to the Committee its first voluntary national action plan for the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004).

16. In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Committees for their active cooperation in the work of these two subsidiary bodies, as well as for the professional and determined support provided by the respective secretariats. I would also like to extend my deep gratitude to the Monitoring Team of the 1988 Committee, the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Naturally, my main thanks go to the professional work of a small number of diplomatic officials who make up the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations.





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FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HUMAN MOBILITY OF ECUADOR, GABRIELA SOMMERFELD



Meeting organized by Ecuador with Members of the Security Council and other guests

(December 19, 2024)

Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear friends:

1. Thank you for attending this farewell meeting, with which we conclude our two-year period of rotating membership in the world's supreme body for international peace and security.
2. To the Chief of Staff of the Secretary-General for joining us, and please convey my admiration for the Secretary-General's tireless efforts to instill confidence and defend the three pillars of our organization. Sincere thanks to the Security Council Affairs Division (SCAD) for its daily support during our two-year mandate.
3. The presence of the Permanent Representatives of Brazil and the United Arab Emirates, on behalf of the outgoing members of 2023, is a symbolic token of gratitude to the previous members, from whom we learned as we prepared for the grave responsibility of becoming elected members of the Security Council.
4. I appreciate the presence of the Permanent Representative of Panama, the country that holds the GRULAC seat for the 2025-2026 period. I wish you the best in continuing the regional

tradition of Latin America and the Caribbean of contributing to peace and security based on the principles enshrined in the Charter.

5. For the administration of President Daniel Noboa Azín, Ecuador's participation in the United Nations has been multifaceted, ranging from the encouraging expression of its multilateral dialogue and the edifying treatment of issues of great importance to the structural complexities of inclusive representation and actionable effectiveness.

6. Rather than present a performance review of the past 24 months, let me share two brief reflections that celebrate our enduring ties and our enormous potential as a multilateral community, despite our distinctions and divergences. In this regard, our experience has reaffirmed the ennobling character and moral imperative of the Council's mission in the service of world peace, as envisioned by our founding fathers nearly eighty-five years ago.

7. Indeed, the past two years have conclusively demonstrated that conflict resolution and the quest for peace are inestimably enriched by the individual contribution of each member state, regardless of its size, development maturity, or economic and military might.

8. As a participant in the E10 of the Security Council, we are particularly proud to have put forward several proposals that were able to mobilize the support of the entire body, underlining the unifying and catalytic effect that this group can generate in partnership with the P5.

9. The strong bonds we have forged with the outgoing members of the Security Council – Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland – throughout this indelible journey that began when we were elected to serve on the Council on behalf of the General Assembly in June 2022, will endure and continue to inspire our work in this global organization.

10. Accordingly, the collective authority attributed to the Charter and the rule of law, regardless of global balances of power, must remain the cornerstone of our joint activities.

11. More introspectively, we do not need to engage in a profound cathartic exercise to recognize that a double deficit of legitimacy and efficiency has hampered our United Nations, including the Security Council, as its composition has failed to adapt to the intricate and multipolar realities of the post-1945 era constellation.

12. In this period of profound geopolitical uncertainty, coupled with the unfortunate prolongation, aggravation, and spread of new and old conflicts of increasing magnitude and intensity, the urgency of granting a significant dose of credibility to the Council, based on the political will to overcome any pretext of supposedly staggering barriers that obstruct the functioning of the entity, can no longer be overlooked.



13. Recalling an emblematic position of our rotating presidency formulated last December, I will insist on the importance of a broad scope of action to address the global challenges of our time, in which consideration, for example, of artificial intelligence and security issues, as discussed in this morning's session, must not be at the expense of careful consideration and deliberate response to transnational organized crime, narco-terrorism, and associated crimes.

14. Together, the tentacles of these scourges infiltrate the sovereignty of our countries, with the prior intention of creating a parallel state with multinational and multidimensional reach, seriously disturbing the peace and stability of our nations and corroding the fabric of our democracies.

15. Adequate elevation and concerted action in response to these threats is the only way forward for a new comprehensive concept of peace and security.

16. In closing, I would like to express my gratitude for your kind attention and, in these turbulent times, allow me to toast to you, distinguished representatives, wishing you the best of holidays for your families, leaders, and nations, unified in our commitment to achieve that precious aspiration of a better and more prosperous world.

Gabriela Sommerfeld
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility









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