Overall, 2014 saw an increase in the number of decisions adopted (resolutions and presidential statements), consensus-based decisions and the number of formal meetings convened (particularly public meetings), as illustrated by these three graphs.

For further analysis see SCR’s In Hindsight on Security Council Statistics in 2014 in the February 2015 Monthly Forecast.

The Council adopted 91 decisions in 2014, compared to 69 decisions in 2013. This increase (32 percent) marks the highest number of decisions since 2008, when 113 decisions were adopted. The Council adopted 63 resolutions in 2014, marking a notable increase (34 percent) from 2013, which had the lowest number of resolutions (47) since 1991 (42). The number of presidential statements adopted, also increased with 28 adopted in 2014, compared to 22 in 2013. While the number of resolutions in 2014, marking a notable increase (34 percent) from 2013, was higher than in previous years.

In 2014, 60 of 63 adopted resolutions were unanimous. The number of resolutions adopted without consensus decreased by one relative to 2013, as only three resolutions (2182, 2183 and 2193 relating to Somalia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the ICTY respectively) were adopted without a unanimous vote in 2014. Unlike 2013, when no draft resolutions were vetoed, two draft resolutions were vetoed in 2014, one on Syria vetoed by Russia and China and another on Ukraine vetoed by Russia. Two draft resolutions were also vetoed in both 2011 and 2012. Despite the increased number of resolutions adopted in 2014, and the return of the use of the veto, there was still an overall increase in consensus from 2013.

In total, the Council convened 263 formal meetings in 2014, representing an increase (36 percent) from 2013, when 193 meetings were held and marking the second highest number of meetings held in any given year for the past two decades (272 meetings were held in 2006). Of those, 241 were public meetings and 22 were private meetings. While the number of private meetings was close to the average for the last few years, 2014 marks the most number of public meetings held in the last twenty years.