

Agenda item 115
Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland

Improving the working methods of the Security Council

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Member States of the United Nations have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on their behalf, as provided for by the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the provisions relating to the powers and functions of the General Assembly in matters pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular Article 11, Article 12, paragraph 1, Article 15, paragraph 1 and Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter,

Recalling its authority under Article 10 of the Charter to discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations and to make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations and to the Security Council thereon,

Stressing the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter and to give their full support to the actions of the Organization aimed at maintaining international peace and security,

Noting with appreciation the work carried out by the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council,

Reaffirming its support for the on-going Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform,

Acknowledging the significant steps taken by the Security Council to enhance inclusiveness and the representation of the general membership,

Noting with appreciation the adoption of Presidential Note 2010/507 by the Security Council, and *noting* the updated information it contains regarding the current working methods of the Council,

Noting with appreciation also the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1904, creating an Office of the Ombudsperson for the Committee established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1267,

Emphasizing the need for further measures to ensure the accountability, transparency, inclusiveness and representativeness of the work of the Security Council, with a view to further enhancing its legitimacy and effectiveness,

Reaffirming its support for early reform of the Security Council as an essential element of the overall effort to reform the United Nations, as stated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document,¹

Acknowledging that efforts to improve the working methods of the Security Council will help to promote a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, including the increase in its membership,

1. *Invites* the Security Council to enhance and report on the implementation of the measures contained in its Presidential Note 2010/507;

2. *Also invites* the Security Council to consider the measures contained in the annex to the present resolution in order to further enhance the accountability, transparency and inclusiveness of its work, with a view to strengthening its legitimacy and effectiveness;

3. *Further invites* the Security Council to report to the General Assembly, by the end of its sixty-fifth session, on action it has taken pursuant to its consideration of the present resolution.

¹ See resolution 60/1.

Annex

Measures on working methods suggested for consideration by the Security Council

The following measures are suggested for consideration by the Security Council:

Relationship with the General Assembly and other principal organs

1. Improving the transparency in the preparation of the annual report by engaging in an informal, interactive discussion on the annual report of the Council both at the time of its drafting and when it is considered by the General Assembly.
2. Submitting, including upon request from the General Assembly, in accordance with Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, special subject-oriented and timely reports to the Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern, including reports on topics such as termination of peacekeeping operations, imposition of sanctions and other enforcement measures, as well as other matters of relevance to the membership as a whole.
3. Making the Security Council's tentative program of work for the coming month available to Member States as soon as it is available to members of the Council and holding monthly information briefings for the larger membership by the outgoing and incoming Presidencies of the Council.
4. Issuing a standing invitation to the chairs of the country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission to participate in relevant debates and, in an appropriate format, in informal discussions. In this regard, peacebuilding considerations should be included at all stages of the Council's work, especially in preparing, monitoring and terminating mission mandates.
5. Seeking the views of Member States and ensuring that their ability to implement decisions is taken into account in the decision-making process where decisions of the Security Council require implementation by all Member States.

Effectiveness of decisions

6. Exploring ways to assess the extent to which its decisions have been implemented effectively, including by establishing a working group on lessons learned in order to analyse reasons for non-implementation or lack of effectiveness and suggest mechanisms aimed at enhancing implementation.

Subsidiary bodies

7. Establishing a new process, involving all Council members at the outset for distributing chairmanships of subsidiary bodies among all members of the Council in a manner that would promote the best possible outcome of their work.
8. Offering informal opportunities for Member States to provide substantive input, including to the work of its subsidiary bodies.
9. Increasing the transparency of the work of its subsidiary bodies, including by improving the quality and frequency of their formal and informal reports, giving substantive briefings to non-members of the Council and making summary records more widely and promptly available.

10. Continuing to improve procedures, reflecting standards of due process, regarding requests for de-listing from sanctions lists.

Operations mandated and missions carried out by the Security Council

11. Informing Member States, fully and promptly, of all developments regarding its operations and missions, including their budgetary aspects.

12. Clarifying the goals and purposes of any new operation mandated or authorized by the Council and reviewing progress on the basis of established criteria and clear reporting requirements.

13. Enhancing participation of troop and police contributing countries and other states with particular engagement in United Nations operations, so as to allow regular participation, in an appropriate format, in particular in informal discussions with Council members and with regard to situations involving risks for the personnel deployed.

Governance and accountability

14. Ensuring the uniform implementation of its working methods including by adopting Rules of Procedure and including an analytical section in its annual report on the implementation of its working methods, in particular on the basis of Presidential Note 2010/507.

15. Integrating key provisions of thematic resolutions into country-specific resolutions, where applicable.

16. Considering the use of all mechanisms available under international law to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes.

Appointment of the Secretary-General

17. Consulting with the wider membership, well in advance of the expiration of the term of the incumbent, on the appointment of the next Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/241.

Use of the Veto

The following measures are suggested for consideration by the permanent members of the Security Council:

18. Explaining the reasons when resorting to a veto or declaring its intention to do so, in particular its consistency with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. A copy of the explanation should be circulated as a Security Council document to all Members of the Organisation.

19. Refraining from using a veto to block Council action in situations involving serious allegations of genocide, crimes against humanity and grave breaches of international humanitarian law.

20. Establishing a practice, in appropriate cases, of declaring, when casting a negative vote on a draft resolution before the Council that such a negative vote shall not constitute a veto in the sense of Article 27, paragraph 3 of the Charter.