
Chapter I

Provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council and related procedural developments

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Introductory note	3
Part I. Meetings (rules 1-5)	5
Note	5
A. Special cases concerning the application of rules 1-5	5
B. Procedural developments relating to meetings	7
Part II. Representation and credentials (rules 13-17)	8
Part III. Presidency (rules 18-20)	9
Part IV. Secretariat (rules 21-26)	10
Note	10
Procedural developments relating to the Secretariat	10
Part V. Conduct of business (rules 27-36)	11
Note	11
Procedural developments relating to conduct of business	12
Part VI. Languages (rules 41-47)	12
Part VII. Publicity of meetings, records (rules 48-57)	13
Note	13
A. Special case concerning the application of rule 49	15
B. Procedural developments relating to publicity of meetings, records	15

Introductory note

Article 30 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that the Security Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its President. The Preparatory Commission of the United Nations, established on 26 June 1945 to make provisional arrangements for the first sessions of the organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council, discussed at some length whether it should recommend provisional rules of procedure to the Security Council or whether the rules should be formulated from inception by the Council. The text of the rules as recommended was a compromise between those who desired more comprehensive rules and those who considered that the whole subject should be left to the Security Council.

The Security Council adopted provisional rules of procedure at its first meeting held on 17 January 1946, and has amended them 11 times.¹ Although the provisional rules have not been amended since 1982, the Council has clarified its working methods and procedure by notes of the President and other means. During the period under review, this has included a note by the President of 7 February 2006 which contains in its annex an updated descriptive index to notes and statements by the President relating to documentation and procedure,² as well as a note by the President of 19 July 2006 which summarizes recent practices and newly agreed measures, and further develops notes and statements by the President relating to documentation and procedure by supplementing and in some cases superseding them.³ The Council also elucidated additional measures regarding informal consultations, matters of which the Council is seized and the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly in a note by the President of 19 December 2007.⁴

The material in the present chapter follows the order of the relevant chapters of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council: part I deals with meetings (Article 28 and rules 1-5); part II, Representation and credentials (rules 13-17); part III, Presidency (rules 18-20); part IV, Secretariat (rules 21-26); part V, Conduct of business (rules 27-36); part VI, Languages (rules 41-47); part VII, Publicity of meetings, records (rules 48-57).

Some rules are considered in other chapters of the *Repertoire*: agenda (rules 6-12) in chapter II; participation in the proceedings of the Council (rules 37-39) in chapter III; voting (Article 27 and rule 40) in chapter IV; subsidiary organs of the Security Council

¹ The provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council were amended five times during its first year, at its 31st, 41st, 42nd, 44th and 48th meetings, on 9 April, 16 and 17 May and 6 and 24 June 1946; twice in its second year, at the 138th and 222nd meetings, on 4 June and 9 December 1947; at its 468th meeting, on 28 February 1950; at its 1463rd meeting, on 24 January 1969; at its 1761st meeting, on 17 January 1974; and at its 2410th meeting, on 21 December 1982. The provisional rules of procedure have been issued under the symbols S/96 and Rev.1-7; for the latest version see S/96/Rev.7.

² S/2006/78. This document lists by symbol and summary title relevant notes and statements from June 1993 to December 2005.

³ S/2006/507. The document describes agreed measures on the agenda, briefings, documentation, informal consultations, meetings, programme of work, resolutions and presidential statements, subsidiary bodies, matters of which the Council is seized, communication with the Secretariat and outside, the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly and newly elected members. This chapter will cover in detail relevant newly agreed measures.

⁴ S/2007/749.

(Article 29 and rule 28) in chapter V; relations with other United Nations organs (rule 61) in chapter VI; and admission of new Members (rules 58-60) in chapter VII.

As in previous Supplements, the case histories and other information presented here do not constitute cumulative evidence of the practice of the Council, but are indicative of issues and practices that have arisen in the proceedings of the Council.

Part I

Meetings (rules 1-5)

Article 28

1. *The Security Council shall be so organized as to be able to function continuously. Each member of the Security Council shall for this purpose be represented at all times at the seat of the Organization.*
2. *The Security Council shall hold periodic meetings at which each of its members may, if it so desires, be represented by a member of the government or by some other specially designated representative.*
3. *The Security Council may hold meetings at such places other than the seat of the Organization as in its judgment will best facilitate its work.*

Note

Section A reflects the practice of the Council in relation to provisions of Article 28 of the Charter and chapter I of the provisional rules of procedure (rules 1-5), entitled “Meetings”. Material pertaining to rules 1, 3, 4 and 5 is set out below. During the period under review, no special cases occurred in relation to rule 2, which states that the President shall call a meeting of the Security Council at the request of any member of the Security Council.

Section B details a number of procedural developments relating to meetings.

A. Special cases concerning the application of rules 1-5

Rule 1

Meetings of the Security Council shall, with the exception of the periodic meetings referred to in rule 4, be held at the call of the President at any time he deems necessary, but the interval between meetings shall not exceed fourteen days.

Article 28 (1) requires that the Council “be so organized as to be able to function continuously”. Rule 1 provides that the interval between meetings shall not exceed 14 days. From 2004 to 2007, there were two instances, in relation to rule 1, when Council meetings were not convened within an interval of 14 days: 17 days between the 5107th meeting on 22 December

2004 and the 5108th meeting on 10 January 2005, and 15 days between the 5342nd meeting on 21 December 2005 and the 5343rd meeting on 6 January 2006. An interval of 20 days occurred between the 4891st meeting on 22 December 2003 and the 4892nd meeting on 12 January 2004. No questions arose in the proceedings of the Council on this matter.

The Council held 215 meetings in 2004, 235 meetings in 2005, 272 meetings in 2006 and, in a slight downturn, 202 meetings in 2007. This figure does not include meeting resumptions or informal consultations. It was not unusual for the Council to hold more than one meeting a day and, on each of two days in 2006, the Council held six meetings.⁵

Rule 3

The President shall call a meeting of the Security Council if a dispute or situation is brought to the attention of the Security Council under Article 35 or under Article 11(3) of the Charter, or if the General Assembly makes recommendations or refers any question to the Security Council under Article 11(2), or if the Secretary-General brings to the attention of the Security Council any matter under Article 99.

By a letter dated 8 August 2007 addressed to the President of the Security Council,⁶ the representative of Georgia, explicitly referring to Article 35, requested the Security Council to “convene a meeting of the Security Council in the nearest future” in order to address the issue of the bombardment of the territory of Georgia. Consultations of the whole were held to discuss this issue on 9 and 16 August 2007. The next formal meeting to discuss the situation in Georgia was held only on 15 October 2007.⁷

⁵ On 25 April 2006, the Council held its 5420th to 5425th meetings and on 15 December 2006 the Council held its 5591st to 5596th meetings.

⁶ S/2007/480.

⁷ See the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, 1 August 2007-31 July 2008 (A/63/2), part II, chap. 10.

Rule 4

Periodic meetings of the Security Council called for in Article 28 (2) of the Charter shall be held twice a year, at such times as the Security Council may decide.

Article 28 (2) provides that the Security Council shall hold periodic meetings at which each of its members may, if it so desires, be represented by a member of the government or by some other specially designated representative. During the period under review, the Council held eight meetings, most during the period of the general debate of the General Assembly, at which participation by most of the members of the Security Council was at the ministerial level or higher (see table 1).

Table 1
High-level meetings of the Security Council, 2004-2007

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Agenda</i>
5041 22 September 2004	Civilian aspects of conflict management and peacebuilding
5261 14 September 2005	Threats to international peace and security
5264 20 September 2005	The role of civil society in conflict prevention and the pacific settlement of disputes
5297 31 October 2005	The situation in the Middle East
5434 9 May 2006	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5529 20 September 2006	Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security
5530 21 September 2006	The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question
5749 25 September 2007	Peace and security in Africa

Rule 5

Meetings of the Security Council shall normally be held at the seat of the United Nations.

Any member of the Security Council or the Secretary-General may propose that the Security Council should meet at another place. Should the Security Council accept any such proposal, it shall decide upon the place and the period during which the Council shall meet at such place.

Article 28 (3) of the Charter states that “The Security Council may hold meetings at such places other than the seat of the Organization as in its judgment will best facilitate its work”, rule 5 providing further elaboration.

At the 5063rd meeting, held on 26 October 2004 to consider the item entitled “Security Council meetings in Nairobi (18-19 November 2004)”, members of the Council had before them the text of a draft resolution which had been prepared in the course of the Council’s prior consultations.⁸ The draft resolution was adopted unanimously as resolution 1569 (2004), by which the Council, acting in accordance with Article 28 (3) of the Charter, decided to hold meetings in Nairobi starting on 18 November 2004 and ending on 19 November 2004.⁹

The 5080th to 5084th meetings were held in Nairobi, as indicated in table 2.

Table 2
Meetings held away from Headquarters, 2004-2007
(All meetings held in Nairobi)

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
5080 18 November 2004	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5081 (private) 18 November 2004	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5082 19 November 2004	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5083 19 November 2004	The situation in Somalia
5084 19 November 2004	Institutional relationship with the African Union

⁸ S/2004/857.

⁹ Resolution 1569 (2004) also referred to rule 49 of the Council’s provisional rules of procedure. See part VII of the present chapter for details.

B. Procedural developments relating to meetings

Recognizing that the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council and their own practice provided them with considerable flexibility in choosing how best to structure their meetings and select the one suited to consideration of specific agenda items, members of the Council agreed by the note by the President of 19 July 2006 that meetings of the Council could be structured according to, but not limited to, the following formats:¹⁰

(a) Public meetings

(i) Functions

To take action and/or hold, inter alia, briefings and debates.

(ii) Presence and participation

The presence and participation of non-Council members in public meetings should take place in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure. The Council's practice, as described below, is understood as being in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure, although it should not under any circumstances be understood as replacing or substituting for the provisional rules of procedure:

a. Any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Security Council may be present at its delegation's designated seats in the Council Chamber;

b. On a case-by-case basis, any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Security Council, members of the Secretariat and other persons may be invited to participate in the discussion, including for the purpose of giving briefings to the Council, in accordance with rule 37 or 39 of the provisional rules of procedure.

(iii) Descriptions in the provisional monthly programme of work

The members of the Security Council intend to continue to include the following formats for public meetings in the provisional monthly programme of work (calendar) when they plan to adopt, in general, the corresponding procedures:

a. "Open debate": briefings may or may not be conducted, and Council members may deliver statements; non-Council members may also be invited to participate in the discussion upon their request;

b. "Debate": briefings may be conducted, and Council members may deliver statements; non-Council members that are directly concerned or affected or have special interest in the matter under consideration may be invited to participate in the discussion upon their request;

c. "Briefing": briefings are conducted, and only Council members may deliver statements following briefings;

d. "Adoption": Council members may or may not deliver statements before and/or after adopting, inter alia, resolutions and presidential statements; non-Council members may or may not be invited to participate in the discussion upon their request.

(b) Private meetings

(i) Functions

To conduct discussion and/or take actions, e.g., recommendation regarding the appointment of the Secretary-General, without the attendance of the public or the press.

(ii) Presence and participation

The presence and participation of non-Council members in private meetings should take place in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure. The Council's practice, as described below, is understood as being in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure, although it should not under any circumstances be understood as replacing or substituting for the provisional rules of procedure:

a. On a case-by-case basis, any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council, members of the Secretariat and other persons may be invited to be present or to participate in the discussion, including for the purpose of giving briefings to the Council, in accordance with rule 37 or 39 of the provisional rules of procedure.

(iii) Descriptions in the provisional monthly programme of work

The members of the Security Council intend to continue to include the following formats for private meetings in the provisional monthly programme of work (calendar) when they plan to adopt, in general, the corresponding procedures:

a. "Private debate": briefings may be conducted, and Council members may deliver statements; any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council, members of the Secretariat and other persons may be invited to be present or to participate in the discussion, upon their request, in accordance with rule 37 or 39 of the provisional rules of procedure;

b. "TCC meeting": briefings may be conducted, and Council members may deliver statements; parties prescribed in resolution 1353 (2001) are invited to participate in the discussion, in accordance with the resolution.

¹⁰ S/2006/507, annex, para. 35.

In order to increase the transparency of its work, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to increase recourse to open meetings, particularly at the early stage in its consideration of a matter.¹¹ In the context of communication with the Secretariat and outside, the Council further elaborated meeting arrangements:¹²

50. The members of the Security Council intend to seek the views of Member States that are parties to a conflict and/or other interested and affected parties. For that purpose, the Security Council may, *inter alia*, utilize private meetings when public meetings are not appropriate, in which case invitations are also to be extended in accordance with rules 37 and 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

54. The members of the Security Council intend to utilize "Arria-formula" meetings as a flexible and informal forum for enhancing their deliberations. To that end, members of the Security Council may invite on an informal basis any Member

State, relevant organization or individual to participate in "Arria-formula" informal meetings. The members of the Security Council agree to consider using such meetings to enhance their contact with civil society and non-governmental organizations, including local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) suggested by United Nations field offices. The members of the Security Council encourage the introduction of such measures as lengthening lead times, defining topics that participants might address and permitting their participation by video teleconference.

55. The members of the Security Council encourage Security Council missions to continue to avoid restricting their meetings to those with governmental interlocutors and interlocutors of conflict parties and to hold, as appropriate, meetings with local civil society leaders, NGOs and other interested parties.

Concerning informal consultations, in the note by the President of 19 December 2007,¹³ the members of the Council encouraged the Secretariat to exercise restraint as far as participation of its members in informal consultations was concerned, while encouraging members of the Council to ensure that their participation in informal consultations was adequate. Members of the Secretariat providing briefings to the Council were requested to focus on key issues and to provide the latest information, as necessary, without repeating the content of written reports already available to members of the Council.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 26. See also part VII of the present chapter, for a list of meetings held in private during the period under review.

¹² S/2006/507, annex, paras. 50 and 54-55. See also para. 20 (covered in part III of the present chapter) and paras. 21-25 (covered in part V of the present chapter).

¹³ S/2007/749, paras. 2-4. See also S/2004/939 concerning participation of newly elected members in informal consultations of the whole and meetings of subsidiary bodies; also covered in chapter 3 of the present *Supplement*.

Part II

Representation and credentials (rules 13-17)

Rule 13 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council requires each member of the Council to communicate the credentials of its accredited representative to the Secretary-General not less than 24 hours before that representative takes his seat on the Council. In addition, any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Council and any State not a Member of the United Nations, if invited to participate in a meeting or meetings of the Council, must also communicate the credentials of its representative in a like manner to the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 14. The Secretary-General is required by rule 15 to examine the credentials of the above-mentioned categories of representatives and to submit a report thereon, certifying that the credentials are in order, to the Security Council for approval. The practice of the Council regarding those rules has been that the credentials of representatives have been communicated to the Secretary-General,

who submits his report to the Council pursuant to rule 15 when changes in the representation of members of the Council have been made and when, at the beginning of each year, the representatives of the newly elected non-permanent members of the Council are designated. This practice was followed during the period under review.

There were no special cases concerning the application of rules 13 to 17 during the period under review.

Part III

Presidency (rules 18-20)

Part III of the present chapter deals with the proceedings of the Security Council directly related to the Office of the President of the Council, specifically rules 18 to 20 and related procedural developments.

Material pertaining to the exercise by the President of his/her functions in the conduct of meetings is included in part V (Conduct of business) of this chapter. Material related to efforts of the presidency to inform non-member States and others about Council decisions and deliberations is contained in part VII (Publicity of meetings, records).

Material relevant to the exercise by the President of his/her functions in connection with the agenda is dealt with in chapter II.

During the period under review there were no special instances of the application of rule 18, which provides for the monthly rotation of the presidency in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members of the Council; or of rule 20, which deals with the temporary cession of the Chair by the President.

The application of rule 19, which states that the President shall preside over meetings of the Security Council and, under the authority of the Security Council, represent it in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations, was not contentious. In addition to presiding over meetings of the Council and informal consultations of the whole, the President regularly briefed non-members of the Council, made statements and remarks to the press and held bilateral meetings with concerned parties such as Member States, heads of principal organs and agencies, chairmen of the regional groups and others. Continuing a practice begun in October 1998, the President represented the Council at the sixth to ninth annual meetings of the

heads of the principal organs of the United Nations.¹⁴ These informal meetings had been initiated by the Secretary-General to improve coordination among the principal organs as well as efficiency in the workings of the Organization.

The General Assembly in resolution 58/126 of 19 December 2003 called upon the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council to meet together periodically with a view to ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and complementarity of the work programmes of the three organs in accordance with their respective responsibilities under the Charter. The President of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly convoked a meeting with the Presidents of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council on 24 June 2004 to discuss the implementation of that resolution. During the period under review, the Presidents of these three organs met together informally, generally once a month, often with the incoming President of the Security Council. There was no set time or venue for these informal gatherings. The holding of these and similar meetings was encouraged in the note by the President of 19 July 2006, in which it was stated that the Council intended to continue to maintain regular communication with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for better coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations and that, to that end, "the members of the Security Council encourage the President of the Council to continue holding meetings with the

¹⁴ During the period under review, meetings of the heads of the six main organs of the United Nations were held on 2 November 2004, 25 October 2005, 26 October 2006 and 30 October 2007.

Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on a regular basis".¹⁵

By the same note,¹⁶ the members of the Council encouraged the President to suggest, through consultations with interested members and/or the Secretariat, a few areas for members of the Council and the Secretariat to focus on at forthcoming informal consultations, without the intention of prescribing the

¹⁵ S/2006/507, annex, para. 51.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 20.

scope of discussion, at least one day before the consultations are to be held.

Presidents continued to provide brief assessments of the work of the Council during their term(s) as President which were listed in part I of the annual reports of the Council to the General Assembly.¹⁷ While preparing a monthly assessment is not required of the President, all Presidents during the period under review availed themselves of the opportunity to do so.

¹⁷ A/59/2, A/60/2, A/61/2, A/62/2 and A/63/2.

Part IV Secretariat (rules 21-26)

Note

Part IV relates to rules 21 to 26 of the provisional rules of procedure, which set out the functions and powers of the Secretary-General in connection with the meetings of the Security Council. These rules reflect the provisions of Article 98 of the Charter insofar as they concern the requirements of the Security Council.¹⁸ While no cases relating to these rules were found for the period under review, the note by the President of 19 July 2006 outlines a number of procedures in relation to the Secretariat.¹⁹ These are reproduced below under the following headings: briefings, documentation, notification,²⁰ distribution of statements, communication with the Secretariat and outside, and newly elected members.

¹⁸ For specific instances in which the Secretary-General was requested or authorized by the Security Council to carry out other functions in accordance with Article 98 of the Charter, see chap. VI.

¹⁹ S/2006/507, annex. See also part V of the present chapter.

²⁰ These paragraphs appear under "Documentation" in S/2006/507.

Procedural developments relating to the Secretariat

Briefings

6. The members of the Security Council intend to continue to consider requesting the Secretariat to give an ad hoc briefing at Security Council meetings in cases in which an emergent situation which justifies a briefing arises.
7. The members of the Security Council intend to request the Secretariat to give ad hoc briefings at informal consultations on a daily basis, if necessary, when a situation justifies such briefings.
8. The members of the Security Council invite the Secretariat to continue its practice of circulating the briefing texts at "Briefings".
9. The members of the Security Council invite the Secretariat, as a general rule, to provide a printed fact sheet, presentation materials and/or any other relevant reference materials, whenever possible, to Council members on the day prior to the consultations, when briefings in the Security Council consultations room are not given on the basis of a written report.

Documentation

11. The members of the Security Council agree that reports of the Secretary-General should be circulated to Council members and made available in all official languages of the United Nations at least four working days before the Council is scheduled to consider them. The members of the Security Council also agree that the same rule should apply to making such reports available to relevant participants in Council meetings in which those reports are discussed, including the distribution of the reports on peacekeeping missions to all participants in meetings of troop-contributing countries.

12. The members of the Security Council agree to consider setting a six-month interval as the standard reporting period, unless the situation provides reason for shorter or longer intervals. The members of the Security Council also agree to define reporting intervals as clearly as possible when adopting resolutions. The members of the Security Council further agree to request oral reporting, which does not require submission of a written report, if the members of the Council consider that it would serve the purpose satisfactorily, and to indicate that request as clearly as possible.

13. The members of the Security Council encourage the Secretary-General to include a section in his reports where all recommendations are listed, when presenting recommendations to the Council regarding the mandate of a United Nations mission.

14. The members of the Security Council encourage the Secretary-General to make reports as concise as possible, particularly for shorter reporting periods.

15. The members of the Security Council intend to request the Secretary-General to include policy recommendations on long-term strategy in his reports, if appropriate.

16. Reports of the Secretary-General will specify the date on which the document is physically and electronically distributed in addition to the date of signature by the Secretary-General.

17. The Security Council agrees to cooperate with other organs of the United Nations in synchronizing reporting obligations of the Secretariat on the same subject, if appropriate, while putting priority on the effective work of the Council.

Notification

18. The members of the Security Council request the Secretariat to update the Council towards the end of each month on the progress in the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General to be issued the following month. The members of the Security Council also request the Secretariat to communicate with the Council immediately if it expects reports to be delayed beyond their deadlines or if reports that have not been requested by the Council are expected to be issued.

19. The members of the Security Council invite the Secretariat to send all information currently sent to Council members by fax also by e-mail.

34. The members of the Security Council invite the Secretariat to notify Member States of unscheduled or emergency meetings not only by the telephone recorded message service but also through the Council website.

Distribution of statements

36. Texts of statements made in the meetings of the Security Council will, at the request of the delegation making the statement, be distributed by the Secretariat inside the Council Chamber to Council members and other Member States and permanent observers to the United Nations present at the meeting. A delegation requesting the distribution of its statement is encouraged to provide a sufficient number (200) of copies to the Secretariat in advance of the statement. Where a delegation does not provide to the Secretariat a sufficient number of copies of its statement, those copies will be placed outside the Council Chamber at the end of the meeting. Delegations are requested not to make statements otherwise available during the meeting.

Communication with the Secretariat and outside

52. The members of the Security Council intend to make the best use of all mechanisms available, as appropriate, to convey policy guidance to the Secretary-General, including dialogue, letters from the President, adoption of resolutions or presidential statements, or any other means deemed appropriate.

53. The members of the Security Council, through the Secretary-General, invite new Special Representatives of the Secretary-General to engage in dialogue with members of the Council before assuming their duties under new mandates, including in the field, in order to obtain Council members' views on the objectives and the mandates, whenever possible.

Newly elected members

63. The Security Council invites the Secretariat to continue to take appropriate measures to familiarize the newly elected members with the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, including by providing briefing materials and holding seminars before they begin to attend Council meetings.

Part V Conduct of business (rules 27-36)

Note

Part V sets out material bearing on rules 27 and 29 to 36, which concern conduct of business at meetings of the Council. Material relating to rule 28 can be found in chapter V (Subsidiary organs of the

Security Council), while material relating to rules 37-39 is included in chapter III (Participation in the proceedings of the Security Council).

While there was no special application of the provisional rules of procedure concerning conduct of meetings, the Council continued to search for efficient,

effective and transparent ways to conduct meetings. The measures in the note by the President of 19 July 2006 which pertain to conduct of business at both formal and informal meetings are reproduced below.²¹ Pertinent information concerning formal meetings is presented first.

Procedural developments relating to conduct of business

Formal meetings

27. The Security Council encourages, as a general rule, all participants, both members and non-members of the Council, in Council meetings to deliver their statements in five minutes or less. The Security Council also encourages each briefer to limit initial remarks to 15 minutes, unless otherwise decided by the Council.

28. The Security Council encourages participants in Council meetings to express agreement without repeating the same content, if they agree, in part or in whole, with the content of a previous statement.

29. The Security Council agrees that, when non-members are invited to speak to the Council, those who have a direct interest in the outcome of the matter under consideration may speak prior to Council members, if appropriate.

31. In order to further encourage substantive discussions with troop-contributing countries, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1353 (2001), the members of the Security Council encourage the attendance of appropriate military and political officers from each participating mission. The members of the Security Council emphasize the importance of meeting with troop-contributing countries at the early stages of

consideration of a matter. The members of the Security Council encourage the President of the Council to provide sufficient time for the meetings.

32. The President of the Security Council will in public meetings introduce agenda items by specifying the agenda item/issue for consideration, unless otherwise agreed in the Council's prior consultations, and refer to all speakers at political and ambassadorial level by name and title. These names will, however, not have to be included in the official records or in advance in the briefing notes prepared by the Secretariat for the Presidency.

33. When non-members of the Security Council are invited to speak at its meetings, they will be seated at the Council table on alternate sides of the President, with the first speaker seated on the President's right.

Informal consultations

21. The members of the Security Council intend, where they agree with a previous speaker, in part or in whole, to express that agreement without repeating the same content.

22. The members of the Security Council agree that, as a general rule, the President of the Council should adhere to the prescribed speakers' list. The members of the Security Council encourage the President to facilitate interaction by inviting any participant in the consultations to speak at any time, irrespective of the order of the prescribed speakers' list, when the discussion requires it.

23. The members of the Security Council encourage speakers to direct their questions not only to the Secretariat, but also to other members.

24. The members of the Security Council do not discourage each other from taking the floor more than once, in the interest of making consultations more interactive.

25. The members of the Security Council invite the Secretariat to continue its practice of circulating all press statements issued by the Secretary-General or by the Secretary-General's spokesperson in connection with matters of concern to the Security Council, both in informal consultations and by e-mail.

²¹ S/2006/507, annex, paras. 21-33. Paragraphs 32 and 33 were recollected from previous note(s) by the President of the Security Council.

Part VI Languages (rules 41-47)

Rules 41 to 47 concern the official and working languages of the Council, interpretation and the languages of meeting records and published resolutions and decisions. Rule 44 states that any representative may make a speech in a language other than the languages of the Council if he himself provides for interpretation into one of those languages. At the 5647th meeting, held on 24 March 2007 to consider the item entitled "Non-proliferation", the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran spoke in Persian, and his delegation provided the English text of his statement.

Part VII Publicity of meetings, records (rules 48-57)

Note

Rules 48 to 57 are concerned with access to information about Security Council meetings and documents. Rule 48 states that, unless it decides otherwise, the Security Council shall meet in public, and that any recommendation made to the General Assembly regarding the appointment of the Secretary-General shall be discussed and decided at a private meeting.²²

During the period under review, the Council continued its practice of meeting with troop-contributing

²² See part I of the present chapter for further discussion of procedural developments related to private meetings.

countries in private,²³ 20 such meetings were held in 2004, 21 in 2005, 22 in 2006 and 20 in 2007. One meeting was held concerning the recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General.²⁴

Forty-five other meetings were held in private, as detailed in table 3.

²³ In resolution 1353 (2001) on strengthening cooperation with troop-contributing countries, the Council decided that it would hold public or private meetings with the participation of troop-contributing countries to ensure a full and high-level consideration of issues of critical importance to a specific peacekeeping operation.

²⁴ At its 5547th meeting, on 9 October 2006, the Security Council recommended the appointment of Mr. Ban Ki-moon as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Table 3
Meetings of the Security Council held in private, 2004-2007

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
4904	27 January 2004	The situation in Georgia
5042	23 September 2004	The situation in Burundi
5046	30 September 2004	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5081 held in Nairobi	18 November 2004	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5144	21 March 2005	The situation in Georgia
5174	4 May 2005	The situation in Georgia
5186	24 May 2005	The situation in Sierra Leone
5190	31 May 2005	The situation concerning Iraq
5196	7 June 2005	The question concerning Haiti
5217	29 June 2005	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5237	27 July 2005	Letters dated 6 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the President of the Security Council [Briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on human settlements issues in Zimbabwe]
5238	27 July 2005	The situation in Georgia
5253	31 August 2005	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire
5267	21 September 2005	The situation concerning Iraq

Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 2004-2007

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
5279	13 October 2005	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire
5322	13 December 2005	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5345	13 January 2006	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5358	26 January 2006	The situation in Georgia
5370	10 February 2006	The situation in Afghanistan
5414	18 April 2006	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5416	19 April 2006	Briefings by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence of Uganda
5418	21 April 2006	The situation in the Middle East
5427	27 April 2006	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire
5460	14 June 2006	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5464	15 June 2006	The situation concerning Iraq
5496	26 July 2006	The situation in Afghanistan
5517	28 August 2006	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5526 (resumed) ^a	29 September 2006	The situation in Myanmar
5531	22 September 2006	Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)
5535	25 September 2006	The situation in Somalia
5548	9 October 2006	The situation in Afghanistan
5555	25 October 2006	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire
5557	27 October 2006	Briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice
5590	14 December 2006	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan
5623	24 January 2007	The situation in Georgia
5640	19 March 2007	Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)
5654	3 April 2007	Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)
5658	10 April 2007	The situation in Georgia
5678	21 May 2007	The situation in Burundi
5680	23 May 2007	The situation in Afghanistan
5688	7 June 2007	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
5707	28 June 2007	The situation in Somalia
5724	26 July 2007	The situation in Georgia
5775	2 November 2007	Briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice
5881	19 December 2007	Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

^a The first part of the 5526th meeting was a public meeting, and the resumption was held in private.

Rules 49 to 57 concern the records of meetings and documents. One case concerning the application of rule 49 is considered in section A below.

Section B outlines a number of procedural developments relating to publicity of meetings, records.

A. Special case concerning the application of rule 49

In accordance with rule 49, the verbatim records of each meeting are made available in the working languages to the representatives on the Security Council, as well as to the representatives of any other States that participated in the meeting, not later than 10 a.m. of the first working day following the meeting. In one instance during the period under review, there was an agreed waiver of the requirement laid down in rule 49 regarding the time of issuance of the verbatim record of the meeting.

By resolution 1569 (2004) of 26 October 2004, the Security Council decided to hold meetings on 18 and 19 November 2004 in Nairobi. Also by that resolution, the Council decided to waive the requirement laid down in rule 49 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure that the verbatim record of each meeting of the Council should be made available on the first working day following the meeting and decided that the verbatim record would be issued subsequently in New York.²⁵

B. Procedural developments relating to publicity of meetings, records

The note by the President of 19 July 2006 was, among other things, an effort to enhance the "transparency of the Council's work".²⁶ The members of the Council agreed that the President or his or her designate should provide substantive and detailed briefings to Member States in a timely manner, and that these briefings should take place shortly after informal consultations of the whole. They encouraged the President to provide the attending Member States with copies of statements that he or she makes to the media following the informal consultations, if appropriate. They also encouraged the President to hold an informal briefing on the programme of work open to all Member States, after its adoption by the Council.²⁷

The members of the Security Council noted their intention to intensify their efforts to publicize decisions and other relevant information of the Council and its subsidiary bodies to the Member States and other organizations through correspondence, websites, outreach activities and other means, when appropriate. They also recorded their intention to continue to examine ways to enhance activities in this regard, and to encourage subsidiary bodies of the Council to continue to review periodically policies concerning access to their documents, as appropriate.²⁸

By the same note, the members of the Council encouraged the President to publish a streamlined tentative monthly forecast of the programme of work on the Council website as soon as it had been distributed to Council members, and that a reminder of the availability of the forecast on the website should be

²⁵ Resolution 1569 (2004), para. 3.

²⁶ S/2006/507, para. 1.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, annex, paras. 3-4.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 10.

placed in the *Journal of the United Nations* each month. The members of the Council also agreed that the President of the Council should update the provisional monthly programme of work (calendar) and make it available to the public through the Council website each time it is revised and distributed to Council members, with appropriate indication of the revised items.²⁹

²⁹ Ibid., paras. 37-40.