

Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United

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15 June 2011

To all Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers of all Missions  
to the United Nations

Excellency, dear Colleague,

You will recall that the S-5 group (Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland) submitted to you, on March 25, 2011, a draft resolution as a further expression of the long-standing commitment of the group to improve the working methods of the Security Council, a goal we have been actively promoting since the 2005 World Summit.

Our text, which is respectful of the competencies and roles of the General Assembly and the Security Council as mandated by the Charter and recognises the Security Council as master of its own procedures and working methods, has received a lot of support, and many good suggestions were made.

We presented the text to the wider membership in a meeting on April 14 and have held informal consultations with many countries and groups of countries since then. On the basis of the comments received, the S-5 group has prepared a revised draft (cf. encl.), which we have the pleasure to submit to your consideration today. It takes into account many of the suggestions received during consultations.

While commending the Security Council for the progress achieved in recent years, we remain convinced that a better implementation of the existing, as much as additional measures, are needed in order to enable the Council to enhance its authority and effectiveness, and to be more responsive to the membership of the United Nations as a whole.

We are, of course, aware of the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council and the fact that working methods form part of this overall reform. While we are fully committed to this process, we firmly believe that the proposals we are presenting can be easily implemented here and now, independently of the outcome of the enlargement exercise.

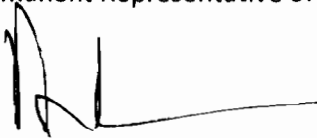
Our text contains a compilation of good practices and moderate, concrete suggestions aimed essentially at improving the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly. We are of the view that our proposals would be beneficiary to both organs, since they relate to each other in several ways. The objective of our initiative is thus simple and modest: to make more progress in the institutional relationship and in the dialogue between the Security Council and the General Assembly through practical means.

We will therefore continue to work on the text before tabling it, and look forward to engaging with all Member States in an exchange of views to further improve it.

Yours sincerely,



Eduardo Ulibarri  
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica



Christian Wenaweser  
Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein



Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein  
Permanent Representative of Jordan



Vanu Gopala Menon  
Permanent Representative of Singapore



Paul Seger  
Permanent Representative of Switzerland

15 June 2011 / Revised draft

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 ~~legitimaey~~ **authority** 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,<sup>1</sup>

*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 ~~legitimaey~~ **authority** and effectiveness;

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 in order to institutionalize and/or improve current practices:*

#### Relationship with the General Assembly and other principal organs

1. Seeking the views of Member States, **in an appropriate format**, and ensuring that their ability to implement decisions is taken into account in the decision-making process of the Security Council, **in particular in the context of the renewal of measures taken by the Council, and without prejudice to the need for timely action.**
2. 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.
3. **Continuing the practice of** 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 **both** the outgoing and incoming Presidencies of the Council, **to present the new program and brief on the outcome of the previous one, respectively.**
4. **Continuing to improve** 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.
5. **Making more frequent use of its competence under** Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations to submit 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, including upon request from the General Assembly.

#### 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. **Continuing to** increase the transparency of the work of its subsidiary bodies, including by improving the quality and frequency of their formal and informal reports, giving substantive **interactive** briefings to non-members of the Council and making summary records more widely and promptly available.

8. Offering **more frequent** informal opportunities for Member States to provide substantive input to the work of its subsidiary bodies.
9. Continuing to improve procedures, reflecting standards of due process, regarding requests for de-listing from sanctions lists.
10. ~~Establishing a new process,~~ **Involving** all Council members at the outset in the distribution of chairmanships of subsidiary bodies, **with a view to** distributing the chairmanships in a manner that would promote the best possible outcomes of the work of the subsidiary bodies.

#### **Operations mandated and on-site missions carried out by the Security Council**

11. Informing Member States ~~fully and promptly~~ **more fully about relevant** developments regarding **the planning, preparation, conduct and termination of** operations, **special political missions mandated and on-site missions carried out by the Council**, including **through providing early information on estimated** budgetary implications.
12. **Continuing to improve the drafting of mandates, including through the articulation of clear** goals and purposes, for new operations **and special political missions** established or authorized by the Council, and reviewing progress on the basis of ~~established clear~~ criteria and 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, **especially** with regard to situations involving **heightened** risks for the personnel deployed.

#### **Governance and accountability**

14. Ensuring the ~~uniform~~ **consistent** implementation of its **agreed** 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. **Building on and enhancing progress achieved in thematic areas by** ~~integrating~~ **applying** key provisions **and concepts** of thematic resolutions to country-specific ~~resolutions~~ **activities**, where ~~applicable~~ **appropriate**.
16. ~~Considering~~ **Enhancing** the **systematic** use of all mechanisms available under international law to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes.

#### **Appointment of the Secretary-General**

17. **Contributing to the implementation of the measures regarding** ~~Consulting with the wider membership, well in advance of the expiration of the term of the incumbent,~~ **on** the appointment of the Secretary-General contained in General Assembly resolution 51/241, **including by taking into account the results of consultations that may be held by the President of the General Assembly.**

#### **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 with regard to its consistency with the **purposes and principles of the** Charter of the United Nations and **applicable** international law. A copy of the explanation should be circulated as a **separate** 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, **war crimes, ethnic cleansing and** 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.