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Letter dated 1 June 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

Estonia assumes the Presidency of the Security Council on 1 June 2021. While the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is ongoing, there has been a considerable decrease in COVID-19 cases in the State and City of New York, and COVID-19-related restrictions have been eased recently by the authorities thereof, especially for fully vaccinated people. Discussions on the further easing of restrictions at United Nations Headquarters are ongoing.

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned positive developments, including the updated risk assessment by the United Nations medical and occupational health and safety personnel regarding meetings of the Security Council held in the Security Council Chamber, Estonia envisages that most of the meetings of the Council in June would be held at United Nations Headquarters, namely in the Chamber. High-level meetings and a few other special meetings of the Council scheduled to be held in June are expected to be held in a virtual format, so as to enable inclusive participation, despite the constraints related to the ongoing global pandemic.

With regard to videoconferences, the Security Council will be guided by the working methods set out in the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (S/2020/372). The conduct of meetings at United Nations Headquarters will be guided by the health and safety advice of the Secretariat, including with regard to wearing masks. For meetings in the Chamber, the vaccination of delegates and Secretariat staff is strongly encouraged.

The present working methods and guidelines are a response to the current exceptional and unprecedented circumstances and may be reviewed, adjusted or discontinued, subject to the agreement of all members of the Council.

(Signed) Sven Jürgenson President of the Security Council



