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**PROVISIONAL RULES  
OF PROCEDURE OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL**



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# **PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL**

(Adopted by the Security Council at its first meeting and amended at its 31st, 41st, 42nd, 44th and 48th meetings, 9 April, 16 and 17 May, 6 and 24 June 1946; 138th and 222nd meetings, 4 June and 9 December 1947; 468th meeting, 28 February 1950. The only difference between this edition (S/96/Rev.4) and the previous edition (S/96/Rev.3) is that it incorporates in the text the latest amendment (S/96/Rev.3/Add.1)).

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# Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council

## CHAPTER I. -MEETINGS

### 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.

### Rule 2

The President shall call a meeting of the Security Council at the request of any member of the Security Council.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## CHAPTER II.-AGENDA

### Rule 6

The Secretary-General shall immediately bring to the attention of all representatives on the Security Council all communications from States, organs of the United Nations, or the Secretary-General concerning any matter for the consideration of the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

### Rule 7

The Provisional Agenda for each meeting of the Security Council shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and approved by the President of the Security Council.

Only items which have been brought to the attention of the representatives on the Security Council in accordance with Rule 6, items covered by Rule 10, or matters which the Security Council has previously decided to defer, may be included in the Provisional Agenda.

### Rule 8

The Provisional Agenda for a meeting shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to the representatives on the Security Council at least three days before the meeting, but in urgent circumstances it may be communicated simultaneously with the notice of the meeting.

### Rule 9

The first item of the Provisional Agenda for each meeting of the Security Council shall be the adoption of the Agenda.

### Rule 10

Any item of the Agenda of a meeting of the Security Council, consideration of which has not been completed at that meeting, shall, unless the Security Council otherwise decides, automatically be included in the Agenda of the next meeting.

## **Rule 11**

The Secretary-General shall communicate each week to the representatives on the Security Council a summary statement of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration.

## **Rule 12**

The Provisional Agenda for each periodic meeting shall be circulated to the members of the Security Council at least twenty-one days before the opening of the meeting. Any subsequent change in or addition to the Provisional Agenda shall be brought to the notice of the members at least five days before the meeting. The Security Council may, however, in urgent circumstances, make additions to the Agenda at any time during a periodic meeting.

The provisions of Rule 7, paragraph 1, and of Rule 9, shall apply also to periodic meetings.

## **CHAPTER III. -REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS**

### **Rule 13**

Each member of the Security Council shall be represented at the meetings of the Security Council by an accredited representative. The credentials of a representative on the Security Council shall be communicated to the Secretary-General not less than twenty-four hours before he takes his seat on the Security Council. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or of the Government concerned or by its Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Head of Government or Minister of Foreign Affairs of each member of the Security Council shall be entitled to sit on the Security Council without submitting credentials.

### **Rule 14**

Any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Security Council and any State not a Member of the United Nations, if invited to participate in a meeting or meetings of the Security Council, shall submit credentials for the

representative appointed by it for this purpose. The credentials of such a representative shall be communicated to the Secretary-General not less than twenty-four hours before the first meeting which he is invited to attend.

### **Rule 15**

The credentials of representatives on the Security Council and of any representative appointed in accordance with Rule 14 shall be examined by the Secretary-General who shall submit a report to the Security Council for approval.

### **Rule 16**

Pending the approval of the credentials of a representative on the Security Council in accordance with Rule 15, such representative shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives.

### **Rule 17**

Any representative on the Security Council, to whose credentials objection has been made within the Security Council, shall continue to sit with the same rights as other representatives until the Security Council has decided the matter.

## **CHAPTER IV. -PRESIDENCY**

### **Rule 18**

The Presidency of the Security Council shall be held in turn by the members of the Security Council in the English alphabetical order of their names. Each President shall hold office for one calendar month.

### **Rule 19**

The President shall preside over the meetings of the Security Council and, under the authority of the Security Council, shall represent it in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.

## **Rule 20**

Whenever the President of the Security Council deems that, for the proper fulfillment of the responsibilities of the Presidency, he should not preside over the Council during the consideration of a particular question with which the member he represents is directly connected, he shall indicate his decision to the Council. The Presidential chair shall then devolve, for the purpose of the consideration of that question, on the representative of the member next in English alphabetical order, it being understood that the provisions of this Rule shall apply to the representatives on the Security Council called upon successively to preside. This Rule shall not affect the representative capacity of the President as stated in Rule 19 or his duties under Rule 7.

## **CHAPTER V. - SECRETARIAT**

### **Rule 21**

The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Security Council. The Secretary-General may authorize a deputy to act in his place at meetings of the Security Council.

### **Rule 22**

The Secretary-General, or his deputy acting on his behalf, may make either oral or written statements to the Security Council concerning any question under consideration by it.

### **Rule 23**

The Secretary-General may be appointed by the Security Council, in accordance with Rule 28, as rapporteur for a specified question.

### **Rule 24**

The Secretary-General shall provide the staff required by the Security Council. This staff shall form a part of the Secretariat.

## **Rule 25**

The Secretary-General shall give to representatives on the Security Council notice of meetings of the Security Council and of its commissions and committees.

## **Rule 26**

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for the preparation of documents required by the Security Council and shall, except in urgent circumstances, distribute them at least forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered.

# **CHAPTER VI. -CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

## **Rule 27**

The President shall call upon representatives in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.

## **Rule 28**

The Security Council may appoint a commission or committee or a rapporteur for a specified question.

## **Rule 29**

The President may accord precedence to any rapporteur appointed by the Security Council.

The Chairman of a commission or committee, or the rapporteur appointed by the commission or committee to present its report, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the report.

## **Rule 30**

If a representative raises a point of order, the President shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the President shall submit his ruling to the Security Council for immediate decision and it shall stand unless overruled.

### **Rule 31**

Proposed resolutions, amendments and substantive motions shall normally be placed before the representatives in writing.

### **Rule 32**

Principal motions and draft resolutions shall have precedence in the order of their submission.

Parts of a motion or of a draft resolution shall be voted on separately at the request of any representative, unless the original mover objects.

### **Rule 33**

The following motions shall have precedence in the order named over all principal motions and draft resolutions relative to the subject before the meeting:

1. to suspend the meeting;
2. to adjourn the meeting;
3. to adjourn the meeting to a certain day or hour;
4. to refer any matter to a committee, to the Secretary-General or to a rapporteur;
5. to postpone discussion of the question to a certain day or indefinitely; or
6. to introduce an amendment.

Any motion for the suspension or for the simple adjournment of the meeting shall be decided without debate.

### **Rule 34**

It shall not be necessary for any motion or draft resolution proposed by a representative on the Security Council to be seconded before being put to a vote.

### **Rule 35**

A motion or draft resolution can at any time be withdrawn, so long as no vote has been taken with respect to it.

If the motion or draft resolution has been seconded, the representative on the Security Council who has seconded it may require that it be put to the vote as his motion or draft resolution with the same right of precedence as if the original mover had not withdrawn it.

### **Rule 36**

If two or more amendments to a motion or draft resolution are proposed, the President shall rule on the order in which they are to be voted upon. Ordinarily, the Security Council shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed until all amendments have been put to the vote, but when an amendment adds to or deletes from the text of a motion or draft resolution, that amendment shall be voted on first.

### **Rule 37**

Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council may be invited, as the result of a decision of the Security Council, to participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council when the Security Council considers that the interests of that Member are specially affected, or when a Member brings a matter to the attention of the Security Council in accordance with Article 35 (1) of the Charter.

### **Rule 38**

Any member of the United Nations invited in accordance with the preceding Rule or in application of Article 32 of the Charter to participate in the discussions of the Security Council may submit proposals and draft resolutions. These proposals and draft resolutions may be put to a vote only at the request of a representative on the Security Council.

### **Rule 39**

The Security Council may invite members of the Secretariat or other persons, whom it considers competent for the purpose, to supply it with information or to give other assistance in examining matters within its competence.

## **CHAPTER VII. -VOTING**

### **Rule 40**

Voting in the Security Council shall be in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Charter and of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

## **CHAPTER VIII. -LANGUAGES**

### **Rule 41**

Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages of the Security Council, and English and French the working languages.

### **Rule 42**

Speeches made in either of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language.

### **Rule 43**

Speeches made in any of the three other official languages shall be interpreted into both working languages.

### **Rule 44**

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the official languages. In this case he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the working languages. Interpretation into the other working language by an interpreter of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first working language.

### **Rule 45**

Verbatim records of meetings of the Security Council shall be drawn up in the working languages. At the request of any representative a verbatim record of any speech made in an official language other than the working languages shall be drawn up in the original language.

### **Rule 46**

All resolutions and other important documents shall forthwith be made available in the official languages. Upon the request of any representative any other document shall be made available in any or all of the official languages.

### **Rule 47**

Documents of the Security Council shall, if the Security Council so decides, be published in any language other than the official languages.

## **CHAPTER IX.-PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS RECORDS**

### **Rule 48**

Unless it decides otherwise, the Security Council shall meet in public. Any recommendation to the General Assembly regarding the appointment of the Secretary-General shall be discussed and decided at a private meeting.

### **Rule 49**

Subject to the provisions of Rule 51, the verbatim record of each meeting of the Security Council shall be made available in the working languages to the representatives on the Security Council and to the representatives of any other States which have participated in the meeting not later than 10 A.M. of the first working day following the meeting. The verbatim record of any speech made in any other of the official languages, which is drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Rule 45, shall be made available in the same manner to any of the above mentioned representatives at his request.

### **Rule 50**

The representatives of the States which have participated in the meeting shall, within two working days after the time indicated in Rule 49, inform the Secretary-General of any corrections they wish to have made in the verbatim record.

## **Rule 51**

The Security Council may decide that for a private meeting the record shall be made in a single copy alone. This record shall be kept by the Secretary-General. The representatives of the States which have participated in the meeting shall, within a period of ten days, inform the Secretary-General of any corrections they wish to have made in this record.

## **Rule 52**

Corrections that have been requested shall be considered approved unless the President is of the opinion that they are sufficiently important to be submitted to the representatives on the Security Council. In the latter case, the representatives on the Security Council shall submit within two working days any comments they may wish to make. In the absence of objections in this period of time, the record shall be corrected as requested.

## **Rule 53**

The verbatim record referred to in Rule 49 or the record referred to in Rule 51, in which no corrections have been requested in the period of time required by Rules 50 and 51 respectively or which has been corrected in accordance with the provisions of Rule 52, shall be considered as approved. It shall be signed by the President and shall become the official record of the Security Council.

## **Rule 54**

The official record of public meetings of the Security Council, as well as the documents annexed thereto, shall be published in the official languages as soon as possible.

## **Rule 55**

At the close of each private meeting the Security Council shall issue a communique through the Secretary-General.

## **Rule 56**

The representatives of the Members of the United Nations which have taken part in a private meeting shall at all times have the right to consult the record of that meeting in the office of the Secretary-General. The Security Council may at any time grant access to this record to authorized representatives of other Members of the United Nations.

## **Rule 57**

The Secretary-General shall, once each year, submit to the Security Council a list of the records and documents which up to that time have been considered confidential. The Security Council shall decide which of these shall be made available to other Members of the United Nations, which shall be made public, and which shall continue to remain confidential.

## **CHAPTER X. - ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS**

### **Rule 58**

Any State which desires to become a Member of the United Nations shall submit an application to the Secretary-General. This application shall contain a declaration made in a formal instrument that it accepts the obligations contained in the Charter.

### **Rule 59**

The Secretary-General shall immediately place the application for membership before the representatives on the Security Council. Unless the Security Council decides otherwise, the application shall be referred by the President to a committee of the Security Council upon which each member of the Security Council shall be represented. The committee shall examine any application referred to it and report its conclusions thereon to the Council not less than thirty-five days in advance of a regular session of the General Assembly or if a special session of the General Assembly is called, not less than fourteen days in advance of such session.

## **Rule 60**

The Security Council shall decide whether in its judgement the applicant is a peace-loving State and is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter, and accordingly whether to recommend the applicant State for membership.

If the Security Council recommends the applicant State for membership, it shall forward to the General Assembly the recommendation with a complete record of the discussion.

If the Security Council does not recommend the applicant State for membership or postpones the consideration of the application, it shall submit a special report to the General Assembly with a complete record of the discussion.

In order to ensure the consideration of its recommendation at the next session of the General Assembly following the receipt of the application, the Security Council shall make its recommendation not less than twenty-five days in advance of a regular session of the General Assembly, nor less than four days in advance of a special session.

In special circumstances, the Security Council may decide to make a recommendation to the General Assembly concerning an application for membership subsequent to the expiration of the time limits set forth in the preceding paragraph.

## **CHAPTER XI.-RELATIONS WITH OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANS**

## **Rule 61**

Any meeting of the Security Council held in pursuance of the Statute of the International Court of Justice for the purpose of the election of members of the Court shall continue until as many candidates as are required for all the seats to be filled have obtained in one or more ballots an absolute majority of votes.

## APPENDIX

### PROVISIONAL PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH COMMUNICATIONS FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

- A. A list of all communications from private individuals and non-governmental bodies relating to matters of which the Security Council is seized shall be circulated to all representatives on the Security Council.
- B. A copy of any communication on the list shall be given by the Secretariat to any representative on the Security Council at his request.

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