
Introduction

The present publication constitutes the twenty-third supplement to the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, 1946–1951*, which was issued in 1954. In 2020, owing to the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, between 12 March and 14 July 2020, the Security Council suspended the holding of in-person meetings in the Security Council Chamber. Instead, Council members initiated the practice of holding open and closed videoconferences as a means of continuing the work of the Council and developed a hybrid model of work, alternating in-person meetings with videoconferences. In 2020, videoconferences, whether open or closed, were not considered formal meetings of the Council. While meetings in person continued to be recorded in verbatim records, as customary, the statements delivered in open videoconferences were compiled in letters from the President of the Council, as further detailed in part II.

Consequently, the twenty-third supplement to the *Repertoire* features both meetings and open videoconferences, despite the latter not being considered meetings of the Council. It covers the proceedings of the Council from the 8698th meeting, held on 8 January 2020, to the last open videoconference of the year, held on 29 December 2020 and recorded in the corresponding letter from the President of the Council (S/2020/1311). The original *Repertoire* and previous supplements may be consulted online on the website of the Security Council (www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/structure).

The *Repertoire* was mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 686 (VII), entitled “Ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available”. It is a guide to the proceedings of the Council and sets forth in a readily accessible form the practices and procedures to which the Council has had recourse. The *Repertoire* is not intended as a substitute for the records of the Council, which constitute the only comprehensive and authoritative account of its deliberations.

The categories employed to arrange the material are not intended to suggest the existence of procedures or practices that have not been clearly or demonstrably established by the Council itself. The Council is at all times master of its own procedure, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, its own provisional rules of procedure and the practice established through, inter alia, notes by the President of the Council. For ease of reference, this introduction contains a table indicating the membership of the Council during the period under review.

In recording the Council’s practice, the headings under which the practices and procedures of the Council were presented in the original volume issued in 1954 have been largely retained. Where necessary, however, adjustments have been made to better reflect the Council’s practice. For example, the studies contained in part I of the present publication are organized according to region or thematic issues in chronological order.

The *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* covers four primary areas: the application of the provisional rules of procedure, the application of Articles of the Charter of the United Nations, the subsidiary organs of the Council, including peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as well as sanctions committees and the associated panels and groups of experts, and an overview of Council activities for each item on its agenda. From 1946 to 2007, each Supplement to the *Repertoire*, generally covering a period of two to four years,

comprised 12 chapters; from 2008 to 2017, each Supplement covered a period of two years and comprised 10 parts. Since 2018, each Supplement, covering a period of one year, has been organized in 10 parts.

From 1946 to 2007, the 12 chapters of each Supplement covered the following topics:

Chapter I	Provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council (Articles 28, 30, 98 of the Charter; rules 1–5, 13–36, 40–67 of the rules of procedure)
Chapter II	Agenda (rules 6–12)
Chapter III	Participation in the proceedings of the Security Council (Articles 31, 32, 35 (1); rules 37–39)
Chapter IV	Voting (Article 27; rule 40)
Chapter V	Subsidiary organs of the Security Council
Chapter VI	Relations with other United Nations organs
Chapter VII	Practice relative to recommendations to the General Assembly regarding membership in the United Nations
Chapter VIII	Consideration of questions under the Council’s responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security (overview by agenda item)
Chapter IX	Decisions taken by the Security Council in the exercise of its other functions and powers
Chapter X	Consideration of the provisions of Chapter VI of the Charter
Chapter XI	Consideration of the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter
Chapter XII	Consideration of the provisions of other Articles (Articles 1 (2), 2 (4), 2 (5), 2 (6), 2 (7), 24, 25, 52–54, 102, 103)

From 2008 onward, the 10 parts of each Supplement covered the following topics:

Part I	Consideration of questions under the responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security
Part II	Provisional rules of procedure and related procedural developments
Part III	Purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations
Part IV	Relations with other United Nations organs
Part V	Functions and powers of the Security Council (Chapter V of the Charter)
Part VI	Consideration of the provisions of Chapter VI of the Charter
Part VII	Actions with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression (Chapter VII of the Charter)
Part VIII	Regional arrangements (Chapter VIII of the Charter)

Part IX	Subsidiary organs of the Security Council: committees, tribunals and other bodies
Part X	Subsidiary organs of the Security Council: peacekeeping operations and special political missions

The *Repertoire* is based on published documents of the Security Council. Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Security Council documents are indicated by a symbol that includes the year and a sequential number (e.g. [S/2020/1252](#)). References to the verbatim records of meetings of the Council are given in the form [S/PV.8775](#), meetings being numbered consecutively, starting with the first meeting in 1946. As in previous recent supplements, reference is made in this Supplement only to the provisional verbatim records of Security Council meetings, as the practice of publishing the meeting records in the *Official Records* has been discontinued. As explained above, the COVID-19 pandemic had an enormous impact in 2020 on the work of the Council, including on its documentation and, in particular, on the documentation created to record statements made at or submitted for open videoconferences, which were circulated in letters from the President of the Council issued, like other Security Council documents, under a symbol that includes the year and a sequential number, as described above.

The resolutions and other decisions adopted by the Council, including statements and notes issued by the President of the Council and relevant exchanges of letters between the President and the Secretary-General, are published in the yearly volumes of *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council*. Resolutions are identified by a number followed by the year of adoption in parentheses, for example, resolution [2550 \(2020\)](#). Since 1994, references to the statements by the President on behalf of the Council are given in the form [S/PRST/2020/12](#), for example. Prior to that date, presidential statements, like other Security Council documents, were circulated under a symbol in the sequential series (e.g. [S/25929](#)).

Readers who wish to consult the full record of a meeting or the text of a Council document referred to in the *Repertoire* may do so on the official website of the United Nations Documentation Centre (www.un.org/en/documents/). Council documents can be accessed on the website by selecting “Official Document System (ODS)” or one of the direct links to specific categories of documents under the heading “Security Council”. The volumes of *Resolutions and Decisions* may be accessed by symbol ([S/INF/75](#) for 2020).

Membership of the Security Council, 2020

Belgium

China

Dominican Republic

Estonia

France

Germany

Indonesia

Niger

Russian Federation

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

South Africa

Tunisia

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

United States of America

Viet Nam