



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

04 December, 2014

Excellency

The General Assembly on 21 November 2014 held a plenary debate to consider the Report of the Security Council (A/69/2), at which Member States expressed a variety of views both on the content and the quality of the Report.

Pursuant to resolution 51/241 of 22 August 1997, by which the General Assembly, *inter alia*, decided that the President of the General Assembly shall assess the debate on this item and consider the need for further consideration of the Report, I indicated in my concluding remarks, at the above mentioned debate, my intention to follow up with the President of the Security Council.

To this end, I now have the honour to transmit to you a list of proposals concerning the analytical nature, the preparation of the Report and practices, expressed during the debate. I have brought the same to the attention of the President of the Security Council for the month of December.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam K. Kutesa

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

PROPOSALS MADE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE  
ON THE REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
(PLENARY MEETING HELD 21 NOV 2014)

---

Pursuant to resolution 51/241 of 22 August 1997, “the President of the General Assembly shall assess the debate on this item and consider the need for further consideration of the report of the Security Council. In the light of that assessment, informal consultations shall be held after the debate in plenary meetings, under the chairmanship of the President or one of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, to discuss the need and content of any action by the Assembly based on the debate”. Also, according to this resolution, “the agenda item shall not be closed but shall remain open to enable further discussion as necessary during the year, bearing in mind, inter alia, the submission of additional reports as and when necessary.”. The resolution further provides that “the monthly forecast of the programme of work of the Security Council shall be circulated for the information of members of the General Assembly”.

In this regard, the list below is intended to inform further consideration of the report of the Security Council, based on Member’s views and proposals expressed at the General Assembly plenary meeting held on 21 November 2014.

Members requested to provide a more explanatory, comprehensive and **analytical annual report**, in this respect, Member States would welcome that the Security Council:

- Document in the report cases in which the Council has failed to act or to take substantive action in the face of situations which represent threats to international peace and security, and the difficulties encountered during the respective consultations.
- Provide the names of Council members who make use of the veto and the particular rationale expressed behind its use
- Incorporate in the report the views expressed by Council members during the consideration of agenda items in closed consultations.
- Elaborate on the circumstances under which it adopts different outcomes, as well as an assessment of outcomes.
- Incorporate in the report the annual assessment of Security Council subsidiary bodies as well as monthly reports of Presidents of Security Council (which should be comprehensive and analytical).

- Consider thematic debates as an integral part of country-situation analysis when crafting the report.
- Include elements assessing the Security Council's working methods, in particular:
  - a) whether the working procedures of the Council are applied consistently,
  - b) how "working procedures are applied within the Council when it deliberates on countering terrorism,
  - c) information on efforts of the Working Group on Documentation and Procedures, for instance, as respects "penholderships, and
  - d) an overview of the nature of the recommendations on working methods and their follow-up.
- Add information on the record on progress made on implementation on SC's decisions.
- Insert insights on lessons learnt and the best practices in each of the areas covered, as well as forward looking or prospective content.
- Incorporate objective assessment of the implications of robust mandates on the impartial nature of UN peacekeeping", and also on how to deter threats to peacekeepers.
- Discuss more in depth the reports of two working groups: the Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, and the Working Group on Peacekeeping.
- Incorporate information on Arria-formula meetings.
- Incorporate Security Council's responses to Member States' suggestions made during SC's open debates.
- Indicate the number of consultations (informal meetings) not just formal meetings.
- Add an assessment on the relationship between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, including the usefulness of the presentations of the chairmen of the configurations, and also the role of the Commission itself.
- Detail information on visits carried out by the Council, including the objectives, the implementation and the results.
- Add assessment on implementation of the SC's resolutions, in particular resolution 2122 on women, peace and security.

As respects the **preparation of the report** and the **Council's practices**, the following are the key proposals made by Member states for the Security Council to pursue:

- Hold public debates between wider Membership and Council's members, for instance organized, around informal workshops
  - a) In preparation of the annual report
  - b) To consider decisions adopted by the Council and the positions of SC's members and future strategy for more preventive and less reactive approach to simmering crises.
  - c) Potentially also focused on tackling country or thematic specific issues
  
- Organise an open debate before finalising the report in order to listen and respond to all the members regarding the suggestions put forward”
- Conduct a substantive portion of its work in open meetings
- Adopt permanent rules of procedure.
- Consider suggestions and views by Member States in SC's open debates in the drafting and adoption of outcomes (i.e. resolutions and presidential statements), as opposed to agreeing on such outcomes “well before the participation by Member States”.
- Consult extensively with troop contributing countries, police contributing countries and financial contributing countries in the design and alterations of mandates of peacekeeping operations as well as in the adaptations of overall policy of these operations, and respecting the role of C34.
- Resort more frequently to preventive diplomacy under Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter, shifting from “propensity to rely on Chapter VII.
- Engage other relevant UN stakeholders in thematic considerations, in particular as these pertain to early warning making greater use of horizon scanning meetings
- Enhance cooperation and synergies between the Council and the GA when dealing with matters regarding the maintenance of international peace and security. In particular:
  - a) President of the General Assembly and Presidents of the ECOSOC and the Security Council to conduct regular discussions and coordination amongst themselves regarding the agenda and program of work.
  - b) More substance-oriented meetings between the Presidents of the General Assembly and Security Council.
  - c) Hold more regular interactions between president of the SC and the wider membership.

- d) The General Assembly may act as a "counterpoise" to discuss particularly thorny issues that would not yield to a solution in the Council
  - e) The Security Council to abstain from addressing "issues which fall within the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, including in areas of norm-setting and legislation matters.
  - f) The Security Council to refrain from using thematic issues under its consideration to expand its mandate into areas which do not pose a threat to international peace and security
- 
- The Council could suggest particular areas of discussion on which it would welcome comments and observations to be expressed at future General Assembly debates on the SC report.
  - Permanent members of the SC to apply a code of conduct to regulate the use of veto, with a commitment to voluntarily refrain from vetoing resolutions aimed at ending war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Such a code of conduct should refer to an authoritative entity (which could be the Secretary-General) to bring ongoing or imminent instances of such crimes to the attention of the Council.
  - Re-examine the application of Art 27 (3) of the Charter, which obliges parties to a conflict to abstain on decisions taken under Chapter VI of the Charter.
  - Convene an open meeting of the Informal Working Group of the Council on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions.
  - Implement protection of civilians in a universal and non-selective manner.
  - Preserve a balance between upholding instruments of international criminal justice such as the ICC while responding with wisdom to requests that are legally sound and meet with wide support.
  - Ensure a more transparency and involvement of the GA in the selection and appointment process of the Secretary -General.
  - Ensure that the selection and appointment of expert panels and groups is more transparent, balanced and representative.

\*\*\*\*