Chapter II

AGENDA
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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The present chapter relates to material concerning rules 6 to 11, inclusive, of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

As in the previous volumes of the *Repertoire*, the material in the present chapter is presented directly under the rule of procedure to which it relates. The chapter is divided into four parts: part I, Consideration of the adoption or amendment of rules 6-12; part II, the provisional agenda; part III, Adoption of the agenda (rule 9); and part IV, The agenda: Matters of which the Security Council is seized (rules 10 and 11). No material has been entered under part I, since the Council has not had occasion to consider any change in rules 6-12.

Part II provided information concerning the preparation of the provisional agenda (rule 7) and the communication of the provisional agenda of periodic meetings (rule 12). No material was found for treatment under the sub-headings “Rule 6: Circulation of communications by the Secretary-General” and “Rule 8: Communication of the provisional agenda.”

Part III contains material on the procedure and practice of the Security Council in connexion with the adoption of the agenda. No material has been entered under section A dealing with the procedure of the Council in voting on the adoption of the agenda as well as section B concerning discussion in the Council of the requirements for the inclusion of an item in the agenda and of the effects of such inclusion. Section C deals with other questions which have been discussed in connexion with the adoption of the agenda, such as the order of discussion of items, the scope of items in relation to the scope of the discussion, the phrasing of agenda items and the participation of a non-Member of the Council before the adoption of the agenda.

Part IV relates to the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized. No entry is presented under section A relating to rule 10. The tabulation in section B (rule 11) supplements the tabulation in the previous volume of the *Repertoire* and indicates the changes that have since occurred in the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized.

**Part I

**CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OR AMENDMENT OF RULES 6-12

Part II

THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

NOTE

The proceedings dealt with in this part concern the question of circulation of communications by the Secretary-General.

Under the provisions of rule 6, the Secretary-General is obliged to bring to the attention of members of the Council all communications from States, organs of the United Nations, or the Secretary-General, concerning any matter for the consideration of the Security Council. However, during the period under review, there were no instances in which the question of circulation of communications arose.

Rule 7 entrusts the drawing up of the provisional agenda for each meeting to the Secretary-General, subject to the approval of the President of the Security Council. The Secretary-General's discretion with respect to the inclusion of new items is restricted to those items which have been brought to the attention of the Council under rule 6. In addition to the express provisions of rule 7 the Secretary General has also to take into account whether a specific request to include the item has been made. During the period under review, there was one instance in which the manner of preparing the provisional agenda was the subject of discussion (Case 1).

Pursuant to rule 12, the provisional agenda for each periodic meeting is circulated to members of the Security Council at least twenty-one days before the opening of the meeting. The first periodic meeting of the Council took place during the period under review. The provisional agenda for that meeting, however, was circulated to members in a note by the Secretary-General two days prior to the meeting (Case 2).

In the S/ series are also circulated communications from regional arrangements or agencies, which are received pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter.
**A. RULE 6: CIRCULATION OF COMMUNICATIONS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.**

B. RULE 7: PREPARATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

CASE 1

At the 1601st meeting on 24 November 1971, the representative of the United Kingdom, speaking on a point of order, referred to his letter requesting a meeting of the Council at 11.30 a.m. the following day in connection with the situation in Southern Rhodesia. He said that his request was based on the assumption that all members of the Council would wish to hear from him a statement concerning the details of an agreement that was reached in Salisbury the previous day, designed to achieve a settlement of the Rhodesian question. He wished the Council meeting to coincide, as closely as possible, with the time that the United Kingdom Parliament itself was being informed. He then remarked that any objection to his request for a meeting might be made formally.

The representative of the USSR stated that if it were a question of convening a meeting to discuss an item in the agenda of the Security Council, namely, the situation in Southern Rhodesia, his delegation would have no objection to the meeting. However, there was no precedent where the Council met for the sole purpose of hearing information pertaining to the visit of a statesman of one country to a colony of that country.

After the representatives of Argentina, Burundi, France, Italy, Japan, Nicaragua, Somalia and the United States had expressed their support for a meeting as requested by the representative of the United Kingdom, the President (Poland) stated that consultations were going on in that regard.

The representative of Argentina stated, however, that there was no need for further consultation as the majority of the members of the Council had already expressed their willingness to convene a meeting in order to hear the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom. He then added:

"With regard to what appears to be a slight problem of form, that is, the wording of the agenda, rule 7 of our rules of procedure states that: 'The provisional agenda for each meeting of the Security Council is drawn up by the Secretary-General and approved by the President of the Security Council.' So that the question is in the hands of the Secretary-General, who will draw up the agenda, which you must then approve, Mr. President."  

**C. RULE 8: COMMUNICATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

D. RULE 12: COMMUNICATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF PERIODIC MEETINGS

CASE 2

The provisional agenda for the 1555th meeting—the first periodic meeting of the Security Council—was communicated to the members of the Security Council in a note by the Secretary-General dated 19 October 1970, which read as follows:

"In accordance with the final paragraph of the consensus [S/9835] expressed by the President and approved by the Security Council at its 1544th meeting on 12 June 1970, the following provisional agenda of the first periodic meeting of the Security Council has been drawn up by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the members of the Council, and approved by the President of the Security Council:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the international situation."

The 1555th meeting was held on 21 October 1970.

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Part III

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (RULE 9)

NOTE

Under rule 9, the first item on the provisional agenda for each meeting of the Security Council is the adoption of the agenda. Unless an objection has been raised, the Council usually adopts the provisional agenda without vote.  

1 For the texts of relevant statements, see: 1601st meeting: President (Poland), para. 80; Argentina, paras. 88-90, 109-110; Belgium, para. 105; Burundi, paras. 96-100; France, paras. 74-77; Italy, paras. 101-102; Japan, para. 103; Somalia, para. 104; United Kingdom, paras. 66-70, 86; United States, para. 82; USSR, para. 72.
2 For the texts of relevant statements, see: 1601st meeting: President (Poland), para. 80; Argentina, paras. 88-90, 109-110; Belgium, para. 105; Burundi, paras. 96-100; France, paras. 74-77; Italy, paras. 101-102; Japan, para. 103; Somalia, para. 104; United Kingdom, paras. 66-70, 86; United States, para. 82; USSR, para. 72.

As in previous volumes of the *Repertoire*, part III is devoted to the proceedings of the Council on those occasions when objection has been raised to the adoption of the agenda or other discussion on the adoption of the agenda has taken place.

Section A has dealt in past volumes of the *Repertoire* with the procedure of the Council in voting on the adoption of the agenda while section B has dealt with instances when objection had been raised to the adoption of the agenda either indicating the requirement for, or the effect of the inclusion of an item in the agenda. There were no such instances during the period under review.

Under section C, are treated other questions of procedure which are related to the adoption of the agenda,
such as the order of discussion of items on the agenda (Cases 1 and 2), the scope of items and subitems on the agenda in relation to the scope of discussion (Case 3), the phrasing of items on the agenda (Cases 4, 5 and 6) and the participation of a non-member of the Council before the adoption of the agenda (Case 7). The latter case history appears under a subheading not included previously in the Repertoire.

During the period under review, participation in the discussion of the adoption of the agenda has been limited to Council members.8

**A. PROCEDURE OF VOTING ON ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1. Votes taken concerning individual items on the provisional agenda**

**2. Votes taken on proposals to determine or change the order of items**

**3. Votes taken on the adoption of the agenda as a whole**

**B. CONSIDERATION OF:**

**1. Requirements for the inclusion of an item in the agenda**

**2. Effect of the inclusion of an item in the agenda**

C. OTHER DISCUSSION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. Order of discussion of items on the agenda

**Case 3**

At the 1466th meeting on 27 March 1969 in connexion with the situation in the Middle East, item 2 of the provisional agenda7 dead as follows:

"2. Letter dated 26 March 1969 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/9113)."

Before the adoption of the agenda, the President (Hungary) informed the Council that he had, a moment ago, received a letter from the Permanent Representative of Israel8 also requesting a meeting of the Council and suggested that the letter be included as item 3 on the provisional agenda.

The representative of the United States declared that the practice of the Security Council since 1967 in discussing the various aspects of the Middle East situation had been to adopt a heading for its agenda entitled "The situation in the Middle East" and then to enter under that heading the communications from both parties to the dispute. He therefore proposed that in adopting the provisional agenda, the President stated that the letter from the representative of Israel could be included in it as item 3.

The representative of the United Kingdom observed that in adopting the agenda, the Council members should consider the over-all implications of the way the agenda was set out. On his part, he believed the indicated heading to be the proper one.

The representative of the USSR agreed with the President in that there was no prescribed and uniform order for including items in the Council's agenda nor any rigid rule for the way in which items were to be listed in drafting the agenda. He then cited a precedent that occurred at the meeting on 29 December 1968 in which communications from both parties to the dispute were included in the agenda as separate items and each of these items was preceded by the title "The situation in the Middle East". He suggested that a similar procedure be followed in the present instance.

The representative of the United States declared that he would accept the suggestion of the representative of the USSR on the understanding that each speaker may feel free to discuss all items on the agenda.10

The provisional agenda as amended was adopted upon that understanding and since there were no objections, without a vote. The agenda as adopted,11 read as follows:

"The situation in the Middle East:

"Letter dated 26 March 1969 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/9113)"

"The situation in the Middle East:

"Letter dated 27 March 1969 from the Permanent Representative of Israel addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/9114)."

**Case 4**

At the 1498th meeting on 13 August 1969, in connexion with the situation in the Middle East, items 2 and 3 of the provisional agenda12 read as follows:

6 On one occasion, however, the Council invited a non-member to make a statement before taking a decision on the adoption of the agenda. See chapter XII, Case 12.
7 S/Agenda/1466.
8 Subsequently distributed as S/9114.
2. The situation in the Middle East:

"Letter dated 12 August 1967 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Lebanon addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/9385)

3. The situation in the Middle East:

"Letter dated 12 August 1969 from the Permanent Representative of Israel addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/9387)."

After the President (Spain) had declared that if there were no objections, the provisional agenda would be adopted, the representative of the United States stated that since the letter from Lebanon and that from Israel both referred to the same subject, he would have preferred to include the two letters under a single item in the agenda. However, he would accept the provisional agenda on the understanding, in accordance with the Council’s most recent practice, that members of the Council and those participating in its proceedings would be free to deal with the agenda as a whole or with any part of it in the course of their statements.

The representative of the USSR observed that attempts by Israel to place on the same footing its own illegal acts against Lebanon and the complaints of the country that had suffered from Israeli aggression were unjustified. However, no time should be wasted on a procedural discussion and the Council should immediately start discussion of the complaint by Lebanon about the act of aggression committed against that country by Israel. In view of the urgency of the question, the USSR delegation would not object to the adoption of the provisional agenda as submitted to the Council.15

The President then declared the agenda adopted.14

2. Scope of items and subitems on the agenda in relation to the scope of discussion

CASE 5

At the 1475th meeting on 13 June 1969 in connexion with the situation in Southern Rhodesia, the representative of Algeria, on a point of order, informed the Council that the Committee established in pursuance of Security Council resolution 253 (1968) had prepared its second report and requested that the report be included as the second item in the agenda for that day’s meeting.

The President (Paraguay) stated that if there were no objections, he would declare the proposal of the representative of Algeria as adopted.15 Since there were no objections, the agenda, as amended, was adopted.16

3. Phrasing of items on the agenda

CASE 6

At the 1464th meeting on 20 March 1969, in connexion with the situation in Namibia, the President (Hungary) pointed out that the title of the item on the agenda had been changed from "The question of South West Africa" to "The situation in Namibia." This had been done, he said, in light of the General Assembly resolution 2372 (XX) of 12 June 1968 which provided that South West Africa would from then on be known by the name of "Namibia".17

CASE 7

At the 1579th meeting on 16 September 1971, in connexion with the situation in the Middle East, the provisional agenda included the following item:

"2. The situation in the Middle East:

"Letter dated 13 September 1971 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10313)."

During the discussion on the adoption of the agenda, the representative of Syria pointed out that the Council had adopted three resolutions on the question of Jerusalem, each of which had requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of that resolution and that pursuant to those resolutions the Secretary-General had submitted several reports to the Council. He therefore proposed to divide item 2 of the provisional agenda into two sections as follows:

"The situation in the Middle East.

"(a) Letter dated 13 September 1971 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10313);

"(b) Reports of the Secretary-General (S/8052, S/8146, S/9149 and Add.1, S/9537, S/10124 and Add.1 and 2)."

There being no objection, the agenda as amended was adopted.18

CASE 8

At the 1614th meeting on 14 December 1971, item 2 of the provisional agenda read as follows:

"2. Letter dated 12 December 1971 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10444)."

Before the adoption of the agenda, the representative of Somalia, raising a point of order, stated that although the Council had been debating the situation in the India/Pakistan subcontinent since 4 December, this had not been reflected in the agenda of the Council. He suggested that for the sake of convenience, the title of the question under the Council’s consideration could be changed to read: "The situation in the India/Pakistan subcontinent".

The representatives of China and France supported the suggestion of the representative of Somalia and in the absence of any other comments, the President declared the agenda as amended, adopted.19

**4. Postponement of consideration of items

**5. Precedence of the decision on adoption of the agenda

13 For texts of relevant statements, see 1498th meeting: President (Spain), paras. 1, 9; United States, para. 2; USSR, paras. 3-8.
14 Ibid., para. 9.
15 For text of relevant statements, see 1475th meeting: President (Paraguay), para. 4; Algeria, para. 3.
16 Ibid., para. 4.
17 For text of relevant statement, see: 1464th meeting, para. 10.
18 For text of relevant statements, see: 1579th meeting: President (Japan), para. 7; Syria, paras. 3-5.
19 For texts of relevant statements, see: 1614th meeting: President (Sierra Leone), paras. 1-2, 9; China, para. 6; France, para. 5; Somalia, paras. 3-4, 8.
NOTE

Rule 10 of the provisional rules of procedure was designed to enable the Security Council to continue, at its next meeting, the consideration of an item of unfinished business without subjecting that item to renewed debate in connexion with the adoption of the agenda. In practice, however, the provisional agenda has not contained all items of unfinished business.

In the previous volumes of the Repertoire, it was noted that items on the agenda of the Council have remained on the Secretary-General's summary statement of matters of which the Security Council is seized when the tenor of the Council's discussion or its specific decisions have revealed a continuing concern with the matter.20


During the period under review, additional evidence supporting such retention has been provided when the President of the Council has announced, upon conclusion of the debate, that the Council remained seized of a question.21

The tabulation appearing in section B.1 supplements the tabulation in the previous volume of the Repertoire and indicates the changes that have since occurred in the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized.

**A. RULE 10


21 For the statements of the President, see: 1465th meeting, para. 166, and 1529th meeting, para. 201, in connexion with the situation in Namibia; 1491st meeting, para. 38, in connexion with the complaint by Zambia; 1520th meeting, para. 68 and 1601st meeting, para. 133, in connexion with the complaint by India/Pakistan subcontinent; 1557th meeting, para. 34 in connexion with the situation in Southern Rhodesia; 1563rd meeting, para. 190, in connexion with the complaint by Guinea.

B. RULE 11

1. Retention and deletion of items from the Secretary-General's Summary Statements on matters of which the Security Council is seized

This tabulation supplements those appearing in the Repertoire, 1946-1951, the Supplement, 1952-1955, pp. 33-40, the Supplement, 1956-1958, pp. 38-45, the Supplement, 1959-1963, pp. 49-61, the Supplement, 1964-1965, pp. 29-41, and the Supplement, 1966-1968, pp. 40-54. Part 1 indicates items added to the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized during the period 1969-1971, part 2 indicates items appearing on previous lists concerning which new information was included in the summary statements during that period, and part 3 indicates items which were deleted from the list during the same period. The titles used are those occurring in the Summary Statements except for some abridgements.

1. ITEMS ADDED TO THE LIST OF MATTERS OF WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS SEIZED DURING THE PERIOD 1969-1971

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>First inclusion in the agenda</th>
<th>First entry in Summary Statement</th>
<th>Last action of the Council as of 31 December 1971</th>
<th>Final entry in Summary Statement as of 31 December 1971</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complaint by Zambia: letter dated 15 July 1969 from the Permanent Representative of Zambia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/9331)</td>
<td>1486th meeting, 18 July 1969</td>
<td>S/9346, 22 July 1969</td>
<td>Adopted joint draft resolution (S/10365/Rev.1) 1592nd meeting, 12 October 1971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter dated 18 August 1969 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/9397) (The question of Micro-States)</td>
<td>1505th meeting, 27 August 1969</td>
<td>S/9427, 25 August 1969</td>
<td>Established a committee of experts to study the question 1506th meeting, 29 August 1969</td>
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</table>
Letter dated 23 September 1969 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/9462)

Election of members of the International Court of Justice

Complaint by Guinea: letter dated 4 December 1969 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Guinea addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/9528)

The question of Bahrain

The question of initiating periodic meetings of the Security Council

The situation created by increasing incidents involving the hijacking of commercial aircraft

Admission of new Members: Fiji

Bhutan

Bahrain

Qatar

Oman

United Arab Emirates

The situation in the India/Pakistan subcontinent

Rules of procedure of the Security Council

The question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Republic of South Africa: letter dated 11 July 1963

2. Items which appeared in previous volumes of the Repertoire on which new action by the Security Council was reported in summary statements issued during the period 1969-1971
Part IV. The agenda: Matters of which the Security Council is seized

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<thead>
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<th>Item</th>
<th>First inclusion in the agenda</th>
<th>First entry in Summary Statement</th>
<th>Last action of the Council of 31 December 1971</th>
<th>Final entry in Summary Statement of 31 December 1971</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter dated 26 December 1963 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/5488)</td>
<td>1085th meeting, 27 December 1963</td>
<td>S/5500, 31 December 1963</td>
<td>Adopted draft resolution submitted by the President (resolution 305 (1971)) 1612th meeting, 13 December 1971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The situation in the Middle Eastb</td>
<td>1341st meeting, 24 May 1967</td>
<td>S/7913, 29 May 1967</td>
<td>Adopted draft resolution submitted by Somalia (S/10337) 1582nd meeting, 25 September 1971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The situation in Namibiae</td>
<td>1387th meeting, 25 January 1968</td>
<td>S/8367, 30 January 1968</td>
<td>Adopted joint draft resolution (S/10372/Rev.1) 1598th meeting, 20 October 1971</td>
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3. Items which were deleted from the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized during the period 1969-1971

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>First inclusion in the agenda</th>
<th>First entry in Summary Statement</th>
<th>Last action of the Council of 31 December 1971</th>
<th>Final entry in Summary Statement of 31 December 1971</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Election of members of the International Court of Justice</td>
<td>1515th meeting, 27 October 1969</td>
<td>S/9495, 3 November 1969</td>
<td>Recommended five candidates to fill vacancies 1515th meeting, 27 October 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission of new Members:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>1554th meeting, 10 October 1970</td>
<td>S/9961, 13 October 1970</td>
<td>Recommended 1554th meeting, 10 October 1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>1565th meeting, 9 February 1971</td>
<td>S/10121, 15 February 1971</td>
<td>Recommended 1566th meeting, 10 February 1971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>1574th meeting, 16 August 1971</td>
<td>S/10296, 23 August 1971</td>
<td>Recommended 1575th meeting, 18 August 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>1577th meeting, 14 September 1971</td>
<td>S/10327, 21 September 1971</td>
<td>Recommended 1578th meeting, 15 September 1971</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>1574th meeting, 16 August 1971</td>
<td>S/10296, 23 August 1971</td>
<td>Recommended 1587th meeting, 5 October 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>1608th meeting, 6 December 1971</td>
<td>S/10462, 17 December 1971</td>
<td>Recommended 1609th meeting, 8 December 1971</td>
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</table>

**2. Proceedings of the Security Council regarding the retention and deletion of items from the agenda**

b First included in the agenda under the heading "Letter dated 23 May 1967 from the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Denmark addressed to the President of the Security Council." The new heading was included in the Council's agenda at the 1369th meeting on 24 October 1967.

c At the 1364th meeting on 20 March 1969 the Council, without objection, included the question of "South West Africa" in its agenda under a new heading entitled "The situation in Namibia."