



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 September 2020

Excellency,

Reference is made to my letter dated 27 August 2020, regarding the virtual informal meeting of the plenary on the Annual Report of the Security Council (A/74/2), held on 31 August 2020.

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 51/241 of 22 August 1997, by which the 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 of the Security Council...*”; and further to suggestions and proposals from some Member States, including circulating a compilation of the statements delivered at the debate, I had, via the aforementioned letter, invited delegations that desired to have their statements so circulated to submit copies to my Office

In this regard, I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, a compilation of the statements submitted to my Office. Kindly note that the compilation has also been forwarded to the President of the Security Council.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a flourish.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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

**STATEMENTS DURING THE VIRTUAL INFORMAL MEETING OF  
THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE  
REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL 2019  
31 AUGUST 2020**

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## **ACCOUNTABILITY, COHERENCE & TRANSPARENCY (ACT)**

### **Statement by Dominique Favre, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland on Behalf of ACT Group**

Mr. President,

1. I am pleased to take the floor on behalf of members of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group (ACT) Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Uruguay, and Switzerland. We welcome the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly adopted by the Security Council on 14th July 2020 and contained in document A/74/2. We thank you for convening today's meeting and the Indonesian presidency of the Council for the month of August for presenting the report.

2. The ACT group promotes a more transparent, effective and efficient United Nations. Promoting meaningful interaction of the Security Council with the General Assembly and greater transparency and accountability regarding the work of the Security Council towards the wider UN membership is a priority of the Group. Against this backdrop, we cannot overemphasize the importance of today's discussion for the institutional relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council. As stated in our letter to you dated 24 August 2020, we take note that today's meeting takes place as a "virtual informal meeting" of the General Assembly. While we understand that a formal meeting of the General Assembly is not possible under the present circumstances, today's discussion must uphold the greatest standard of transparency and inclusion. The ACT Group is therefore grateful for your decision to circulate a compilation of statements delivered at this debate, in line with General Assembly resolution 51/241 and with the proposal made by our Group. The present statement will be subsequently circulated to your office.

Mr. President,

3. As we discuss the 2019 Annual report of the Security Council today, the ACT Group would like to address both the process and the substance of the report. We will also look ahead to the Annual report for the year 2020.

4. First, on the process: the ACT Group acknowledges the progress made in the timeline of adoption of the report by the Security Council. We commend the Russian Federation for its dedication in steering this process. While a more suitable date for the discussion of the report at the General Assembly could have been found, we deem that this year's process brings a positive momentum ahead of the 2020 Annual report, which will be the first that will have to follow the more precise timeline set out by the Security Council in its Note by the President S/2019/997 of 27 December 2019. As per the aforementioned note, the Annual report 2020 shall be adopted by the Council no later than 30 May 2021 and considered by the General Assembly "immediately thereafter". We look forward to a subsequent discussion at the General Assembly at a date that allows delegations enough time to prepare for the debate.

5. Second, on the content of the introduction to the report that we are considering today: The report provides a valuable and factual overview of the work of the Security Council last year. 2019 has indeed been a busy year for the Council and has seen important progress in the field of working methods with the adoption of eight Notes by the President at the end of the year. The ACT Group particularly welcomes these adoptions as well as the progress witnessed in the implementation of some of these Notes since the beginning of this year.

6. While aware of the challenge of reaching consensus on substantive and more analytical language, the ACT Group deems that the introduction to the report would add even more value by addressing some of the trends in the area of international peace and security and the work of the Council, beyond individual files. Contributions by briefers from other UN organs or the civil society as well as those by non-Council members during relevant meetings could also be better reflected. We would also suggest to include details on the draft resolutions that failed to be adopted by the Council. The ACT Group also wishes to underline the importance and encourage the compilation and use of monthly assessments by Council presidencies. These constitute important reference documents to reflect the views of members and to inform the work of the drafter of the Annual report and the deliberations of the Council on the matter.

7. Third, looking ahead to the Annual report 2020 and beyond: 2020 will be marked by the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic both on the

functioning of the Security Council as well as on almost all of the items on its agenda. The ACT Group calls on the Council to give due consideration, in the report's introduction, to the impact of the pandemic on international peace and security and the Council's work and tools, possibly through a section of the introduction dedicated to an overall and cross-cutting analysis of the matter. We invite Council members to discuss this option, including in the framework of the Security Council Informal working group on documentation and other procedural questions. We also trust that the Council will give due consideration in the 2020 Annual report to all meetings that have taken place in a virtual format, notwithstanding the fact that they have been labelled as "informal" meetings in the programme of work of the Council since April 2020. The ACT Group looks forward to engage with Niger and other Council members throughout this process.

### **[SWISS NATIONAL STATEMENT:]**

Mr President,

To conclude my intervention, allow me to highlight three brief points in my national capacity, while commending again – the Russian Federation for its leadership in coordinating the process this year and achieving progress in the timeline of adoption of the 2019 Annual Report.

First, the high number and complexity of conflict situations in 2019 underline the need for a responsive and well-functioning Security Council. We welcome the Council's efforts in 2019 to support peacebuilding and promote sustaining peace. The Council should more actively seek and take into account the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission on relevant contexts under its consideration. The Council should also be responsive to early warning indicators of looming crises and effectively engage with the human rights pillar of the UN.

Second, 2019 saw the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and the 20th anniversary of Protection of civilians on the Council's agenda. Switzerland welcomes efforts by Council members to underline the importance of international humanitarian law as well as the adoption of resolution 2474(2019) on missing persons. The Council must nevertheless do more to support the implementation of IHL and the respect for human rights, including in counter-terrorism settings, in line among others with its resolution 2462(2019). When the Council fails to deliver on its responsibility regarding accountability, the General Assembly has an important role to play as Syria and Myanmar show.

Third, the two resolutions 2467 and 2493 adopted in 2019 brought some progress on the Women, Peace and Security agenda but also highlighted the need of a more rigorous implementation of the relevant WPS resolutions. The Council should seize the opportunity of the 20th anniversary of resolution 1325 to follow-up on WPS obligations and commitments in a more systematic manner, on all relevant country-situations on its agenda.

Thank you.

## AUSTRIA

### **Statement by Ambassador Alexander Marschik, Permanent Representative of Austria**

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Excellencies,

Austria fully aligns herself with the statement on behalf **ACT group** of the promoting a more transparent, effective and efficient United Nations.

We very much welcome the conduct of today's meeting. Discussing the annual report of the Security Council with the wider membership is an important annual event that we would not want to miss.

We regret that the meeting today can only be held **as a virtual informal meeting**. We hope that the circumstances will allow us to return to the usual practice of holding these meetings in a formal way next year

Let me briefly touch upon some **specific issues regarding the 2019 report**:

- First of all, concerning the **monthly assessments** by former Presidents of the Security Council of 2019, we welcome that eight Security Council members have already provided their contribution. We hope that the remaining reports will follow in due course and that the **website will be updated** accordingly in order to guarantee best possible transparency.
- Secondly, we very much value the opportunity to interact with the Security Council members. We look forward to **next year, when** – as expected - **the 2020 report will be submitted until 30 May**, giving all of us ample time for a thorough examination.

Looking ahead, we encourage the Security Council members to include the **implications of the COVID-19 pandemic** on the work and working methods of the Security Council when finalizing the 2020 report. This pandemic affects each and everyone of us. As committed member of the UN and strong supporter of effective multilateralism, we expect all organs of the UN to fully engage in countering the impact of this global crisis. The Security Council must always live up to its responsibilities, as enshrined in the UN Charter, including in these difficult times of the pandemic. This needs to be clearly reflected in the 2020 report

Finally, let me mention one point that is very dear to Austria:

For all of us – for the world community – we need an active and effective Security Council. Clearly, there will always be differences in opinion among the Security Council members. That is part of international politics. However, **we must ensure that the Security Council can act and assume the responsibilities it is entrusted under the Charter**. This means that all members of the Security Council must seek to overcome differences of opinion using all avenues for dialogue. No one wins when the Security Council is “missing in action” or when trust in multilateral organizations erodes. Especially, during this time of crisis, preventing conflicts and future atrocities is one of the biggest responsibilities there is; and all states – big and small - must undertake all efforts to ensure that the Security Council can fully play its role.

Austria has always been and will remain an **active and committed member of the United Nations** and supporter of effective multilateralism,

- since Austria's joining the UN 65 years ago,
- as host of the UN in Vienna,
- as troop contributing country to UN peace missions since 1960.

Moreover, we are aware of the serious responsibility membership of the Security Council entails. This is the organ of the United Nations that decides and acts on issues of international peace and security.

Austria is ready to assume additional responsibilities and thus runs for **membership of the Security Council for the term 2027-2028.**

I thank you.

## **AZERBAIJAN**

### **Statement by Mr. Tofiq Musayev Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening today's meeting to consider the annual report of the Security Council, as contained in document A/74/2. We also thank the Security Council for submitting the report to the General Assembly, in fulfillment of its obligation under Article 24(3) of the Charter of the United Nations. General Assembly deliberations on the annual reports of the Security Council are important avenues for Member States to share their views on the work of the Council and to emphasize the areas of concern that require special attention and dedication.

Taking into account that the Security Council, in discharging its functions, acts on behalf of all Member States, the broader United Nations membership should be given more opportunities to be heard. We take a positive note of some developments in this respect



and look forward to additional efforts to enhance the transparency and accountability of the Security Council and its interaction with the wider membership.

Current challenges to peace and security facing the world call for a strengthening of the international legal order and redoubled efforts at all levels. Strict compliance with the generally accepted norms and principles of international law guiding inter-State relations is imperative to that end.

The effectiveness and accountable functioning of the Security Council necessitate, first and foremost, the implementation of its decisions. Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations is clear about the obligations of Member States to that effect. The fact that unlawful use of force against sovereign States and the resulting territorial acquisitions continue, the Security Council resolutions notwithstanding, does not mean that such state of affairs can constitute an accepted practice of the Council.

Mr. President,

As is known, in its unanimously adopted resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), the Security Council condemned the use of force against Azerbaijan, the occupation of its territories, the attacks on civilians and the bombardment of inhabited areas in my country, reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory. In response to territorial claims and forcible actions, the Security Council reconfirmed in those resolutions that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an integral part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories.

It was exactly the Armenian armed attacks against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories, which elicited the aforementioned resolutions of the Security Council, as well as seven statements by its President. The resolutions provide authoritative clarification as to the committed acts, the violated obligations and the duties to put an end to the illegal situation thus created. They qualified Armenia's actions as the unlawful use of force and invalidated its claims over the territories of Azerbaijan once and for all.

The numerous decisions and documents adopted by other international organizations are framed along the same lines.

Thus, in its declaration of 4 November 1993, adopted in connection with the expansion of territorial seizures by the Armenian armed forces notwithstanding the Security Council resolutions, the OSCE Minsk Group stated in particular that "no acquisition of territory by

force can be recognized, and the occupation of territory cannot be used to obtain international recognition or to impose a change of legal status" ((S/26718, enclosure I).

However, key Security Council demands remain unimplemented until now and, as an immediate corollary, this unresolved conflict and its military and humanitarian consequences continue to endanger peace, security and development. Moreover, Armenia persistently obstructs the conflict settlement process and regularly resorts to various provocations aimed at escalating the situation on the ground and consolidating the current status quo.

On 12 July 2020, the armed forces of Armenia, in blatant violation of international law, launched a cross-border attack against Azerbaijan in the Tovuz district, with the use of artillery and mortars. The attacks continued on the following days, directly targeting also the adjacent densely populated areas in the Aghdam, Dongar Qushchu and Alibeyli villages of the Tovuz district of Azerbaijan. As a result, a 76-year-old resident of the Aghdam village and 12 officers and soldiers of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were killed, and many were wounded. Serious damage was inflicted upon the civilian facilities in the area. It is notable that Armenia launched the attacks across the international border, far away from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Even the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has not prevented Armenia from its armed provocation. It is apparent that Armenia's statement on its alleged support for and adherence to the appeal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a global ceasefire is nothing other than utter falsehood. No doubt, Armenia's objective is not to save lives and alleviate the sufferings of people in need, but to expand and secure its aggression and annexation. Instead of preparing its population for peace, the current Armenian leadership has replicated its predecessors' annexationist policy, both in words and deeds.

The recent escalation has taken place against the background of Armenia's continued attempts to challenge the format of negotiations and derail the peace process, misinterpret the norms and principles of international law, the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and other documents and decisions on the conflict settlement, prolong the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, strengthen its military build-up in these territories and change their demographic, cultural and physical character. Such actions, as well as the attempts by Armenia to introduce the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan – the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied districts – under different fake names, promote and advertise the unlawful puppet regime it has established in those territories have nothing in common with the objective of the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict based on international law.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought to the attention of the international community that Armenia's aggression is the main cause of the war and the reoccurring escalations on the ground. We have consistently brought to the attention of the Security Council the challenges emanating from the continued unlawful occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan. The communications submitted by Azerbaijan and circulated as documents of the Security Council and the General Assembly during the reporting period are referred to in Chapter 5 of Part V of the Report of the Security Council under consideration.

It is pertinent to recall in that regard that serious breaches of obligations under peremptory norms of general international law give rise to additional consequences. They include, inter alia, the duties of States to cooperate in order to bring to an end such breaches by lawful means and not to recognize as lawful a situation created by a serious breach, nor render aid or assistance in maintaining that situation. It is therefore critical that the international community insist on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) and on strict compliance by Armenia with its international obligations.

Aggression and its military consequences do not represent a solution and will never bring peace, reconciliation and stability. The resolution of the conflict is possible only on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders. Azerbaijan considers no political solution to the conflict beyond this framework and participates in the settlement process based on this understanding.

Thank you.

## **BRAZIL**

### **Statement by the Delegation of Brazil**

Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this informal meeting, which is a valuable opportunity for the wider membership to reflect on the recent activities by the Security Council. I also thank

the president of the Security Council and Permanent Representative of Indonesia, Dian Tryansiah Djani, for his presentation of the Council's annual report.

Even though we recognize that members of the Security Council have been striving to enhance its working methods, especially by implementing the recommendations contained in the Presidential Note 507, we are still far from a more inclusive body. Therefore, besides considering the 2019 report, we hope that this informal meeting will also focus on how to bring about a more transparent, accountable and efficient Security Council.

The annual report should not be the only occasion in which the Security Council is accountable before the General Assembly. On the contrary: the United Nations Charter, in its letter and its spirit, prescribes that the Security Council should maintain regular coordination, cooperation and interaction with the principal organs of the United Nations, especially the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. This should also apply to other relevant bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission, with full respect for their respective competencies. All those bodies should reinforce each other's roles, as well as work together so as to avoid overlapping and encroachment on each other's competencies.

Having that in mind, we welcome the Note by President of the Security Council adopted on 27 December 2019, in which the members of the Council reiterated its willingness to ensure the timely submission of its annual report.

However, our concerns go beyond the timeliness of the report. We still feel that the document before us is primarily descriptive. More in-depth analysis of the problems and challenges faced by the Council, as well of possible options to overcome them, would greatly enrich today's discussion. As it stands now, the report consists more of a factual presentation of the Council's main activities, with not too much attention devoted to the way ahead.

Allow me to highlight Article 24 (3) of the Charter, according to which, and I quote, "the Security Council shall submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly for its consideration".

For a long time, the wider membership has been calling for the submission of an analytical and comprehensive annual report, with a candid assessment of its work. We are still falling short of this expectation.

Likewise, special reports to the General Assembly have also been rarely presented, even though the Charter envisions them as another way of keeping the wider membership well informed of the Council's activities.

Let me also recall the pertinent recommendations contained in Presidential Note 507. For example, paragraph 129 mentions the possibility of interactive informal exchanges of views with the wider membership in order to help the Council in the drafting of the report's introduction. Paragraph 136, on the other hand, recognize the value of a monthly assessment of each presidency in providing as much information as possible on the main

aspects of the work of the Council. Finally, paragraph 139 encourage continuing efforts to ensure the inclusion in the annual report of more substantive information on the Council's work.

If fully implemented, those recommendations would already represent an important step to make the annual report an even more informative and forward-looking document.

Among the issues that could receive a more analytical presentation we could mention the need for better interaction with Troop and Police Contributing Countries, especially when mandates are being discussed, and enhanced access of affected Member States to the Security Council's subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, especially in view of the fact that those organs usually deal directly with issues that concern the wider membership.

We expect that those suggestions, which are not new but remain current, can be considered by the Security Council in its next reporting cycle.

Finally, Mr. President, Brazil reiterates that all the efforts to improve the annual report and the working methods of the Security Council, as well as to enhance its accountability and relationship with the General Assembly, do not replace the urgent need for a structural reform, with the creation of new permanent and non-permanent seats that reflect our contemporary reality.

Thank you very much.

## **CABO VERDE**

### **Statement by Ambassador Jose Luis Rocha Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde**

M. President of the General Assembly

Speaking on behalf of the Delegation of Cabo Verde, I would like to thank you M. President for convening the present virtual meeting to consider the Report of the Security Council for 2019, with the reference A/74/2.

I take note and commend the Security Council for the submission of this Report in conformity with the provision of the Charter of the United Nations, under Article 24.3. I Thank the current chair of the Security Council for introducing and Russia Federation for the drafting of the Report.

The report falls also within Article 15 of the Charter by which the General Assembly shall receive and consider annual and special reports from the Security Council. The reports shall include an account of measures that the Security Council has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security.

Taken together articles 15 and 24 strengthen the principles of reporting, transparency and subsidiarity between the broad political mandate of the Assembly and the special mandate of the Council and therefore, the basis for a much-needed and structural dialogue between the two main bodies, as often recommended.

That said, my Delegation, in recognition of the importance of the link between sustaining peace and sustainable development, underlines the evidence and the strength of the complementary of the work of the General Assembly and the Security Council in this perspective.

The report shows a quantitative list of the work carried out in the number of meetings, resolutions, missions and statements, as well as the range of geographical and thematic activities that it lists within the more general mandate of the Security Council, for maintenance or for addressing the threats to international peace and security. However, we would welcome more substantive summary analysis of the main issues covered.

M. President,

Cabo Verde is a country that has always known peace and, more than the absence of conflict, is rooted in political and social stability. However, peace everywhere cannot be achieved if there is no peace somewhere. That is why we do everything in our international commitment, as an obligation stemming from our responsibility as a member state, to promote peace and security in the world and as an essential condition for our development at home, our integration in the world and in our neighbor region.

Cabo Verde has also a geographical location with a dispersed territory in a large EEZ, that place the country at the crossroad and make it vulnerable to international drug – trafficking. Adding the nexus between transnational organized crime and the surrounding terrorism the threat cannot be more real for our people, our economy and our peace.

In both cases, absence of peace and major threats to security, Africa has a prominent place in the set of situations exposed in the Report, which requires a renewed attention, with bold, national, regional and international actions. Security Council leadership, cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and the General Assembly's alert will be essential to achieve progress therein.

We also believe that other areas of direct or indirect risk to peace and security building need more attention from the Security Council in the chapter on thematic issues.

Unrest due to poverty and lack of development, the rush to resources, land and water due to climate change, the trafficking or smuggling of mineral resources, illegal fishing, piracy, cybercrime, hate speeches and extreme events like COVID 19 with global economic and social disruption, are examples and potential causes of conflicts that do not fall under the traditional definition of threats to peace and security.

M. President,

In conclusion, I again welcome the Security Council Report for the opportunity it offers us to have this fruitful discussion today about a critical asset that is peace and security, as well as in the context of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

I would also note the fact that the report is an important source and complement of information, especially for member states that have little chance of being non-permanent Members or that cannot participate in the closed meetings of this important body of the United Nations System. 75 years on, it is time to consider or reconsider the possibility of greater access, as observers to the work of the Security Council, by all member states of the United Nations, in addition to opportunities given by the open debates, Aria formula and other meetings.

I thank you for your attention!

### **CARRIBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

#### **Statement By Ambassador Elizabeth Thompson, Permanent Representative of Barbados on Behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

Mr President, I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the countries of CARICOM. We commend Kuwait for the progress made within the context of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions towards early submission of the Security Council's Annual Report to the General Assembly. Through Note S/2019/997 of December 2019, the Security Council committed itself to adopting the annual report no later than 30 May, in time for its consideration by the United Nations

General Assembly immediately thereafter. This measure represents an effort by the Council to address long-standing concerns of the membership regarding the late submission of the report.

While we note that the contents of S/2019/997 take effect in 2021, we recognise, and applaud, the dedication of Russia, this year's penholder, and indeed, the Security Council as a whole, for the preparation of the report contained in document A/74/2, which chronicles the activities of the Council between 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. We also recognise the role of the Secretariat in supporting this early completion, which allowed for advance notice of the General Assembly discussion.

It cannot be gainsaid, that the circumstances under which this report was prepared are extraordinary and unprecedented, thereby making its timeliness all the more commendable. Despite the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is noteworthy that the 14 July adoption of the Annual Report took place weeks earlier than the previous two reports. We acknowledge that this debate is the primary vehicle through which the membership expresses its views and expectations of the Security Council and, to that extent, we encourage further endeavours towards achieving the guidelines established in note S/2019/997.

We take this opportunity to underscore the importance of monthly assessments in the preparation of this report. In this regard, we recall paragraph 136 of the Presidential Note on Working methods (S/2017/507), which reiterates the Council's recognition of the value of monthly assessments. As these are submitted in Members' national capacity, they can be used as a means of providing more insight into the work of the Council, thereby contributing to the overall analytical character of the report which needs to be enhanced.

The debate of the Annual Report is evidence of the operation of Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, which appoints the Security Council as the primary organ for maintaining international peace and security. In furtherance of this provision, Article 24 (3), tasks the Security Council with submitting an annual report to the General Assembly for its consideration. Pursuant to this, the Security Council acts on behalf of the UNGA. And in turn, the debate on the report within the UNGA ensures the fulfilment of the obligations bestowed on the Security Council by Article 24. But the fact of a Report is just the beginning of the process and necessity of accountability and transparency. Of equally critical importance to inclusiveness and effectiveness of the review of the Security Council and its work, by the General Assembly, are the content and omissions of the report.

Indeed, the very existence of a debate on the annual report is an attempt at introducing and maintaining transparency. Hence, pivotal to ensuring transparency, is the guarantee



that the report is comprehensive and analytical, a call that was repeated by the membership during the Open debate of May 15 this year, on the theme "Ensuring Transparency, Efficiency and Effectiveness" and reiterated here today.

Mr President we commend you and all those whose efforts have contributed to an earlier report, who, by so doing, helped to shine the light of transparency on the Security Council and urge that we continue to strengthen the process and the content of the report.

Mr President, I thank you for your time.

## **CHILE**

### **Statement by Ambassador Milenko Skoknic, Permanent Representation of Chile**

Thank you, Mr. President and the Russian Federation, for presenting this report, on which please allow me to briefly highlight some elements of especial interest to my delegation. Chile adheres to the statement made by Switzerland on behalf of the ACT Group, and join as well in recognizing the efforts made to deliver this report as early as possible, and urge the Council to continue with this efforts, in compliance with the mandate that establishes the end of May as deadline for its submission.

Understanding that the issues contained in this document are of paramount importance to our entire Organization and the international community, we would also like to encourage the members of the Council to consider in the forthcoming reports the comments made during this meeting by Member States, as we believe it would enhance greater transparency and participation in this process, reinforcing the legitimacy and credibility of the works of the Security Council and through it, contribute to strengthening the multilateral system as a whole.

In closing Mr. President, while we know that the period of COVID-19 is not contemplated in this report, we hope that it will be reflected in the 2020 one in a special way, particularly because of the impact that the pandemic has had on the adaptation of the working methods of the this UN Body.

Thank you.

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## **COSTA RICA**

### **Statement by Ambassador Rodrigo A. Carazo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica**

Mr. President;

Costa Rica aligns itself with the statement delivered by Switzerland on behalf of the Group for the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency.

Costa Rica thanks the Permanent Representative of Indonesia for presenting the Security Council's Annual Report for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019 and for the information there-in provided regarding the large and growing workload carried out by the Council. Costa Rica would also like to thank the Russian Federation for its efforts in preparing the introduction to the Report and very importantly, we wish to acknowledge the important work of the current non-permanent members of the Council, as well as those who finished on 31 December 2019, from whom much important energy to maintain the health and accountability of the Security Council comes.

#### **I. Introduction**

"In 2019, the international situation remained quite turbulent. The Council continued to focus on a number of serious unresolved conflicts, .... The impact of those conflicts remained severe. Common ground was not always within reach, especially on the most sensitive and high-profile issues." Security Council Report 2019, second paragraph, page

In a 206-page Report, this is the only substantive statement we were able to identify. Despite the clear indication of paragraph 139 of note 507 regarding working methods of

the Security Council, which encourages Council members to ensure the inclusion in the Report of more substantive information on the Council's work-, the lack of analytical content generates a barrier to a proper understanding of the agenda of the Security Council, its challenges and its accomplishments.

Costa Rica wishes to recall resolution RES/73/341 2019 resulting from the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly — which states that presentation and discussion of SC's Annual Report should be a solemn act centered on substance. The above-mentioned resolution further adds in paragraph 17 that discussion of this important report is not to be conducted in a perfunctory manner. In this regard, Costa Rica also reminds that the debate of 2018's Annual Report at the General Assembly was done in two full sessions held on Sept. 10 and 12, 2019 in which 29 delegations took the floor.

Few of the Security Council members were present in the discussion sessions on Sept. 10 and 12th. The Security Council held a regular sessions at the same time, which can only be considered a breach of the working methods established on Note 507 and of the principles defining courteous relations among any two organs, least to say between the two major organs of the United Nations.

Among the interventions of Member States on those two sessions in September 2019, the basic issues raised by Member States referred to:

- Excessive tardiness of the presentation of the 2018 Report.
- Despite the guidelines in the presidential note 507 (S/2017/507)- Representatives that intervened in this matter: Switzerland, Thailand, Singapore, Uruguay, Rwanda, Austria, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Norway, Italy, Georgia, Guatemala, Pakistan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, New Zealand, Ireland, Estonia and India.
- Lack of substantive assertions of any kind throughout the Report.
  - The Report is fundamentally a list of Resolutions, Letters of the President and other documents already made public.
  - There is no reference to draft resolutions considered by the Council at its meetings but not adopted, as mandated in the working methods. (Paragraph 131, Presidential note 507)
  - There is no reference to vetoes at all that have been cast on resolutions approved or vetoes threatened during negotiations. Representatives that intervened on this matter: Liechtenstein, Argentina, Mexico, Italy, Georgia, New Zealand, Ireland and Sweden.
  - The Report lists only 5 monthly assessments by the respective monthly Presidents. In relation to the missing 7 monthly assessments it does not state whether they were
  - presented or not nor whether one or more was not agreed-upon.
- Representatives that intervened in this matter: Singapore, Austria, Norway and India.

One year later, as of this writing, two of the pending countries had submitted the Report; among the five that have not presented them yet there are two of the permanent members (United States, Russian Federation).

- The only substantive sentence found in the Report reads: "In 2018, the Council continued to focus on a number of serious unresolved conflicts, .... The impact of these conflicts on civilians was severe. Large-scale humanitarian crises persisted and, in some cases, worsened, and large flows of displaced people within and across borders continued as a result of conflict. Divisions in the Council prevented it from taking effective action on some key conflicts." Page 8/227 Some state parties were concerned about the meaning of such an assertion regarding the main function of the Security Council.
- We further note that neither the President of the Security Council (except to make the formal introduction of the Report to the General Assembly and a short intervention to rebut manifestations of ACT Member Countries), nor any of the Council members, took the floor in the GA to refer to the contents of the Report or to the comments made by any of the 29 delegations that took the floor during the debate.

The President of the Security Council while making his presentation at the General Assembly in September 2019 expressed that he "looks forward to .... discussion of the Report by Member States and will convey the views of members of the General Assembly to HIS colleagues in the Security Council." , which in effect is in fulfillment of what is established in paragraph 138 of the note 507.

Such a conveyance, regarding the discussion of the 2018 Report, is not at all mentioned nor evidenced in the 2019 Report.

We must however underscore that in the six substantive paragraphs of the presentation by the distinguished President of the Security Council, more substance about the work of the Council was expressed than in the 227 pages of the whole 2018 Report.

## II. Why this exercise

As Costa Rica has expressed, the Security Council is accountable to the General Assembly. It has the responsibility to provide a comprehensive Report to the General Assembly that includes substantive information and an in-depth analysis of the work of the Council, as established in paragraph 138 of the working methods.

It is only such substantive and analytical information that can enable the Assembly to make sound decisions about the work of the Council, and especially about the foundations that support world peace and security on the basis of the Council's work.

That substantive content is what the Member States expected to be expressed in depth in the Report under analysis.

We believe that accountability in regard to the presentation of the Security Council Annual Report to the General Assembly includes the obligation of the Council to consider what is discussed in the Assembly. Otherwise it is a meaningless exercise.

An organization's working methods are a fundamental component of the processes that ensure that it is efficient and transparent. Costa Rica has been pleased to see how the Security Council has made progress in establishing and regulating processes and norms, as reflected in Presidential Note 507 (S/2017/507) and the addition of 8 new principles included in December 2019 - about which, again, nothing is commented, it is just listed. Greater openness and accountability, and the inclusion of views expressed by Member States, will all help consolidate the efficiency and transparency of the Security Council and as a result will imbue its resolutions and decisions with the strength and respect that its noble purposes strive for.

The premise established in Article 24 of the Charter whereby Member States recognize that the Security Council acts on their behalf must be applied reciprocally. Reciprocity is not recommended. It is required.

The annual Report of the Security Council to the General Assembly also reflects the principles of transparency and accountability of representatives to those they represent. It is crucial to maintain and respect those principles in order to encourage a better relationship between the two organs. The analysis of the annual Report of the Security Council is practically the only opportunity that the General Assembly has to consider and evaluate the Council's work, as well as the challenges and deficiencies the Council faces in fulfilling its mandates.

One of the objectives of this exercise should therefore not only be reporting on what the Security Council has addressed but also providing an opportunity to hold the Council to account for situations in which it has failed to fulfil its primary mandate, the maintenance of international peace and security. Such inaction has worsened the humanitarian situation of millions, displaced entire populations and resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives as a result of attacks, most of them in clear violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

"Divisions in the Council prevented it from taking effective action on some key conflicts" states the Annual Report of 2018; and "In 2019, the international situation remained quite turbulent. The Council continued to focus on a number of serious unresolved conflicts ... The impact of those conflicts remained severe. Common ground was not always within

reach, especially on the most sensitive and high-profile issues, " considers the Annual Report of 2019.

These are very serious statements, and the Reports did not elaborate on them in any way. Today's event, it is an opportunity that the General Assembly could use in the analysis of such statements, to delve deeper into the reasons for the divisions among Council Member States, which the Reports themselves acknowledge and which have so many serious and regrettable consequences.

Costa Rica urges the members of the Security Council to preserve and respect the procedures established to improve its transparency and accountability, such as the use of defined consultation processes, including requesting the membership's views on certain aspects of the Report to be submitted, as indicated in paragraph 129 of note 507.

A closer relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council can contribute to a more efficient Council that responds not just to the priorities of the membership at large but above all to the needs of humankind, which is beset by conflicts that the Organization, in general, and the Security Council, in particular, are called on to prevent and attend to.

Those conflicts, persisted and in some cases worsened, as accepted without further explanation in the Reports, due to what it calls divisions in the Council.

### III. Precedents

#### A. Resolution 51/241 of 1997:

##### "III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ...

11. The agenda item entitled "Report of the Security Council" shall continue to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly.

12. 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.

13. 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."

B. PGA's letter of December 4, 2014.

Costa Rica recalls Document (letter of the President of the General Assembly, Sam Kuteza, on December 4, 2014 addressed to all the Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers as well as to the President of the Security Council for the month of December 2014) in which PGA Kuteza transmits a list of proposals concerning the analytical nature, the preparation the report and practices expressed during the debate.

C. PGA's letter of August 2020:

And now in 27 August 2020, President of the General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad-Bande referring to the present discussion further states:

"Taking into account General Assembly resolution 51/241 of 22 August 1997, by which the 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 of the Security Council..."; and further to suggestions and proposals from some Member States, including circulating a compilation of the statements delivered at the debate, it is my intention to circulate such a compilation after the meeting. This compilation will also be forwarded to the President of the Security Council."

D. Obligations of the Security Council:

Costa Rica further recalls paragraph of 138 of note 507 on the Working Methods of the Security Council (S/2017/507) which reads:

"The members of the Security Council encourage the President of the Security Council in charge of the presentation of the report to the General Assembly to report to Council members on relevant suggestions and observations raised during the General Assembly debate..."

Based on the above mentioned precedence, resolution and communications Costa Rica respectfully requests the President of the General Assembly to write a President's summary of the current debate, with the intention, he wrote, to follow up with the President of the Security Council and also requests the President of the Security Council to fulfil the procedure stated in paragraph 138 of said Note. We equally suggest that both organs, after due consideration, establish this process of accountability as accepted working method of the respective United Nations bodies.

IV. Some comments to the 2019 Report of the Security Council.

- Throughout its 206 pages the Report lacks substantive assertions and analysis.

It is characterized by a total absence of analytical content, very limited insight of the context into the decisions taken by the Council. It provides no perspective and doesn't even attempt to evidence the extent of the background. There is no analysis of trends in the evolution of positions, nor new principles established. In addition, there is no reflection at all of the work of the subsidiary bodies.

- Once again, the Report is fundamentally a list of resolutions, letters of President and other documents already made public in due time.

- There is no reference at all to vetoes having been casted on resolutions failed to be approved or about the threat to veto during negotiations.

- The report, as originally issued, lists only 8 monthly assessments by the respective monthly Presidencies. (one Presidency submitted its assessment after distribution of the Report)

In relation to the other 3 assessments, two of which by permanent members including again the United States and the Russian Federation (China did not hold the Presidency in 2019), the Report does not state whether they were presented or not, nor whether one or more was not agreed-upon. (The report states that the monthly assessments not available at the time of issuance of the present report will be posted on the Security Council website as they become available. However, they haven't been posted as the month of August of 2020 comes to an end today -- that is, more than an eight-month delay).

- As quoted in the beginning of this statement there is only one substantive sentence found in the Report which reads:

"In 2019, the international situation remained quite turbulent. The Council continued to focus on a number of serious unresolved conflicts, in particular in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. The impact of those conflicts remained severe. Common ground was not always within reach, especially on the most sensitive and high-profile issues " Security Council Report 2019, page 8.

Other than that, there is no substantive information in the introduction that is either analytical nor explicit; all the contents are factual. There is no other substantive sentence found in the Report, neither the introduction nor any of monthly assessments "contained" any substantive content at all, no opinion, no explanations.

- As per the 2019 Report, the entire two-day discussion by the GA of the 2018 Report was "nonexistent". Despite the fact that an "space" was provided (see page 163), the page is absolutely blank, empty :



Note by drafter: Document 8597 and communication / 2019/66 both dated 20 August referred to the approval by the Council of its 2018 Annual Report.

- In Regards to working methods of the Council, the only reference in the Report reads that: "The Council continued its consideration of its working methods, including through the implementation of the note by the President of the Council (S/2017/507). In June, the Council held an open debate on that issue. In December, the Council adopted eight notes by the President of the Council." (paragraph 154 page. 21) The Reports lists the 8 notes and their contents, without any comments whatsoever.

- Meaning of "assessment"

It is established in the Working Methods of the Council that:

(131). (The Annual Report will include) ..(xi) Assessment reports issued by the individual monthly presidencies of the Council on its work;

(136). The members of the Security Council recognize the value of a monthly assessment of each presidency in providing as much information as possible on the main aspects of the work of the Council during that month, which can be useful in the preparation of the annual report.

(139). The members of the Security Council encourage continuing efforts to ensure the inclusion in the annual report of more substantive information on the Council's work.

None of the nine monthly assessments included in the Report analyzed offers any qualitative analysis of the actions of the security council during that month, only a list of activities, usually accompanied by a reference of the date in which they were held.

An assessment is much more than a mere list. An assessment involves a process of analysis, of ponderation, of inclusion of qualitative analysis accompanied by substantive assertions.

- No comments about the issue of extension of terms for humanitarian entry points into Syria and the need of entry points which were reduced from (4) to (3). No mention to the results of negotiation.

There are no comments but a mention is made in point 95 page 18:

"The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic remained discussed on the Council's agenda. The Council met on a monthly basis to discuss the humanitarian situation, political process and chemical dossier."

"In September, the Council failed to adopt a resolution on a ceasefire in Idlib." No further comment in the Report.

"In December, the Council failed to adopt a resolution to renew the cross-border mechanism." No specifications about the extension of humanitarian entry points nor the reduction in the quantity of entry points.

- Three draft resolutions sponsored by the Russian Federation (one of them also by China); two of them regarding issues in Syria and two in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela were not approved by the Security Council. No comments on this issue in the Security Council Report.

- In regards to the situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, including the political, humanitarian and security situation in the country the Report states "On 28 February 2019, two competing draft resolutions were presented for the Council's consideration; both failed to be adopted. (parrag 60 page. 14). No explanation at all: which countries presented them, which was the result of the vote in each case?

- Hostilities between the United States and Iran escalated dangerously in the last part of 2019: Attacks to vessels and to military facilities including in third countries (Saudi Arabia and Iraq occurred) and the Council remained silent through the end of 2019 (and the world at the brink of further confrontations as 2020 began). No action by the SC. ¿any alarm? ¿Was the SC seized by anyone on the issues? ¿Does the SC follow such processes of escalation? ¿May the world confide in the SC to prevent confrontations of this kind or should we wait until confrontations occur to see the reaction of the SC?. Costa Rica has to ask: is the Council fulfilling its mandate?

- The Report does not contain any reference to its task under Art 26 of the Charter in regards to assuring the least possible deviation of human and economic resources towards armaments.

It only contains a reference to Article 47 of the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolution 1-1946 that briefly mentions the regulation of armaments. Yet global military spending peaked at over \$1.9 trillion dollars last year in 2019, the highest level since the end of the Cold War. Costa Rica believes that the Security Council cannot continue to ignore Article 26 of the Charter. The language of Article 26 is simple and straightforward. It is not possible to mistake the intent of this directive of the Charter. The Security Council is given the responsibility for "formulating a system for the reduction of armaments." Under Article 26 the regulation of armaments is not optional for the Security Council. It's one of its more important responsibilities. And yet there is not a single reference about it in the Report that we are adopting here today. Is the Council fulfilling the important mandate of article 26 of the Charter when, at the highest ever level of military expenditure it does not even consider the issue.

- The document includes an extensive three-page list where only the date of each and every subsidiary body's meeting with the SC is recorded. Nothing else about the work of the Subsidiary bodies's work or its meaning and purpose.

## V. Concluding remarks

- Member Countries of the UN, relying on the SC to preserve international peace and security merit to be briefed by the SC on the status of its efforts to preserve peace and security, including the limitations encountered.
- What we had in 2019 was a futile exercise of talking to those who were not willing to hear, of talking candidly and openly to a limited conclave of countries which were in no disposition to hear, not even as a matter of courtesy. Costa Rica is convinced that an open discussion of the Report of Security Council gains legitimacy for the Council and itself and for the endeavours of 195 member Organizations
- In the months of March and April of 2019 the delegations of France and Germany decided to combine their terms of office and operate for the two months under a dual presidency. Innovative as the procedure, it did not receive any mention or comment in the Report nor were the results and limitations were analyzed.  
In the month of April 2019 Germany decided that the East curtains of Security Council Hall were to be fully opened throughout the month, explaining the rationale and the meaning that such a decision had in regards to the openness of the Council's work. Again, an innovative and different policy that goes unnoticed in the text of the Report.
- Costa Rica is disappointed by this annual report and asks whether it is the Report that Member Countries and the peoples of the United Nations deserve from the Organization and from the Security Council?
- Costa Rica wishes that future Annual Reports delve into these fundamental issues of peace and security rather than being a compilation of publicly-known documents.

## CUBA

### **Statement by Ambassador Ana Silvia Rodríguez Abascal, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Cuba**

Mr. President,

Our delegation is grateful to you for convening this meeting to discuss the Security Council Annual Report to the General Assembly of 2019, contained in document A/74/2.

Once again, the annual report of such a relevant organ in the maintenance of international peace and security is merely a descriptive account of meetings, activities and decisions of the Security Council, when the vast majority of United Nations Member States have questioned whether this is just a formal and uncritical exercise.

We demand an annual report of the Security Council that is exhaustive and analytical, that allows assessing the causes and implications of the decisions made by the Council.

It is inadmissible that the Security Council Report of 2019 fails to mention the violations of its own resolutions, in particular resolution 2334 (2016), while Israel, with impunity, consolidates its expansion policy of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory and threatened to annex the Palestinian territories of the Jordan Valley and other parts of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Mr. President,

In accordance with Article 24 of the UN Charter, its Members recognize that the Security Council, in discharging its functions, acts on their behalf and that, consequently, the work of the Council is a collective responsibility of all Member States.

Greater transparency in the work of the organ will therefore contribute to the effective exercise of such collective responsibility. We advocate transparent informal meetings, the adoption of the rules of procedure, which to date remain provisional and the issue of minutes of the Council informal consultations, that should be the exception rather than the rule.

Although we recognize the increase in the number of public meetings, including open debates, there remains the Security Council's tendency to work mainly in closed formats, to make decisions without addressing the concerns of Member States and to force decisions on draft resolutions even when there are considerable differences in their content.

Mr. President,

We reiterate our support to a comprehensive Security Council reform, including its working methods, with a view to making it a transparent, democratic and representative organ, in line with the evolution of the United Nations and international relations.

We reject the selective manipulation of the Council's methods and practices on the basis of political and domination agendas, particularly interference in matters outside its competence, especially those that concern the mandate of the General Assembly; as well as the politization in the review of others, subject to the organ's consideration.

Mr. President,

Beyond Presidential Note S/2017/507, which was an important effort, we reiterate the need for a reformed, democratic, transparent and efficient Security Council that represents the interests of all Member States of the Organization, in order to preserve the multilateralism, credibility and legitimacy of the United Nations in the long term.

The instrumentalization of the Security Council as a tool of political pressure against sovereign States must end.

Thank you.

## **CYPRUS**

### **Statement by the Delegation of Cyprus**

We wish to thank the President of the Security Council for presenting the report and the Russian delegation for the early preparation and submission of the report, and make the following remarks:

Firstly, on the format of the report. While the overview of the Council's work provided by the report is useful, we would have liked to see more insight into the trajectory of the

conflicts on the Council's agenda. If the report was more strategic in nature, this would amplify its value and provide the membership with a more analytical and directional outlook. It is also imperative that the report deals with the cardinal issue of compliance with its decisions.

Secondly, on the timing of the report. As useful and as necessary the discussion on the Council's annual report is, it always takes place when the situation on the ground has changed from what was captured in the report. We believe that both the General Assembly and the Security Council would benefit from less formal, more frequent exchanges regarding conflict situations in real time. This could be achieved through the submission of special reports, as provided by the Charter, but also through more informal arrangements.

Thirdly, we would like to stress the need for the Council to continue to be actively seized of thematic issues on which it has adopted groundbreaking resolutions. We are disappointed to see that when elected members having championed issues like missing persons, or the protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict, are no longer on the Council, interest in these issues tends to fade.

Turning to the substance, I wish to start by commenting on the situation in our part of the world, which is consistently taking a turn for the worse, with tensions increasing in all conflicts.

In the case of Cyprus in particular, resolutions of the Council remain unimplemented while additional faits accomplis are constantly created on the ground so as to render these resolutions non-implementable. We would like to see more robust action by the Council to enforce its resolutions and hold those in breach accountable. Immediate implementation of resolution provisions relating to the status of the fenced area of Varosha is indispensable. The same applies to the Council's calls to reduce tensions in the eastern Mediterranean.

We look to the Council to engage actively and urgently on the escalating situation in the eastern Mediterranean and the increasing number of Member States it involves. In line with the foundational teleology of this organization, the Council should strive harder to eliminate the threat or use of force and accept no alternative to the peaceful settlement of disputes in line with international law. This is essential to ensure a level playing field for small states.

In addition to acts of aggression, the Council must also speak louder against practices like demographic engineering in conflict situations, weaponizing the water supply to civilian populations in conflict situations, the transfer of terrorist fighters from one conflict to another, and foreign meddling in conflicts which makes entire countries hostages to third parties and precludes any national ownership of the conflict settlement process or outcome.

Lastly, the Council should do more to fight impunity, including by referring situations to the International Criminal Court. The correlation between the high numbers of atrocity crimes and the lack of accountability is undeniable.

Before closing, I wish to reiterate a longstanding plight on the part of my delegation, which is that the Council must engage more effectively with Member States directly affected by its agenda and/or which host peacekeeping operations of the UN.

## **EGYPT**

### **Statement by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Edrees, Permanent Representative of Egypt**

Mr. President of the general assembly,

1. I would like to thank you for convening this important meeting, as well as, the president of the security council for August, H.E. the Permanent Representative of Indonesia for the introduction of the annual report of the Security Council.

2. We welcome this opportunity to join the discussion on the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly. We believe this interaction is highly indicative and should be further strengthened, considering that the General Assembly is the United Nations body with universal representation. As stipulated in article 24 of the Charter, the Security Council acts on behalf of the general Membership. It is essential, therefore, to have the Council accountable to the wider membership.

3. We much appreciate the efforts in preparing the report and its detailed and comprehensive nature in covering various activities of the SC in 2019, however, the analytical part of the megatrends endangering our world's peace and security is not in par with narrative descriptive aspect. The report should capture the most important complex challenges in the year under review, assess the Council's ability to deal with problems at hand and signal difficulties and areas where improvements could be made, along with elaborate recommendations on how to adjust the work of the SC to better react to those challenges.

4. Another important point to raise is the time of submission of the report, timely submission and discussion is of the essence. We appreciate the attempt to produce and represent the report relatively earlier than previous years, however we need more progress to avoid the unfortunate situation of discussing the report late in the session despite the fact that the SC has made pertinent changes, in its 2015 presidential note S/2015/944, followed by the working methods endeavor led in the council by Kuwait in the S/2019/507, including the reporting cycle for the report to cover a calendar year, and also moved the presentation of the report from the main part of the General Assembly's regular session to the spring session that followed the reporting year. Once the Council succeeds in meeting its own aspirations, and finalizes the draft by the end of January and, as intended, the General Assembly discussion is held during the spring, it will be more conducive to providing a better assessment of the impact of the revised process. Hence, we reiterate our call for the timely submission of the report, in order to allow meaningful discussions among Member States.

5. In the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the reform of the Security Council IGN, the nature of the report is the subject of much discussion. There is convergence between Member States on this topic; we all agree to strengthen cooperation and communication between the Security Council and the General Assembly, in particular through the submission of the SC annual reports "of more analytical nature", as well as special reports, if required by the GA.

6. These suggestions aim to achieve more effective Security Council, through establishing a system of checks and balances, furthermore, by holding the Security Council responsible and accountable to the General Membership, as required and mandated by the Charter.

Mr. President,

7. To put things in a proper Context, we have to acknowledge the surmountable burden put on the shoulders of Security Council members; preserving peace & security in our troublesome world is a daunting task indeed.

8. At the same time, to put things in a proper Charter and Conceptual context; Security Council members are some but acting on behalf of the whole, so it is not at all Security Council Versus General Assembly, but Security Council with General Assembly in tandem, complementarity and mutual empowerment; missing the point here risks missing the campas, direction and eventually the ultimate goal.

9. This report, as a method of constructive dialogue and sharing responsibility, is an endeavor of mission Hope to save our world and our future generations, together all the



members of the UN have the responsibility to keep the hope alive and to have the mission accomplished.

10. As the gravity of peace and security challenges in our world are becoming magnanimous, more Actions including by Security Council are more needed, as well as Compliance with Council's decisions, however unfortunately the paradox is increasing and the gap is widening; as robust Actions by the Council is lacking and Compliance to its decisions is lagging behind.

Mr. President,

11. To conclude, as the Global crisis exacerbated by the Pandemic is taking a high toll on our current and future human and material resources, it is compelling more than ever to overcome our divisions, to bypass politicized polarization and put our acts together, a healthy world will need a healthy U.N., a healthy U.N. will need a healthy Security Council, a healthy SC will need a healthy GA, all together in a holistic approach not a decompartmentalised fragmented one, it is We the People who can make it or break it, and it is We the People who will pay the price either way, and it is we the people who have to make the choice and consequently to act accordingly.

Thank you so much.

## **EL SALVADOR**

### **Statement by Ambassador Egriselda López Ambassador, Permanent Representative of El Salvador**

Mr. Chair,

El Salvador takes note of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, while thanking the Indonesian Presidency for its presentation.

This meeting, despite it is informal, it is a valuable contribution to transparency and accountability for the proper functioning of the United Nations, and to the achievement of our common goal of maintaining peace and international security.

On the elaboration, presentation of the report and its methods of formulation, El Salvador would like to reiterate its interest in holding consultations for its preparation, as we are convinced that this effort would be an appropriate indicator of progress towards democratizing the processes held within the Security Council, and a sign of its interest in taking up the concerns and common visions to the entire membership of the Organization.

On the other hand, we regret the timing of the development, adoption and subsequent submission of the report to the General Assembly. In this regard, the Security Council should take the necessary steps to enable it to meet the agreed deadline for its submission, as set out in note 507, of 2017.

As others speakers have expressed, El Salvador recalls the importance to include an analysis of the proceeding and decision-making processes within the Council, as well as elements to provide greater clarity on the motivations that led its permanent Members to use their veto power. We expect to see an improvement in these areas in next year's report. In this sense, we welcome the willingness expressed by incoming members of the Security Council to work on these issues that are of great importance to the United Nations as a whole.

Mr. Chair,

2019 was a year of political tensions that were reflected in the work of this Organization, and the Security Council was no exception. We welcome the fact that, despite these difficulties, the Council managed to follow up on and renew the mandates of a majority of its peacekeeping operations, mechanisms which El Salvador acknowledges as crucial to the achievement of peace, security and stability in different countries and regions of the world. I take this opportunity to reiterate its commitment of my country to peacekeeping, through its continuous contribution of highly trained police and military personnel in the Peacekeeping Operations.

We recognize the fact that political strategy is a central element in the structuring of peace keeping operations; however, we believe that it would be highly relevant if these could be elaborated in a more democratic environment that includes the visions and objectives of all parties involved.

We all know the value of having a mandated resolution whose language is binding, effective and supported by the entire Security Council. This is why El Salvador considers it is of paramount importance to update the working methods in order to bring together the positions of all the parties involved in the conflicts, particularly, those directly linked on the ground.

El Salvador welcomes the actions made by the Security Council throughout 2019, particularly in the renewal of the mandate of the Verification Mission in Colombia; the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH); the adoption of Resolution 2474 (2019) on persons missing during armed conflict, and resolution 2475 (2019) on the protection of persons with disabilities. We believe meaningful process has been done on the women, peace and security agenda; and resolutions 2250 and 2419. We believe that further work should be done to address the root causes of conflict, combat violent extremism and terrorism, and promoting the rights of young people.

Mr. Chair,

El Salvador believes that field visits are valuable, as they allow Council members to gain a broader view of the local situation to better execute their mandates. In that matter, it is crucial to take into account the participation of relevant parties in the processes, including General Assembly Members who contribute with military, police, and civilian personnel to peace operations.

El Salvador recognizes that these missions can generate high costs, but in order to coordinate efforts, they could be developed with other important subsidiary bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission and ECOSOC.

My country also appreciates meetings under the Arria Formula, as these provide a space for dialogue with actors directly involved in different situations that put international peace, security, and stability at risk. However, these cannot replace formal meetings of the Council, as we saw in 2019, with a reduction in the number of meetings and public consultations compared to 2018. Whenever possible, the Council should strengthen informal formats.

El Salvador's attention is particularly drawn to the decrease in the number of official documents approved within the Security Council in 2019. This could be attributed to the difficulty this organ faces in building consensus. This is alarming. The Resolutions and statements are essential mechanisms for the fulfillment of the main responsibility to maintain international peace and security. Therefore, we welcome the suggestion of including in this report a summary of voting records and the use of the veto.

My delegation calls on Members to prevail on a constructive spirit, and on the objective of agreeing on responses to common challenges rather than on particular interests. It is time to demonstrate the political will of each of the actors, so that adequate measures prevail to address traditional challenges and new threats to international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

In terms of transparency, El Salvador highlights the efforts of the monthly Council presidencies to strengthen inclusion, participation, and accountability with States that are not part of this organ. We believe that these efforts could be strengthened by the inclusion of analytical and interactive presentations and discussions.

Furthermore, El Salvador calls for the continued publication of each of the monthly Council presidencies' activity reports promptly and, for them to include situational analyses, including those threats that may endanger international peace and security. We share the need of Security Council members to fulfill the submission of the monthly reports, which would in turn, significantly improve the transparency of this organ.

Finally, El Salvador encourages further work under the principle of cooperation and international solidarity, particularly in this year when we face the challenge of the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic cannot be an excuse to backtrack on measures to safeguard and achieve international peace, security and stability in all world regions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair

## **GEORGIA**

### **Statement by Ms. Elene Agladze, Deputy Permanent Representative of Georgia**

Mr. President,

We thank the President of the General Assembly for convening today's debate and welcome the Report presented by the Indonesian Presidency today. Debates such as these are indeed critical to ensure transparency and accountability of the Security Council when it comes to its relationship with the General Assembly and an important and necessary tool to assess how the Security Council carries out its work both when it does take action or when it fails to do so. We also welcome the decision by the PGA to disseminate the compilation of statements following the debate.

We firmly believe that the annual account of the work of the Security Council should be comprehensive, accessible and transparent to allow wider membership to adequately reflect on the work that the Council conducts on behalf of the UN Member States and its

implications on maintenance of international peace and security. We thus call upon the Council to explore ways on how to enrich the report with more analytical content so that it provides more depth and substance on key obstacles facing the Council with regard to each of the country specific situations, as well as broader security challenges it addresses. Likewise, timely reporting is another aspect that is of critical importance, since issues pertaining to international peace and security, humanitarian crises, active armed conflicts and mass atrocities require expeditious action. This year we noted that timing has somewhat improved, however we join others in calling for the respect of the timetable that was initially provided by the Note by the President of the Security Council 507 and further encourage the Council to report so as to ensure substantial and timely consideration of the report, no later than in the month of June of the subsequent year.

Mr. President,

The Council's work is of critical importance to all Member States of this organization.

In this regard, let me note the need to address security and humanitarian challenges in Georgia following the occupation of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. Given the grave human rights violations and ongoing militarization in these occupied regions, let me stress that it is of utmost importance that the Council continues the practice of briefings and provides other opportunities as well, with a dedicated agenda item, first and foremost, agenda item "The situation in Georgia" and under the format of open debates, to discuss the situation in protracted conflicts in more depth. In this view, we regret that the discussion that took place in the Council under AOB in 2019, when it was briefed on the situation in Georgia following Russia's full-scale military aggression against Georgia of August 2008, was not reflected in the Annual Report at all.

In conclusion, let me recall the negative impact of the abuse of the "veto" power in the Council, which Georgia experienced firsthand a decade ago. We thus reiterate that the "veto" right should be restricted both when a permanent member is involved in a conflict or situation under consideration, in line with UN Charter Article 27, paragraph 3 that clearly stipulates that "the party to a dispute shall abstain from voting", as well as in the cases when Council's inaction allows the perpetration of mass atrocities.

I thank you.

## INDIA

### **Statement by the Delegation of India**

Mr. President,

We welcome the opportunity to participate in the debate on the Report of the Security Council. We thank the members of the Security Council and the Secretariat for producing the annual report of the Security Council, as contained in document A/74/2.

2. As we enter the Security Council for the term 2021-22, we look forward to working in a constructive and positive manner with all Members of the Council. India also thanks the outgoing Members Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa and commends them for the outstanding contributions. We would also like to congratulate the PR of Indonesia and the Indonesian delegation for handling in a very professional manner in what was an extremely busy August Presidency.

Mr. President,

3. We would like to commend the Russian delegation for taking the lead in the preparation of this report. We appreciate the fact that the report is being presented earlier this year despite limitations imposed on the working of the Council because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as we have been saying in the past, we note that the present report too continues to be a statistical compilation of events, a bland summary and listing of meetings and outcome documents. Even among the summary, there is lack of consistency and, one might even venture to say, a few inaccuracies. The membership of the General Assembly has repeatedly requested the Council that the annual report be more incisive rather than a mere narration of the meetings of the Security Council.

4. It is important that the Security Council pay more attention to its report to the General Assembly rather than view it as a mere formality. There is a need to reinvigorate this interaction between the most representative organ of the United Nations and its most empowered brethren. The UN Charter itself bestows on the report a profound seriousness as is evident from the fact that there exists a separate provision mandating such a report, rather than clubbing it with the provision for reports from other UN bodies. Hence, the annual report of the Security Council must inform, highlight and analyze the measures that it has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security during the reporting period.

Mr. President,

5. There is a delegation that repeatedly attempts to rebrand itself as contributing to international peace, but unfortunately fails to recognize that it is globally known for being the fountainhead of international terror and the hub for terror syndicates. This delegation keeps pushing for discussions on an outdated agenda item in the Council, which for all matter needs to be removed from the Council's agenda permanently. Such irrational exuberance has no takers in a dignified world.

Mr. President,

6. The annual report is also short of analysis on the UN peacekeeping operations, the flagship tool for the maintenance of international peace and security. This was flagged by my delegation last year too, but we are a little disappointed that the situation continues. There is little information on how peacekeeping operations are run, the problems they face, on why certain mandates are set or changed, or on when and why they are strengthened, scaled down or ended. As most peacekeepers are contributed by non-Council members, who put the lives of their troops at risk to serve the cause of international peace, a better partnership between the Security Council and the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) is needed.

Mr. President,

7. Most of us who have voiced our opinion here today will be dissatisfied with the Council's work and its report, but, under the terms of Article 12 of the Charter, the General Assembly can neither replicate its discussions nor compensate for its shortcomings. Many of the flaws in the functioning of the Council are structural. Its composition is demonstrably out of touch with ground realities. The Council neither reflects nor represents the aspirations and views of the larger membership. Like most others, we remain convinced that the only remedy is a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, involving expansion in its permanent and non-permanent categories.

8. Since performance assessment has become one of the focus areas at the United Nations, the Security Council too needs to prove its credibility and improve its performance.

9. We hope that views and comments expressed by the Member States are given serious consideration by the Security Council.

## **IRELAND**

### **Statment by Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland**

Mr President,

I thank you for convening today's discussion, and the Ambassador of Indonesia, as President of the Security Council for the month of August, for introducing the Annual Report of the Security Council. Ireland is very pleased to align itself with the excellent statement just made by Switzerland on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group. We are an active supporter of the group; we believe we do good, constructive work on all our behalf in the ACT group.

Mr President, I am very happy, that even on a Monday morning, out of term a little bit, we come together, and that so many of us are here, to discuss what we see as a really important part of our annual business. Frankly, we would like to see this discussion held in as wide a group as possible every year.

As an incoming and newly elected member of the Security Council, Ireland puts a particular importance and emphasis on the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council. We believe that when we go to the Security Council next January, we do not leave the General Assembly but that we are there to represent every single member of the General Assembly, and indeed to carry the collective interest of the General Assembly at the Security Council table. So that is why we think that it's important today that we underline how, as an incoming member, we see the transparency and legitimacy of the Security Council as being enhanced by the views of the Member States of the General Assembly; importantly enhanced when those views are listened to, but more importantly, taken into account.



Mr President,

We believe that holding the Security Council accountable, and open to having its work assessed by the General Assembly, means that the Security Council is seen to be work that is done by the Security Council on behalf of the General Assembly. We promise, that as we move to take our seat on the Security Council, that the effectiveness of the Security Council will be something that we regard as a privilege that we take with us from the General Assembly to execute on behalf of all Members.

I want, Mr President, to acknowledge one positive aspect of the Report today, which is the timeliness of the adoption of the report. Our colleagues from the Russian Federation deserve our gratitude in that regard. We look forward, however, to next year and to further progress when the new timelines for the adoption of the annual report from the start of 2021 will kick in. This we believe will allow for both a more-timely assessment of the Council's work, and, we hope, for a more substantive engagement by the overall membership on issues arising. And I want to state that as we go forward that we will take this as a task with us on our behalf.

While we welcome this early presentation of the year's report, we have to say that the report proper leaves much to be desired. The content of the report in our view lacks a much-needed level of self-critical analysis that would provide a basis for improving how the Council operates. That seems to be, in our view, a critical function of what we are all doing here today. Such an analysis of the trends that affected the Council's work over the last year, would enable us, the wide membership of the General Assembly, to engage in the coming months in a more meaningful way with the Security Council.

It is also true that in 2019 we saw the Council adopt some interesting innovations. The organisation of monthly "Sofa Talks" amongst Permanent Representatives, for example, provided more informal and interactive opportunities for frank discussions on difficult issues. We know anecdotally that that has actually helped the work of the Security Council. We also know that efforts were made to make Council discussions more interactive, and we saw that in real time and we appreciate that. The Council also continued to engage, at times, with other UN organs including the Peacebuilding Commission, but frankly not enough in terms of its engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission. An introduction that assessed the effectiveness of such trends and how the Council actually carried out its tasks, both in terms of its functioning, and, more importantly, how it addresses its core functions of maintaining international peace and security, would be extremely welcome and is a fundamental request that we would make from the General Assembly of the Security Council on our behalf. We recognise the challenges that this presents when unanimity among Council members is needed, but we certainly believe it would be worth the effort.

Mr President,

The statistics contained in the 2019 report tell their own story. They show us a Council that continues to face big hurdles, if not impossible ones at times, when it comes to acting collectively to address some of the most intractable crises on its agenda. In 2019, three draft resolutions were vetoed, three tabled drafts failed to be adopted due to insufficient votes. This represents over 10 per cent of all the resolutions tabled throughout 2019. Formal Council decisions fell to their lowest level in two decades. We see this as disturbing.

In some of these cases, one Permanent member used its veto to block Council action. For some, the rules of procedure are used to block action, rather than to facilitate it. We see this is unacceptable. We wish to see an end to the use of the veto, particularly in the cases of actual or potential mass atrocity. And this is why we support the Franco-Mexican initiative and the ongoing work of our colleagues from Liechtenstein. We will take this as a firm view with us as we move to become a member of the Security Council and to sit at that table.

Mr President,

Finally, as an incoming member of the Security Council, we pledge to work on behalf of the whole membership and with other members of the Council in an effort to increase effectiveness of the Council, to emphasise the importance of its transparency and to improve its accountability to all the membership. As part of this, we will spare no effort to work with like-minded Security Council members to reinforce Note 507. I conclude, Mr President, by saying that improving the Council's working methods are not an end in themselves. This isn't a technical exercise. It's way to enhance the actual legitimacy and the relevance of the Security Council itself, and frankly, by extension, the logic means, it's a way we can all collectively reinforce the primary responsibility under the UN Charter that the Council holds for maintaining international peace and security on all our behalf.

## KUWAIT

### **Statment by Ambassador Mansour A. Al-Otaibi, Permanent Representative of Kuwait**

- At the outset, I would like to thank Indonesia, in its capacity as President of the Security Council this month, for presenting the annual report on behalf of Council members.
- During last year's consideration of the annual report of the Security Council, and in my capacity as Chair of the Informal Working Group on the Documentation and Other Procedural Questions (IWG) during that time while Kuwait was a Council member, we listened closely to the concerns of the wider membership, particularly the request by many Member States to review the timeline of the report's adoption and submission to the General Assembly.
- As a result, the Council agreed on and issued Presidential Note S/2019/997 last December, which amended the date of adoption to no later than 30 May, in time for its consideration by the General Assembly immediately thereafter. Prior to this, Note 507 had no specific date for adoption, and the date of consideration was included as only "spring of that calendar year."
- In this vein, we thank the Russian Federation for their efforts in drafting and preparing the introduction of the report this year, and welcome the Council's adoption of the report on 14 July 2020, particularly in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the effect it has had on the Council's working methods. This is considered the earliest adoption of the annual report since the process for the elaboration of the annual report was revised in 2015 in Presidential Note S/2015/944, which changed the reporting cycle to cover a calendar year starting in 2017, and we recognize this progress.
- Bearing in mind that last year's updated Note - S/2019/997 – states that the aforementioned provisions shall be applicable to the report to be presented to the General Assembly at its 75th session, in 2021, we encourage the Council to work towards an earlier adoption of the report next year per the updated timeline, so that it may be considered by the General Assembly sooner.
- We are also pleased to see a slight improvement in the number of submissions of the monthly assessments, with the majority of Council members (8 total) having submitted

their assessments before the adoption of the report this year than those that had done the year before, which were only 5 members.

- However, while these are positive steps in the right direction, there is still much room for improvement. Today, we are still awaiting the submission of monthly assessments from three Council members for 2019. In addition, there are still five monthly assessments from 2018 that have still not been submitted.

- In this context, we reiterate Paragraph 136 of Note 507, which clearly recognizes the value of the monthly assessment of each presidency in providing as much information as possible on the main aspects of the work of the Council during that month and its usefulness in the preparation of the annual report, and encourages Council members to prepare their monthly assessment soon after the end of their presidency in a timely manner.

- Additionally, as has been raised many times in the past couple of years, we would like to note the unfortunate lack of analysis and qualitative data in the report's introduction. In this vein, I recall Presidential Note S/2002/199 of 22 May 2002, which revised the format of the annual report in response to the views expressed by the wider membership during a debate on the annual report of the Council at the 56th Session of the General Assembly.

- In this note, the Council agreed that the introduction of the annual report was to be an analytical piece which would detail the year's most important moments, assess the Council's ability to deal with problems at hand, and signal difficulties and areas for improvement. The note also stated that, starting in 2002, the introduction would be drafted by the delegation that held the July presidency instead of the Secretariat.

- Upon reviewing the annual report of the Council that was submitted to the General Assembly at its 57th session following the adoption of this note – particularly the introduction, covering the period of 16 June 2001 to 31 July 2002 – one immediately notices its positive effects. Even though the introduction was only about 5,000 words at the time, the content was analytical and diagnostic.

- In the following years, the introductions have become longer and provide less analysis. Today, the introduction of the report we are considering is over 10,000 words and lacks qualitative data and insight on the Council's work. Instead, as is the case during the past years, it contains pages and pages of statistics, numbers, and other general information on the subjects of meetings held and outcomes adopted, which can all be found online, and which most of us are already familiar with. I urge you all, particularly current and incoming Council members, to look back at the introduction of the annual report

submitted at the General Assembly's fifty-seventh session, under the symbol A/57/2, and compare it with the introduction we have before us today.

- We urge the Council to include more analytical data in its next report, including assessments of the Council's performance and ability to deal with difficulties it may have faced, and suggest areas for improvement. As we are all aware, the Council has been facing internal challenges in recent years, particularly with the increase of the use of the veto and the lack of unity and willingness to compromise from some members on certain issues, and we believe the only way to solve these issues is by addressing them directly in order to move forward.

- We recall that some elected Council members made efforts to reach out to the wider membership and hold informal briefings to discuss the draft report prior to its adoption starting in 2008, but note that this practice has not been undertaken in recent years. In this vein, we urge Council members to consider organizing informal interactive consultations with the wider membership when preparing the report, per Paragraph 129 of Note 507.

- In conclusion, Mr. President, we recall that, under Articles 15 and 24 (3) of the UN Charter, the Security Council has a clear and explicit responsibility to submit this important report for consideration by the wider membership. In fact, it is the only direct obligation the Council has vis-à-vis the General Assembly under the Charter.

- This only further serves to underline the importance of this responsibility, and to ensure that the process is carried out in a transparent and efficient manner. Furthermore, it is also the right of Member States to subsequently hold the Council accountable when there are shortcomings in this process.

- For this reason, we request that the Council take all the views shared by Member States today into consideration in order to improve this process, as outlined in Paragraph 138 of Note 507, which encourages the President of the Security Council in charge of the presentation of the report to the General Assembly to report to Council members on relevant suggestions and observations raised during the General Assembly debate on the annual report.

- We also encourage the IWG to continue its efforts to ensure the inclusion of more substantive information on the Council's work in the annual report in coordination with the Secretariat, as stated in Paragraph 139 of Note 507.

- Thank you.

## **MALAYSIA**

### **Statement by Ambassador Syed Mohamad Hasrin. Permanent Representative Of Malaysia**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening today's plenary meeting to consider the annual report of the Security Council for 2019, as contained in document A/74/2. I wish to also thank the Permanent Representative of Indonesia for the presentation of the annual report.

2. The importance of today's debate can barely be overstated. As the Security Council in discharging its responsibilities, acts on behalf of all Member States, it is vital for the wider UN membership to be heard. Although the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, it does not, and should not, act entirely in isolation.

3. The UN Charter also provides a clear obligation for the Security Council to submit an annual report to the General Assembly. The reporting is a crucial mechanism of accountability in governing the relationship between these two important Organs. The annual report of the Security Council, hence, deserves a substantive discussion at the General Assembly. We also call on the Presidents of Security Council and the General Assembly, on a frequent basis to explore ways of strengthening this relationship, allowing for substantive interaction and collaboration between these two Organs.

Mr. President,

4. My delegation regrets that in the last few years, the annual report submission has missed the "spring's deadline". The late submission of the report restricts Member States with ample time to prepare and engage in a more productive manner. We call on the Council to fulfill its commitment for timely submission of its report as stipulated in its President's Note of December 2019.

5. We also note that only nine Council members have submitted their monthly assessment for 2019. In this connection, we encourage all Council members to make their reports available to the broader UN membership in a timely manner.

6. With regard to the content of the report for 2019, my delegation is also of the view that the report should have more analytical element on the Council's work for that calendar year, rather than just compilation of statistics, letters, and resolutions – that are already accessible on the Council's website. We believe that this component would provide added value for a more deliberate discussion with all Member States – with a view to improving the Council's work.

Mr. President,

7. My delegation also takes this opportunity to commend some positive developments in enhancing accountability, transparency, and coherence of the Security Council. We applaud the monthly presidency informal briefings by Council members on their work and the convening of Open Debates as well as Arria Formula meetings. We also commend the constant efforts of the Council in exploring practical working methods during these unprecedented circumstances.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia has consistently called for a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable Security Council so that it could address the integrated nature of today's security threats. As we celebrate the UN's 75th anniversary, we should muster greater efforts to strengthen the interaction between the Security Council and the General Assembly, recognizing that the latter is the only UN organ with universal representation. The annual report of the Security Council is an important contribution towards ensuring the credibility and legitimacy of the Council, and we hope that substantive progress could be made in the near future.

Thank you.

## **MEXICO**

### **Statement By The Delegation Of Mexico**

Madam President:

We thank the Security Council for the submission of its annual report for 2019.

While we thank the Russian delegation for its efforts on the early conclusion of the report, Mexico reiterates its request that the annual report be submitted during the Spring to allow delegations enough time for its consideration.

Such adjustment in practice would also make this debate timelier. Otherwise, as is the case today, the General Assembly will continue to examine events with implications for international peace and security that took place almost twenty months ago. This is far from ideal as a scheme for a relevant and fluid dialogue between two main organs of the United Nations.

Mexico acknowledges the efforts to produce monthly assessments by the presidencies of the Security Council in 2019. However, we note that as of today 3 out of 12 assessments are still not available. We hope that they can also be produced in a timelier manner, and to be elaborated under the same format. This would allow for a better cross-analysis amongst them. Gaps in producing such assessments mean accountability gaps.

My country also welcomes the practice of holding wrap-up meetings at the end of each presidency and the disposition, not only the outgoing president but of other members, to explain certain aspects of their work to the wider UN membership. We hope this continues to be a standing practice.

Madam President:

Turning to the content of the annual report, Mexico continues to be disappointed about the fact that the report is almost a mere compilation of standard texts, listing numbers of meetings and Council products, instead of being an analytical document on the manner in which the Council discharges its mandate.

Furthermore, regarding the non-adoption of certain decisions, three situations (during the months of February, September, and December) in which a negative vote from



permanent members impeded the Council to take action, have no explanation of the reasons for having cast those votes.

Mexico underscores once again that omitting from the report the basis and circumstances in which a "veto" occurs is a sensitive deficiency in transparency and accountability, and a lack of consideration for the international community, especially when the Council is bound to act on its behalf. If the Council's report does not include these considerations, other mechanisms should be considered so that the General Assembly is formally and expeditiously informed if and when situations of this nature occur.

If the Security Council is paralyzed, the General Assembly has to ponder its intervention, in accordance with the UN Charter, and avoid that the United Nations stands by idly witnessing conflicts that could lead to mass atrocities or the obstruction of humanitarian aid for those whose lives depend on it.

We call again on permanent members of the Security Council to restrain from using the veto, especially in situation in which mass atrocities are being or could be committed. We also call on all Member States that have not yet done so, particularly the remaining permanent members of the Security Council, to join the French-Mexican initiative, which is aimed at allowing the Security Council to fulfill its mandate in accordance with the responsibility entrusted to it in the UN Charter, and at preventing further mass atrocities enabled by the Council's inaction. If the Security Council does not act to prevent these atrocities, as it has already happened in the past at the cost of countless innocent lives, the credibility of the United Nations as whole is called into question.

Madam President:

Finally, while the focus of this meeting is the annual report of 2019, my delegation would be interested in knowing the impact that the pandemic and its implications on the working methods of the Council will have in the 2020 report. Accountability, especially regarding the Council's effectiveness and efficiency during these trying times, will be of utmost importance.

Thank you.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

### **Statement by Ambassador Craig Hawke, Permanent Representative of New Zealand**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this important meeting. New Zealand aligns itself with the statement delivered by Switzerland on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group.

Each year, this debate provides a key opportunity to reflect both on the institutional relationship between these two organs, and the work of the Security Council.

It is important to first recognise the extraordinary circumstances in which the 2019 annual report was compiled.

We thank the Russian Federation as President of the Security Council for the month of July for leading the adoption of the report.

This is the earliest the annual report has been adopted in three years, since Note 507 was adopted. This is a positive improvement, allowing time for the UN membership to consider the report in full prior to the debate being held at the end of the General Assembly session.

We welcome the further process improvements signalled for 2021, namely to have a report finalised by March, and distributed to the membership by May 2021. We hope we can return to a formal debate mid-2021 on the report in the General Assembly.

While acknowledging that we cannot meet in person, and that this is therefore an informal meeting, we want this discussion to be as transparent as possible.

We are pleased that there was a decision to circulate all statements from today and also to web cast this meeting.

Mr. President,

On the substance of the report, it is clear this has been a busy year once again for the Council.

The introduction of the report provides a comprehensive, albeit largely descriptive, overview.

There are a number of areas where the Council made positive contributions to international peace and security in 2019.

We reiterate the point made in the ACT statement that it would be helpful in the introduction of the report to highlight the key trends in international peace and security and the work of the Council for the year, rather than only considering each individual file.

We welcome the key steps made toward strengthening Security Council working methods, with the adoption of eight notes at the end of 2019.

Improving working methods was a priority for New Zealand during our Council term, and we are happy to see this work being furthered, in particular by non-permanent members.

The report highlights that 2019 was also a year marked by turbulence and instability.

The inability for the Council to act in some of these most critical areas threatening peace and security, due to threat of the veto, remains a deep concern for us.

We don't want to see the Council continue to move toward a worrying trend where differences, resulting in inaction, are more common than agreement.

The work of the Security Council in maintaining peace and security is a critical part of the UN, but it cannot be achieved in isolation.

This is why the General Assembly has a role to push for a more transparent, accountable and coherent Council. This report and the debate we are having today serves as a step toward achieving this.

Thank you.

## PAKISTAN

### Statement by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking Ambassador Dian Djani, President of the Security Council for presenting the Council's annual report to the General Assembly as contained in the document A/74/2.

Mr. President,

2. The United Nations Charter provides, in Article 15 that "the General Assembly shall receive and consider annual and special reports from the Security Council; these reports shall include an account of the measures that the Security Council has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security". Article 24 further provides that in carrying out its "duties" for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council "acts on their (the Member States) behalf".

3. While the Report provides a useful compendium of the Council's deliberations, it does not illuminate on the "measures" that the Council decided upon or took to maintain international peace and security". Nor does the skeletal information provided, enable the General Assembly to "consider" these "measures" and the ways in which they were taken.

4. Since the Council acts "on behalf" of the UN Membership, represented in the General Assembly, it follows that its reports to the Assembly must provide full information on the Council's proceedings and decision-making processes.

Mr. President,

5. The deficiency in information is further compounded by the lack of transparent measures and accountability in the Council's work. The report validates a number of concerns of Member States regarding the Council's practice and its working methods.

One, despite recent efforts to improve transparency, much of the Council's real work and decision-making takes place behind closed doors. Member States directly concerned with a dispute or conflict are not allowed to participate in the Council's deliberations, or properly consulted.

Two, the role of the non-members has been further emasculated in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their role has been reduced to the 'perfunctory' submission of written statements to the few open meetings held by the Council.

Three, the Council's encroachment on the mandates and jurisdiction of other principal organs, especially the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, continues unchecked. This has grossly upset the delicate balance of responsibilities envisaged under the Charter.

Mr. President,

6. The Security Council's work on Counter-Terrorism needs urgent reform. The Council has focused on combating Al-Qaeda and ISIS and their associates. Meanwhile, terrorism has proliferated across the world. The Council has ignored terrorism by extremist and fascist organizations, including the Hundutva groups terrorizing Muslims. It has allowed the labels of terrorism to compromise the legitimate struggles of peoples under colonial and alien domination for self-determination. It has ignored state terrorism which is used for oppressing and brutalizing peoples under occupation.

7. The working of the non-UN entities in the development of "soft laws" which are imposed through Chapter VII resolutions of the Security Council risks further eroding the Council's credibility and legitimacy.

8. Importantly, through its various Presidential Notes, in particular Note 507 of 30 August 2019, the Council has resolved to implement a set of reform measures. These are still awaited.

Mr. President,

9. A comprehensive reform of the Security Council is essential to provide it greater legitimacy and credibility. This must go beyond improvements in its operating processes. Openness, transparency and inclusiveness should be introduced in the working modalities of the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies, especially the "Sanctions Committees" and those dealing with generic issues, such as terrorism and non-proliferation, which are of direct concern to the general UN membership.

10. The key to enhancing the Council's credibility and legitimacy is to induct greater democracy in its structure and processes. Expanding the number of non-permanent members in the Council's membership is vital to enhancing its representativeness and reducing the dominance of its permanent members, enhancing transparency in its processes and equality in its discussions. On the other hand, adding new permanent

members will further paralyze the Council and erode the principles of sovereign equality and equity between UN Member States.

Mr. President,

11. The Council has also been found wanting in the implementation of its own resolutions and decisions. The Jammu and Kashmir dispute is a case in point. The Security Council, through its resolutions, has presented that the "final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations'.

12. Yet, for over seventy years, India has illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir in blatant violation of the resolutions of the Security Council; it is perpetrating a reign of terror in a territory occupied with 900,000 troops; it has imposed a complete siege on 8 million Kashmiris in the valley and it is perpetrating massive violations of human rights against them and against its own minority communities. In the wake of its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, the BJP-RSS government is putting in place what they have themselves called the 'Final Solution' for Jammu and Kashmir – demographic flooding of occupied Kashmir by settler communities to completely disempower and disenfranchise the Kashmiri people and to obliterate their Muslim identity and that of the occupied territory.

13. During the last one year, the Council has met thrice to consider the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Paragraph 72 of the Council's report recognizes the Council meeting that took place on 16 August 2019. These meetings have confirmed the illegal Indian actions of 5 August 2019, reaffirmed the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir and underscored the imperative for a final settlement of the dispute in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

14. The international community cannot succeed in its efforts to strengthen conflict prevention and promote pacific dispute settlement if the Security Council's own resolutions are held in abeyance willfully. What is, at stake is both the Council's credibility as well as the objective of durable peace in our region. I hope that the Council will not fail these tests.

I thank you.

## **SINGAPORE**

### **Statement By Ambassador Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore**

1. I thank you, Mr President, for convening the meeting today. And I also thank the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, for presenting the report of the Security Council on behalf of all members of the Council.

Mr President,

2. This debate is an important exercise in accountability, transparency and legitimacy. The Security Council acts on behalf of all member states and therefore has the corresponding duty to report back to the General Assembly, as highlighted in Article 15 and Article 24 of the UN Charter. And as members of the General Assembly, we have the responsibility to carefully scrutinise the Council's report and to engage in a serious discussion on the activities of the Council.

3. The annual report brings transparency to the work of the Security Council, as it catalogues all its documents and decisions. The Security Council demands accountability from the wider membership on compliance with the Council resolutions. Likewise we, the wider membership of the General Assembly, must also demand accountability from the Security Council for its actions and activities.

4. It is important to keep in mind that the Security Council benefits greatly from this debate in the General Assembly on its annual report. Through such a debate, the Security Council gains greater legitimacy for its work and for its role as an important organ of the United Nations. At the same time, an inclusive debate like this contributes to strengthening the multilateral system. And I might add that I am very heartened today to see so many delegations asking for the floor. I hope that members will look at my statement today as a constructive contribution and not as a criticism or a protest about the work of the Security Council.

Mr President,

5. I would like first to comment on the content of the report. The key part of the report is the introduction. The first-ever introduction was included in the report in the year 2002, and it had then contained an excellent and concise analysis of the Security Council's work. But the level of analysis has varied since then. In fact, the introduction of the latest report

is devoid of any analysis. We think there is room for improvement and we have three specific suggestions with regard to the content of the report.

6. First, we have to analyse not just what the Council has achieved in the year, but also what it has not been able to achieve. The introduction gives an overview on the number and type of Council products that were adopted. That is good. But it is not clear what kind of resolutions were not adopted or could not be adopted, in particular those that involved the use of the veto. We propose that the annual report should give a summary of the votes cast throughout the year and the vetoes used during that year. The veto is a special privilege, and it must be wielded with special responsibilities, including accountability. Aside from the veto, we also propose that the report should contain an analysis of non-consensual decisions, and of decisions that failed to be adopted. This is not with the intention to shed negative light on the work of the Council or to criticise its performance, but to provide greater transparency on the challenges faced, such that the Council and the wider membership can work together to build on those issues with a view to finding convergence.

7. Secondly, the report should provide an analysis of the statistical trends on the Council's products. Some of this data is already available in the annual "Highlights of Security Council Practice", and could therefore be easily incorporated into the annual report. More details could also be given on the voting patterns for specific resolutions, especially if there have been notable changes. For instance, it would be worth highlighting any resolutions that are typically adopted unanimously, but have now been adopted by a vote. Conversely, it would be worth highlighting the resolutions that typically do not enjoy consensus but have now been adopted unanimously. Once again, the goal is not to cast a negative light, but to allow all members of the General Assembly to understand trends in the Council so that all of us can work together to build convergence on the most important issues of the day.

8. Thirdly, the report should give more details on the issues discussed to improve the working methods of the Council. We commend Kuwait for its leadership of the Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, which resulted in the adoption of eight Notes by the President in December last year, and we look forward to further proposals by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Any improvements to the working methods of the Council, even if they are seemingly minor, are welcome and should be mentioned in more detail in the Council's report.



Mr President,

9. I now wish to make some observations about the process of considering the report in the General Assembly.

10. First, I would like to commend the drafter of the report, namely the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation, for introducing the report earlier this year despite the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The adoption of the report in mid-July is the earliest in recent years. So, we do commend the Russian Federation for their leadership. However, we believe that there is still room for improvement. We note that Presidential Note S/2019/997 stipulates the new timeline to take effect from 2021 onwards. While it maintains the deadline of 15 March for the Secretariat to submit the draft report to the members of the Security Council, the new deadline is specifically brought forward for the adoption of the report to be no later than 30 May. This is a positive step, as it replaces the previously vague timeline that was, and I quote, "no later than spring", which introduced a lot of ambiguity about the timeline. So it is a good thing now that we have a specific date that has been documented. And we hope that Council members will adhere to the new timeline going forward. If they fail to do so, their credibility will be affected and the legitimacy of the Council will also be weakened.

11. Second, we hope that the debate on the annual report could be scheduled earlier next year, instead of in August or early September. Presidential Note S/2019/997 states that the adoption of the report should be no later than 30 May, so that it can be considered by the General Assembly, and I quote, "immediately thereafter". We think it would be good for this annual debate to be scheduled in June every year. This would provide sufficient time for member states to carefully study the report. And it is very important for the debate on the annual report to have a regular and predictable schedule and not keep changing every year so that delegations and our Capitals can be prepared to come and contribute in a meaningful way. We request, therefore, the incoming President of the General Assembly to schedule the next debate of this particular report in June 2021.

12. Thirdly, I would like to comment on the monthly assessment report contained in page 76 of the annual report. The issue of monthly assessment reports by the presidencies is also addressed in paragraphs 129 and 136 of Presidential Note 507 [S/2017/507]. We are disappointed, Mr President, to note that four members of the Security Council have still not submitted their monthly assessment report of their Council Presidency in 2019. The projections for 2020 do not look good as well, with only three members submitting their reports so far. This trend of non-submission of monthly assessment reports must be reversed. One of the challenges in issuing monthly assessments is the current practice of negotiating and adopting these reports by consensus. And I would like to point to

members that in previous years, the monthly assessment reports were issued under the responsibility of the President and it was not a document adopted by consensus. We would therefore propose that the Council reverts to the earlier arrangement of producing assessment reports issued by the Presidents in their own capacity. In our view, the monthly assessment should be issued as a product that is reflective of the Council President's own views, and not necessarily one that reflects the consensus view of all members of the Council. We hope that Council members will consider this proposal, and that they will take their monthly assessment reports seriously and not dismiss it as a mechanical exercise. Let me also add that as members of the General Assembly, it is our responsibility to scrutinize whether every member of the Council submits their monthly assessment reports. If Council members are not able to do so, they have to be accountable to the wider membership as to why they have not been able to submit their monthly assessment reports. The key point is that we in the General Assembly are watching—watching all members of the Security Council—in terms of how they perform and what they do on behalf of all of us in the General Assembly.

13. Fourthly, there continues to be a lack of effort at wider consultations in the preparation of the annual report. Paragraph 129 of Note 507 states that the drafter of the report, and I quote, "may consider organising, where appropriate, interactive informal exchanges of views with the wider membership". However, we are not aware of any informal exchange of views with the wider membership in recent years on the annual report. There also appears to be a lack of engagement on the report even within the Council and among members of the Security Council. The only time that all 15 Council members made interventions during the adoption of the report was in the year 2002, which was a very long time ago. We would propose that there should be a discussion of the report in an open setting within the Council before the annual report is adopted. Additionally, we propose that the member of the Council charged with drafting the annual report engage with members of the General Assembly informally, before the annual report is finalised. We hope that these changes that I have suggested can be made starting from next year. And we hope also, in particular, that the elected members of the Security Council will be a catalyst to make changes in this respect. We have high expectations of the newly elected members and, in this regard, I welcome in particular the earlier statement made by the Permanent Representative of Ireland, who expressed her commitment to be a catalyst for change on these important issues.

Mr President,

14. Let me conclude with some final observations. The submission of the annual report of the Security Council and its consideration by the General Assembly is an important and serious matter. The timeliness of the report must be taken seriously. If timeliness is

compromised, then we risk compromising the transparency, accountability and legitimacy of the Security Council. The annual report for 2020, which should be debated next year, will be an excellent place to start, given the new timeline stipulated by Presidential Note 997. It would not be good for the Council's credibility if it fails to adhere to the new timeline that was set by its own members, in the very first year of its implementation.

15. I understand, Mr President, that members of the Security Council face tremendous pressures and have a very demanding schedule. We can all see how hard they work and we are grateful for the work that they do on our behalf in this august body, the Security Council. And I have every sympathy and empathy for their position, and the pressing demands placed on their time. However, it is important that they and all of us work together continuously to improve our work and improve our way of doing things. It is equally important for the Security Council and the General Assembly to work together and to support each other to achieve our common vision of peace and stability around the world. It is in this constructive spirit of improving our work that I have made my suggestions, and I hope members will take all my comments in the right spirit. I thank you for your attention.

## **UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL'S PRESIDENT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

### **Statement by the President of UNSC**

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking you, on behalf of all the members of the Security Council, for your service as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, and for today's meeting.

As the President of the Security Council for the month of August 2020, Indonesia has the honor to introduce the annual report of the Council (A/74/2), covering the period from 1st of January to 31st of December 2019.

The Charter of the United Nations entrusts the Security Council with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. With the support of United Nations membership, the Security Council has endeavored to discharge its responsibilities actively in accordance with the Charter to support peacekeeping efforts and urge peaceful resolution of conflicts around the world.

During the reporting period, the Council held 258 formal meetings, of which 243 were public. The Council continued to use video tele-conferencing (VTC) for meetings and consultations, a prevalent practice since its introduction in 2009, resulting in an average of more than 61 VTCs per year. In 2019, the Council was briefed via VTC 115 times, from different locations, including Bangui, Jerusalem, and Kinshasa.

The Council adopted 52 resolutions and 15 presidential statements, and issued 67 statements to the press. The Council also conducted five missions. The Council visited Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau in February; Burkina Faso and Mali in March; Iraq and Kuwait in June; Colombia in July; and Ethiopia and South Sudan in October. On 22 October, during the visit to Ethiopia, the Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held their thirteenth annual joint consultative meeting, which was focused on the Central African Republic, Libya, South Sudan and the Sahel.

In 2019, thematic, general and cross-cutting issues remained a priority for the Council, including non-proliferation, the protection of civilians in armed conflict, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, sanctions and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, and consistent with usual practice, I would like to thank Russia for preparing the report, and members of the Council for their contributions to it.

Despite limitations of the Council's working methods resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to say that the UN Security Council managed to finish and adopt the report even earlier than was last year. This was to accommodate the desire of the Member States of the United Nations for sufficient time to study the report.

I also extend our appreciation, on behalf of the members of the Security Council, to the Secretariat and all others involved in compiling and producing the report. We look forward to the discussion of the report by the members of the General Assembly and will convey the views to our colleagues in the Security Council.

Thank you.

## UKRAINE

### Statement by the delegation of Ukraine

Mr. President,

Ukraine expresses its gratitude to the Indonesian presidency of the Council for the month of August for presenting the annual report (A/74/2) of the Security Council to the General Assembly.

The consideration of this document by the General Assembly is an important exercise to ensure adequate transparency of the Council, as well as interaction between the Security Council and this Assembly. After all, the Security Council discharges its mandate on behalf of the UN membership and is accountable to the GA.

Ukraine fully supports the decision of the President of the General Assembly of 27 August to circulate a compilation of the statements delivered at today's debate. We hope that it will facilitate the preparation of the next report which would finally include the questions and comments expressed during our discussions.

Unfortunately, this report does not reflect the outcomes of last year's debate, - neither in its substance nor with regard to the date of its release.

Every year Member States express their disappointment over the lateness of the report's release. This year is not much different.

Every year we share our views on how to improve it. And vast majority of our suggestions are being disposed of.

Mr. President,

To be more specific I would like to make a couple suggestions.

First of all, right of veto. We fully agree with a number of other delegations that the General Assembly should discuss any use of the veto in a formal meeting, as a measure of accountability. Last year my delegation suggested to include into the annual report a summary of the vetoes used during the reporting period and the voting positions of Council members on all procedural and substantive votes taken in the Council during the period under review. Unfortunately, things haven't budged an inch.

Secondly, it is important that report uses specific references to resolutions that were not unanimously adopted. In our opinion, it would be even more useful to have a short explanation as to which aspects of the proposed documents were viewed differently by the Council members. It's also essential to refer to procedural votes conducted in the Council. Their holding indicates that its members attach an extremely significant importance to the issue at hand.

Thirdly, we recognize the effort to give a more analytical and substantive character to the introductory part. At the same time Ukraine believes that the report should contain more

information on the developments on the ground in situations that are on the Council's agenda, dynamics of conflicts as well as understanding why and under which circumstances a specific issue was brought to the attention of the Security Council.

Fourthly, I believe that we need to consider the options of how to reflect the outcomes of Council's consultations under "other matters" in annual reports. In current circumstances such discussions greatly contribute to the work of the Security Council. I will give you just one example. In 2019 the Council held two discussions on the issue of Russian aggression against Georgia. Relevant press statements by a group of Council members were made. Majority of Council members participated in these discussions. Yet, the report contains no information about these meetings.

Lastly, it is critical to provide very precise facts and assessment of the outcomes of the consideration of specific issues. Based on the issue of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict I would like to make a couple of comments on the way it is reflected in the report.

We commend the contributors to the introductory part for being more precise comparing to the last year and including relevant technical data about the meetings on the issue of Russian aggression against Ukraine.

At the same time Russia itself is not even mentioned in the introductory part of the report. The request for the Council meeting to discuss yet another blatant violation of the Minsk Agreements due to one of the illegal decrees of the Russian President is misleadingly referred as a request to discuss the facilitation of obtaining foreign citizenship.

The failed attempt of the Russian side to discuss the Language law in Ukraine and clear-cut results of procedural vote in this regard are called "rejected proposal by one delegation". As though this delegation doesn't exist at all.

In conclusion, we encourage Council members to continue to explore new ways and approaches in order to further improve the preparation of the annual report to the General Assembly. A lot of very useful suggestions were made today.

I thank you

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