

The 93rd and 94th plenary meetings of the General Assembly during its seventy-eighth session under agenda item 26 entitled “Report of the Security Council”

Tuesday, 25 June 2024

Summary by the Office of the President of the General Assembly

On 25 June 2024, in its 93rd and 94th plenary meetings, the General Assembly held a debate under agenda item 26 entitled “Report of the Security Council”. The President of the General Assembly delivered opening remarks, available [here](#). 31 statements were delivered, including one on behalf of a group of 27 Member States.

Under Article 24(3) of the UN Charter, the Security Council shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly for its consideration. The submission of the annual report is therefore an obligation the Council has to the General Assembly under the Charter. The report A/78/2, available [here](#), was introduced by the Republic of Korea in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of June 2024. It provides an overview of the work of the Security Council covering the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

The presents summary is prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/335, in which the Assembly,

“Request[ed] the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the Secretariat, to resume the practice of preparing a summary of the recommendations expressed by delegations during the General Assembly plenary meeting dedicated to discussing the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly and for onward transmission”.

Following are the key messages delivered at the meetings:

- Member States recalled that under the UN Charter, the Security Council acts on behalf of the UN membership. The General Assembly’s consideration of the annual report of the Security Council therefore represents an important exercise in accountability and transparency across the main organs of the UN on matters of international peace and security.
- Member States welcomed the timely adoption of the annual report in the Security Council this year. They further commended the informal consultation convened by the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the United Kingdom, which allowed for an exchange of views ahead of the drafting of the introduction of the report. Many speakers expressed the hope that this practice will be continued for future annual reports. Some speakers advocated for enhanced engagement with troop and police contributing countries in the drafting process.
- The majority of Member States called for a more comprehensive, complete, and analytical report. The view was expressed that the annual report should analyse trends, rather than simply list meetings held during the reporting period. Suggestions were also made for the inclusion of disaggregated data on the participation of women and civil society briefers in the Council’s work.

- In addition to analysis of the Council’s publicly accessible activities, Member States also called for additional information on closed consultations and discussions held under “Any Other Business”.
- Several Member States commended the achievements of the Security Council in 2023, including the adoption of a resolution on financing for AU-led peace support operations. However, many speakers highlighted the paralysis and inability of the Council to exercise its mandate to maintain international peace and security, particularly in relation to the question of Palestine.
- Several Member States called for the inclusion of thematic agenda items such as climate and security and cyber security. It was further suggested that the Security Council, in cooperation with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Peacebuilding Commission, engage in more preventive diplomacy.
- The role and impact of elected members on the work of the Council was highlighted. It was proposed that this role be strengthened with regards to the penholder system.
- The importance of Security Council monthly assessments was stressed. Such assessments do not require unanimity and should thus not be reduced to the lowest common denominator. Council members were encouraged to complete their assessments in a timely manner.
- While Member States welcomed the inclusion of a standalone chapter on the special reports on the use of the veto, submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 76/262, many expressed regret regarding the increase in the use of the veto in 2023. Several Member States called for the report to cover draft resolutions that failed to be adopted, including points of divergence and convergence, reasons for rejection, and the positions of Council members.
- Several Member States referenced the importance of implementation of the Council’s resolutions and suggested inclusion of information on the impact that such implementation, or lack thereof, has on the relevant situation.
- General Assembly action on peace and security was referenced by several Member States. In this regard, it was suggested that the General Assembly, in line with its powers and functions, could reflect on possible action it could take, when the Security Council is unable to act. Speakers further welcomed the initiative mandated by General Assembly resolution 77/335 on the digital handbook on the past practice of the General Assembly, which will be presented to Member States in September.
- While most speakers focused on the process and content of the annual report, the need for comprehensive reform of the Security Council was also underscored by several speakers.
