

Informal Consultation on the Annual Report of the Security Council

16 January 2025

Summary by the Office of the President of the General Assembly

On 16 January 2025, the President of the General Assembly at its 79th session, H. E. Philemon Yang, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, convened an informal consultation for Member States and Observers to express their views ahead of the drafting of the introduction of the 2024 annual report of the Security Council.

The meeting, convened for the second consecutive year, was organized in line with paragraph 148 of the note by the President of the Security Council of 13 December 2024 (S/2024/507), which states that the member of the Council preparing the introduction to the annual report of the Security Council “may also consider organizing, where appropriate, interactive informal exchanges of views with the wider membership”.

The President of the General Assembly delivered opening remarks in which he highlighted the call of the membership for a more analytical and consultative approach to the drafting of the annual report. He stressed that while the Security Council holds primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, the General Assembly also has an important and complementary role, exemplified by this meeting. The President urged Member States to provide clear, practical contributions. He called on the Security Council to consider these perspectives when drafting the report, highlighting the role of the Russian Federation as the drafter of the report this year.

The Russian Federation highlighted that it had requested to hold this interactive dialogue, responding to Note 507 (S/2024/507) and the calls of the membership. The representative of the Russian Federation confirmed that the report will include the chapter on the special report on the use of the veto, and as drafter, the Russian Federation will adhere to the deadlines outlined in Note 507 as well as constructively engage with all Security Council members, including those who had left the Council at the end of 2024. He called for the dialogue to be constructive and have non-politicized approaches.

Representatives of Member States and Observers took the floor to express their views, including one on behalf of a group of 27 Member States. The following is a summary of the statements delivered.

- Delegations described the submission of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly as an important exercise of transparency and accountability. There was widespread support for the convening of these informal consultations in line with Note 507, ahead of the drafting of the introduction to the annual report. Member States also called for the views expressed at the consultations to be taken into consideration when drafting the report.

- Delegations expressed support for successive drafters of the annual report to continue the practice of organizing consultations, including through the formalization of the process. It was noted that making the process an annual fixture could further participation of the membership, particularly of smaller delegations and allow delegations sufficient time to prepare and provide substantive input. One Member State suggested that the meeting could be formalized through the resolution to be adopted on the revitalization of the General Assembly.
- One delegation suggested that the report could also include statistics, such as disaggregated data on the participation of women and civil society representatives in the Council.
- Several Member States recommended more detailed information on sanctions, including the effectiveness of sanctions for peace and security, the trend of increasingly non-consensual votes on sanctions issues, and the impact of new panels of experts on sanctions, as well as when panels come to an end.
- It was suggested by some Member States that information on implementation and violations of resolutions adopted by the Council should be incorporated in the report.
- One Member State suggested the inclusion in the report of an analysis of Special Political Missions and Peacekeeping Operations, and their effectiveness.
- On the process, several Member States encouraged the timely adoption of the report in the Security Council by the deadline of 30 May 2025. Similarly, it was suggested that the General Assembly set a fixed date for its consideration of the report.
- The importance of Security Council monthly assessments was stressed in several statements. A number of delegations encouraged that such assessments be incorporated into the report and clarified that monthly assessments represented the views of the delegation holding the presidency of the Council for the month, in their national capacity and did not therefore require unanimity, allowing for a more analytical framing. Council members were also encouraged to complete their monthly assessments in a timely manner, with a call for those who had not done so in the previous calendar year to do so.
- There were calls for the report to cover closed consultations and “any other business” discussions to enhance transparency.
- Numerous Member States praised the inclusion of a standalone chapter on the veto in the previous report, calling for continuation of the practice as well as for further details to be included. In this regard, they called for greater examination of the use of the veto, including the explanations of vote by the Member States which cast the veto.
- Delegations noted that as vetoes reached their highest number since 1989, the General Assembly must strengthen its peace and security role when the Council cannot act, referencing the recently published *Assembly for Peace* handbook in this regard.
- In this regard also, some delegations suggested that the Security Council needed to respond further to the interventions by Member States at meetings held after the use of the veto, whether in the context of Emergency Special Sessions or debates held in line with General

Assembly resolution 76/262. It was suggested that this could be included in the report under the sections covering the relevant agenda items.

- Further details on draft resolutions that failed to be adopted were suggested for inclusion in the report, along with information on the main provisions of the resolutions, voting record, number of cosponsors and an indication of the reasons for rejection.
- Overall, it was acknowledged that while strides had been made last year, the introduction should respond to the repeated calls by Member States to be more analytical. It should contain a more exhaustive, clear and factual description of the work of the Council over the year, with a focus on trends, including challenges and opportunities. It was noted that this could contribute to strengthening the link between the General Assembly and the UN Security Council, and further accountability.

In the closing statement, the Russian Federation thanked representatives for their interventions and assured that they would be taken into consideration in the preparation of the introduction to the report. The Russian Federation noted that preparing the report was a challenging exercise since the report of the Security Council requires the consensus of all its members.
