

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
9 September 2024

Original: English

**Letter dated 6 September 2024 from the Representative of
Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the pleasure to inform you that Slovenia, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of September 2024, will hold a high-level open debate on the theme “Leadership for peace: united in respect of the Charter of the United Nations, in search of a secure future”, in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”. The open debate will take place on Wednesday, 25 September, at 11 a.m.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, Slovenia has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samuel **Žbogar**
Representative of the Republic of Slovenia
to the Security Council



Annex to the letter dated 6 September 2024 from the Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council high-level open debate on the theme “Leadership for peace: united in respect of the Charter of the United Nations, in search of a secure future” in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Briefers

- Secretary-General of the United Nations
- President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mirjana Spoljaric Egger
- Member of The Elders and former President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Background

We live in a world of grim statistics. We are facing the highest number of ongoing conflicts since the Cold War, record numbers of casualties among civilians, including children, humanitarian and medical workers and journalists, and historic high numbers of forcibly displaced people. Climate change, water insecurity and environmental degradation multiply the risks to international peace and security. Despite development, abundance and wealth, millions still face hunger and protection crises, affecting women and children the most.

The world is becoming less stable and less peaceful. We have not seen, in many decades, such a need to build or rebuild trust to secure our future.

Among the ongoing conflicts, several have the potential to escalate into larger regional conflicts. The disrespect of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and Security Council resolutions seen in these conflicts is a challenge to multilateralism. 75 years after their adoption, the Geneva Conventions are under strain.

Tolerating impunity for massive and flagrant violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, risks further erosion and flexible interpretation of these rules in future conflicts – to the detriment of the civilian population.

The Security Council bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The global public continues to look to the Council for leadership and solutions. Political groups and civil society are calling upon the Council to act.

Where is the problem?

Increasing geopolitical competition is reflected in the Security Council, and it is all too often turning the Council into a political battleground ending in stalemate and a lack of action, rather than a unique place for diplomacy to work on solutions. Any show of disunity and the Council’s inability to reach consensus is sending the wrong signal to warring parties and the international community. The impartiality of the United Nations, its agencies and its staff are being challenged like never before. Women are being left behind instead of being included in all relevant processes.

With peace operations lacking the strong and unified support of Member States and their accelerated withdrawal, United Nations peacekeeping is facing many challenges, including that of relevance. Many other tools, such as sanctions and mediation, are not being used effectively to prevent conflicts. By shying away from their timely use, the Council is faced with a growing number of protracted, re-emerging and escalating conflicts threatening entire regions.

The post-Second World War world order, as enshrined in the Charter, is becoming more and more difficult to maintain. The collective security system built to prevent conflicts is in danger. Not because it is irrelevant, but because its principles and goals are not respected.

We need to restore political will and mutual trust to further strengthen the multilateral system with the United Nations at its core and make it relevant in the world of today. The basic precondition for building and rebuilding trust is full respect for and compliance with the principles of the Charter. Security Council members need to show renewed leadership in addressing crises and upholding international law impartially.

Guiding questions

- How can we escape this emerging trend of eroding respect for the Charter? How can we recommit to the Charter and start building steps towards mutual respect, trust and consensus? How do we reinforce the eroding respect of the Geneva Conventions and foster and strengthen a culture of compliance with international humanitarian law?
- Gaza, the Sudan and Ukraine, among others, are three situations, very different in their natures, where the Council could – and must – restore its credibility and relevance. What could the Council do better in each of these conflicts?
- Elected members have found themselves in a position as potential generators of unity and consensus. What is their role in the work of the Security Council?
- How can regional organizations better complement and reinforce the Council's efforts to maintain international peace and security?

Modalities

The meeting will be held in the format of a high-level open debate, chaired by Robert Golob, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia. All Member States are invited to participate at the level of head of delegation attending the general debate of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Member States wishing to participate should inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the e-Speakers module of e-deleGATE. A letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent Representative or the Chargé d'affaires, a.i., requesting to participate in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, must be uploaded at the time of inscription. Inscription for the meeting will open on Friday, 20 September 2024, at 9.30 a.m.

To facilitate participation by as many delegations as possible, interventions should not exceed three minutes. Time management will be closely observed.