



Security Council

Distr.: General
3 September 2020

Original: English

Letter dated 2 September 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

The Niger assumes the presidency of the Security Council on 1 September 2020, in a context still marked by the constraints linked to the persistence of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in particular the restrictions imposed by the authorities of the State and the City of New York.

Following the evolution of the pandemic and taking into account the advice of the health service of the United Nations Secretariat, the Nigerien presidency would like to encourage the resumption of in-person meetings in the Economic and Social Council Chamber while respecting the necessary measures that are required under current circumstances, in particular the health measures of 7 August 2020 and subsequent ones.

In this regard, virtual meetings will continue to be the rule and in-person meetings the exception, in strict compliance with appropriate precautionary and distancing measures.

The members of the Security Council agree that the decision to convene meetings of the Council on United Nations Headquarters premises rests with the Council.

The members of the Council will continue to discuss and decide by consensus on the possibility of convening meetings at United Nations Headquarters in September 2020, taking into account the regulations and measures taken by the host country and the United Nations Secretariat and the general situation in New York City.

Our presidency also intends to encourage general compliance with certain good practices and with document [S/2017/507](#) of 30 August 2017 and the eight notes by the President of the Security Council of 27 December 2019 ([S/2019/990](#) to [S/2019/997](#)).

Therefore, after consultation with the United Nations Secretariat and all members of the Council, the Nigerien presidency will continue the working methods of the former presidencies, as outlined in the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Council ([S/2020/372](#)), as well as the modalities of the Council Chamber meetings enshrined in the letter dated 1 July 2020 from the President of the Council ([S/2020/639](#)), as well as the letter dated 4 August 2020 from the President of the Council ([S/2020/778](#)) and its additional note.

During its presidency, the Niger intends to conduct the business of the Council and deliver its national statements in its official language. The English versions of such statements will be made available to Council members in advance. In this regard,



the Niger strongly encourages the deployment of the interpretation platform to allow Council members to speak in their official languages as soon as possible.

The present methods and modalities of work are intended only to respond to the extraordinary circumstances related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. They will be evaluated at the end of September and may be revised, adapted or suspended, subject to the agreement of all members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdou **Abarry**
President of the Security Council
