



Security Council

Distr.: General
6 January 2021

Original: English

Letter dated 5 January 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

Tunisia assumes the presidency of the Security Council on 1 January 2021 in a context still marked by the restrictions imposed by the authorities of the State and the City of New York on public and private meetings in connection with the persistent coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Against that backdrop, and based on recent practices and modalities developed by the Security Council to return to United Nations Headquarters, a combination of informal videoconferences and in-person meetings will continue to be envisaged by the Security Council in January 2021.

Considering that the members of the Security Council are in agreement that the decision on convening in-person Council meetings at Headquarters rests with the Council, and with further guidance from the United Nations medical services, in-person meetings will be held during January as and when it is deemed appropriate and upon agreement by all Council members.

In-person meetings in the Security Council Chamber or in the Economic and Social Council Chamber will be held in strict compliance with the health protocols, the guidelines for physical distancing and the measures laid out in the annexes to the letters from the President of the Security Council for, respectively, July and October 2020 on working methods ([S/2020/639](#) and [S/2020/966](#)), with particular emphasis on the critical importance of wearing a mask at all times, including while delivering remarks.

For the informal videoconferences of the Security Council, the presidency will extend and implement the working methods set out in the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council ([S/2020/372](#)).

Tunisia recalls all the letters from the President of the Security Council issued during the COVID-19 pandemic from March to December 2020 on the issue of working methods ([S/2020/253](#), [S/2020/273](#), [S/2020/372](#), [S/2020/490](#), [S/2020/639](#), [S/2020/778](#), [S/2020/877](#), [S/2020/966](#), [S/2020/1077](#) and [S/2020/1163](#)) and will continue to draw on the wisdom contained therein.

The current methods and modalities of work are intended only to respond to the extraordinary circumstances related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will not set a precedent for the future. They will be evaluated at the end of January and may be revised, adapted or suspended, subject to the agreement of all members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tarek Ladeb
President of the Security Council

