



Security Council

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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. In the context of their constant endeavours to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council and against the background of a precarious international situation, the members of the Council welcomed the valuable, thought-provoking ideas and observations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, which contributed to wide-ranging exchanges of views among members of the Council, carried out in the constructive spirit.

2. In order to initiate and facilitate these exchanges, and in a flexible manner, discussion was structured under five main aspects, as follows:

(a) The role of the Council in the prevention of conflicts, including both measures by the Council under the relevant Articles of the Charter and its response to situations brought to its attention by Member States or by the Secretary-General under Articles 35 and 99;

(b) The role of the Council in promoting negotiations or other peaceful settlement procedures between the parties to a dispute, including the part which the Council might itself play in such procedures;

(c) Implementation of resolutions of the Council, including measures to give effect to its decisions as well as to strengthen United Nations peace-keeping operations and ensure respect for the tasks assigned to peace-keeping forces by the Council;

(d) Measures for giving effect to Article 43 of the Charter including the role envisaged for the Military Staff Committee in Articles 43 to 47;

(e) Procedural improvements designed to facilitate the effective exercise by the Council of its functions under the Charter.

3. In the course of the discussion, spread over 18 meetings in informal consultations, many ideas were generated and specific suggestions were also made under each aspect; it was self-evident that most of them required careful analysis and detailed study.

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4. The members of the Council therefore recognized that the examination of suggestions on possible ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council, including those contained in the Secretary-General's report, was an ongoing exercise requiring further detailed consideration, not yet completed.

5. Throughout the debate, members stressed the validity and vitality of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Charter itself and, in the first instance, the duty of all Member States to fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them under the Charter, particularly those relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace and security.

6. Within this context, they recalled the obligation of Member States to accept and carry out decisions of the Council, as well as the need for their continuing support to enhance implementation of those decisions.

7. Members reaffirmed the need to strengthen the effectiveness of the Security Council in fulfilling its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, including procedures for promoting more systematic use of the Council.

8. Members considered essential the further development of a "collegial spirit" among the members of the Council, including adequate working relations among its permanent members.

9. Members of the Council noted the clear distinction envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations between the functions and specific powers of the Council and those of the other principal organs of the United Nations and urged all members of the United Nations to keep that important distinction in mind.

10. Members stressed the option for the establishment of subsidiary organs in accordance with Article 29 as a practical measure when considered necessary.

11. Members of the Council also stressed the importance of, and sensed positive prospects in the future for, timely and appropriate action by the Council to prevent, under the relevant provisions of the Charter, aggravation of particular situations or disputes.

12. To this end, members of the Council considered measures which would facilitate prompt and effective action by the Council and enable it to recommend appropriate procedures or methods of adjustment.

13. In this context, consideration was given to making more effective the existing technical information-gathering capabilities of the Secretariat of the United Nations and the accessibility of this information to members of the Council.

14. In the same context, consideration was also given to enhancing the means for the Council to dispatch fact-finding or inquiry missions.

15. The members considered the question of holding periodic meetings of the Council and the desirability of occasional meetings outside Headquarters, as well as meetings at the highest possible level.
16. Consideration was also given to strengthening and ensuring respect for United Nations peace-keeping operations.
17. Members heard suggestions on the possibility of activating the work of the Military Staff Committee in fulfilling the tasks assigned to it under the Charter.
18. Members considered many other aspects of the work of the Security Council, including suggestions designed to revitalize the concept of collective, international security, and other innovative proposals designed to enhance the effectiveness of the Council.
19. Members sensed that certain elements of convergence in their discussions, which offered greater prospects of progress, merited priority consideration. They are prepared to examine these and all other relevant aspects that may still be raised or brought to their attention.
