



Mission permanente de la France
auprès des Nations unies



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
New York

Working methods for the Presidency of the Security Council by Estonia, France and Germany for May, June and July 2020

During the three months of their Presidencies, Estonia, France and Germany intend to encourage respect of identified good practices, including as described in Note 507 (S/2017/507), as applicable, in order to allow for a more efficient use of the time of the Security Council, to enhance its transparency, promote interactivity and effectiveness, including by securing outcomes to Council meetings.

During the period of restrictive measures in place with regard to COVID-19, the Presidencies aim to support the continuation of the work of the Security Council in an open, inclusive and effective manner, primarily via VTC meetings. Estonia, France and Germany will strive to return to the regular conduct of business of the Security Council as foreseen by the UN Charter and the Provisional Rules of Procedure as soon as circumstances permit, adjusting working methods in close consultation with the Secretariat and with all Council members.

Estonia, France and Germany would like to provide the following guidance to all delegations, without prejudice to their prerogatives as Members of the Security Council:

- The agenda of each meeting will be shared in advance on the social networks of the Presidency.
- Member States of the UN taking the floor at the Security Council, including Council members, are encouraged to deliver their statements in five minutes or less. The President will encourage briefers to limit their interventions to ten minutes. The number of briefers should be limited, as a general rule, to three per meeting. If speakers do not follow the guidance on speaking time, the President may signal the speaker to draw their remarks to a close.
- Council members are encouraged to include in their interventions elements related to the areas of focus of the briefers, to ask questions from the briefers, and to avoid repeating already stated positions. To this end the Presidency will e.g. thank the briefers for their statements on behalf of all council members. In closed meetings, Council members are encouraged to make short and focused statements.
- Briefers will be asked to indicate through the Presidency the key elements of their interventions in advance. These elements will then be distributed by the presidency ahead of the meetings in order to allow all delegations to better prepare their statements. When briefing, speakers will be requested to be as succinct as possible on the factual elements already described in written reports circulated ahead of the meeting, and to focus on the

operational recommendations and expectations for Council action. The President will provide an opportunity to briefers to respond to interventions during the debate, as appropriate.

- “Two Finger rule”. Council members are encouraged to raise two fingers to indicate to the President their wish to intervene briefly in response to a point made by another Council member or breifer.

- Meetings of the Council should be, as appropriate, action-oriented. The President aims to have an outcome for each meeting, such as elements to the press or a press statement.

- The Presidency aims at including, when possible, briefers from civil society on a regular basis and with a particular focus on female briefers and will monitor the risk of reprisals against civil society briefers, and respond promptly if any reprisals take place.