



Working methods for the Presidency of the Security Council by Estonia, France and Ireland for June, July and September 2021

During the months of their respective Presidencies, Estonia, France and Ireland will encourage respect for good practices, including as described in Note 507 (S/2017/507), as applicable, in order to enhance the Security Council's transparency, promote interactivity and effectiveness, including by allowing for a more efficient use of the time of the Council and by securing outcomes to Council meetings.

As restrictive measures with regard to COVID19 are being progressively eased in New York City, Estonia, France and Ireland 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 in a progressive and cautious manner, adjusting working methods in close consultation with the Secretariat and all Council members. VTC meetings will continue to assist in the continuation of the work of the Security Council in an open, inclusive and effective manner, if necessary.

Estonia, France and Ireland 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 via 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.
- 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. In closed meetings, Council members are encouraged to make short and focused 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 brifer.
- Meetings of the Council should be, as appropriate, action-oriented. The President aims to have an outcome for each meeting, where possible, such as elements to the press or a press statement.
- The Presidency aims at including 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.
- We will encourage gender balance in the organisation of events and during our Presidency will strive towards gender balance among those briefing the Security Council.