

Open debate on the working methods of the Security Council under the item entitled, “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)”, 6 February 2018

Mr. President,

Since this is the first time I am speaking before the Council this year, I would like to congratulate your country on the election as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and wish you a successful chairmanship in the month of February. I wish to thank you for organizing this open debate and Mr. Martin for his briefing. Improving and streamlining the ways in which the Security Council conducts its work is significant for the effective and efficient work of the Council in maintaining international peace and security and for the implementation of its decisions by the wider UN membership.

Mr. President,

In 2016 we marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the first note 507 (on 19 July 2006) by the President of the Security Council (S/2006/507) on the working methods of the Council after intensive work by the Security Council’s Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions (IWG). My delegation had the opportunity to be a part of this important effort and then to chair the Informal Working Group in 2007 right after the able leadership of Japan. In fact, Slovakia was the first member state appointed to chair the Informal Working Group for a full year. Our chairmanship aimed at ensuring a wider implementation of the first Note. We are happy to see that since then two subsequent versions of the Note, notably in 2010 and 2017, were elaborated also under the Japanese chairmanship. The latter, adopted on 30 August last year, (S/2017/507) now addresses nearly all aspects of Council’s practice. It is a commendable endeavor and also a good example of convergence and consensus that should transcend also into the wider process of Security Council reform.

Mr. President,

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of the Security Council to improve its working methods and commend the work of the Security Council’s Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions (IWG). It is important to continue to strengthen efforts to fully implement the existing measures and commitments set out in the updated Note and other relevant documents. At the same time the pursuit for more transparency, inclusiveness, representation and the accountability of the Security Council must remain a continuous and consistent process.

While recognizing achievements and mindful of existing challenges, my country is of the view that in the future, more attention could be given to the following areas. First, efforts aimed at enhancing openness of the work of the Security Council, including the work of its subsidiary bodies should continue. Interaction and dialogue between the Security Council and other Member States, in particular those directly concerned and affected, should be further enhanced and widened.

Second, substantive engagement of the Council with Troop- and Police-Contributing Countries should be further improved to strengthen the basis for decision-making in the Council and the incentive for the general membership to support peacekeeping operations.

Third, we believe that further development of more active and meaningful relationships and interaction with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council could increase the Security Council's effectiveness of response to conflicts and strengthen its role in conflict prevention and sustaining peace. In our view, the Security Council should take much greater advantage of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and its configurations. The Security Council established PBC (together with the General Assembly) in 2006 but has since somewhat shied away from drawing on its capacities, putting them to work and taking them in to account where appropriate. We consider this situation to be a major setback and should be urgently addressed.

Fourth, further consideration of ways to improve the work of the subsidiary organs of the Security Council, which are crucial for the implementation of Council's decisions, as well as inter-committee coordination. This is relevant especially to the working methods of sanctions committees given the impact and the scope of the Security Council sanction regimes.

Lastly, I fully concur with your observation, Mr. President, in the concept note that you circulated for this debate, that "it is important for the Security Council to conduct constructive debates on its working methods continuously and periodically".

Mr. President,

The role of the non-permanent members in shaping and codifying Security Council working methods has proved to be very valuable and constructive. They bring fresh ideas and are instrumental in adopting decisions on new working processes. Having said that, I would like to wish you, Mr. President, and your country only the greatest success in your chairmanship of the Informal Working Group for the current year building on previous development and achievements and making further improvements, including the areas in particular in the four areas that I have just highlighted.

Thank you for your attention.