

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 29 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of
Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of June 2019, will convene an open debate on the theme “Working methods of the Security Council” under the item “Implementation of note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2017/507](#))” on Thursday, 6 June 2019, at 10 a.m.

In order to help to guide the debate, the State of Kuwait has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mansour A. **Alotaibi**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 29 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “Working methods of the Security Council”, to be held on 6 June 2019

I. Introduction

Steady progress has been made in the 1990s and early 2000s to improve the working methods of the Security Council – mainly through the work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. These improvements are fully documented in the form of presidential statements or notes by the President of the Council reflecting the consensus among the members of the Council. Many of those improvements have relied on practical proposals submitted by the wider membership in their national capacities or on behalf of regional or subregional groups.

The State of Kuwait assumed the role of Chair of the Informal Working Group at the start of its non-permanent membership in the Security Council in January 2018 and convened an open debate concerning the working methods of the Council during its presidency on 6 February 2018, under the agenda item entitled “Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507)” (S/PV.8175).

During the open debate, many Member States stressed the need for continued discussions and engagement regarding the enhancement of the Council’s working methods and its decision-making process. During the first year of its chairing of the Informal Working Group, the State of Kuwait convened several meetings and informal briefings on various issues relating to the Council’s working methods, several of which were proposed by Member States during the open debate. This year’s open debate will serve to assess the progress made thus far and complement the discussions that took place over the course of 2018 and thus far in 2019.

II. Objectives

The revised note 507 (S/2017/507) incorporates measures agreed to by the Security Council concerning its working methods and contained in 13 other presidential notes adopted after the issuance of the note by the President of 26 July 2010 (S/2010/507). These 13 notes include the contributions of the Informal Working Group under the chairmanships of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2011); Portugal (2012); Argentina (2013 and 2014); Angola (2015); and Japan (2016 and 2017).

By holding this open debate, the State of Kuwait aims to afford all Member States the opportunity to assess the latest developments in the Council’s working methods since the issuance of the revised note 507, including the identification of implementation gaps. Member States are also welcome to provide additional practical proposals that may contribute to enhancing the efficiency of the Council’s working methods, thus enabling the Council to effectively and competently fulfil its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

III. Indicative discussion points

The open debate concerning the working methods of the Security Council is intended to capture the views of the broader membership on areas for possible improvement. The main objectives of the open debate include:

(a) Assessing the progress made since the issuance of the latest revised note 507, including through discussions and activities conducted by the IWG over the course of 2018 and in 2019;

(b) Identifying gaps in the implementation of note 507 and providing concrete proposals on how to ensure its full implementation, including possible indicators to measure progress;

(c) Finding a role in the decision-making process for concerned Member States on issues discussed by the Council and being involved in its informal consultations, in accordance with Article 31 of the United Nations Charter;

(d) Enhancing transparency in the Council's work and encouraging the flow of information to and from non-member States in the Security Council.

Member States may refer to the following guiding questions when preparing their statements:

- Further to the provisions contained in note 507, what are some additional measures the Council can undertake to improve the transparency and efficiency of its work?
- What are some of the gaps in the implementation of note 507? How can the Council as a whole, and the IWG in particular, both ensure and measure the implementation of the provisions contained in note 507?
- Paragraph 43 of note 507 states the Council's "commitment to continue to take steps to improve the focus and interactivity of its open debates." What are some ways that the Council can improve the efficiency of its open debates?
- What measures can be undertaken to improve the efficiency and transparency of the work of the Council's subsidiary bodies, including the strengthening of due process?
- What measures can be undertaken to ensure fair-burden sharing among all fifteen Council members, both in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies?

IV. Briefers

- **Karin Landgren** – Executive Director, Security Council Report
- **James Cockayne** – Director, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research

V. Outcome

While the issuance of an outcome document is not envisaged immediately after the open debate, the State of Kuwait, in its capacity as Chair of the Informal Working Group, intends to follow up on the interventions of the open debate, especially with respect to specific practical proposals put forward during the debate, through the deliberations of the Informal Working Group in the ongoing pursuit of improving the working methods of the Security Council.