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Letter dated 7 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is our honour to transmit herewith the analytical summary of the Security Council open debate on working methods under the theme “Agility and innovation: lessons for the future from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, held on 16 June 2021 and organized by the Permanent Missions of Estonia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (see annex).

The summary has been compiled solely under the responsibility of the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and without attribution. The document reflects the positions put forward by the delegations that participated in the open debate, including through the written submission of statements, and is not intended to represent agreement in any form. We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex to the letter dated 7 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Analytical summary of the Security Council open debate on the theme “Agility and innovation: lessons for the future from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, held on 16 June 2021

Background

1. Since March 2020, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has threatened to disrupt the work of the Security Council, challenging the quality of engagement among the 15 members and wholly affecting the mode of operation of the Council. Through a series of letters adopted by various presidencies, beginning with the presidency of China in March 2020, the Security Council has been able to adapt its working methods to the evolving circumstances, enabling its continuous functioning, in accordance with Article 28 of the Charter of the United Nations. Since then, the Council’s gradual and long-anticipated return to United Nations Headquarters, more specifically the Council Chamber, has been much welcomed by the entire United Nations membership. Against the backdrop of that return, the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions has remained a critical instrument to facilitate the continuous assessment of the temporary, extraordinary and provisional measures adopted to reinforce the agility and responsiveness of the Council and maintain the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the Council’s work.

2. In 2021, the theme of the annual open debate on the working methods of the Security Council was appropriately entitled “Agility and innovation: lessons for the future from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”. The concept note (S/2021/527) circulated ahead of the meeting underscored the need for participants to consider how the Council could creatively formulate and develop its working methods to better adapt to evolving circumstances. Participants were also invited to contemplate ways in which the Council might enhance its overall working methods, including through the incorporation of some of the temporary, extraordinary and provisional measures into its work during ordinary functioning. The open debate was held in the Security Council Chamber on 16 June 2021, with the participation of the Security Council members. Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, Chair of the Informal Working Group, and Karin Landgren, Executive Director of Security Council Report briefed the Council in the Chamber, while Loraine Sievers, co-author of “*The Procedure of the UN Security Council, 4th edition*”, gave a briefing via videoconference. As a result of ongoing COVID-19-related restrictions, the wider membership of the United Nations was unable to participate in the meeting in the Security Council Chamber. Instead, it was invited to submit written statements, which formed part of the official compilation document of the Council, which was transmitted by a letter from the President of the Security Council dated 18 June 2021 (S/2021/572).

3. The present analytical summary, prepared by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in its national capacity, reflects on the key issues raised in the briefing remarks and interventions by Security Council members, as well as the written interventions submitted by the wider membership of the United Nations. To that end, much focus was given to how the Council could better achieve and balance the overall transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of its work, during both ordinary and extraordinary circumstances, and how it could better prepare for future circumstances that might threaten to disrupt its ordinary functioning. A number of other issues were

also raised related to penholdership and fair burden-sharing; Council reform and the use of the veto; fair and clear procedures in the Council's sanctions committees; field visits and virtual missions; and the engagement of the Council with the wider membership, civil society and United Nations bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission. The analytical summary covers issues raised by participants that fall within the mandate of the Informal Working Group. In turn, the various issues raised and proposals made may be used to inform the ongoing discussions in the Informal Working Group that are geared towards enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and preparedness of the Security Council.

Agility

4. During the open debate, the working methods of the Security Council were recognized as the main guarantor of the Council's continued functioning. Consequently, their appropriate adaptation and adjustment are crucial for ensuring business continuity. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Council, through successive letters from the President, developed temporary, extraordinary and provisional working methods that enabled it to overcome many challenges. Those working methods enabled the Council to convene uninterrupted, both in person and via videoconference, ensure the compilation and circulation of statements submitted for open videoconferences, adopt resolutions further to a written procedure that ensured the renewal of mandates, incorporate multilingualism into its open videoconferences, facilitate the continuation of the work of subsidiary bodies and maintain its engagement with the wider membership of the United Nations. To that end, the wider membership of the United Nations welcomed the agility with which the Council was able to adapt to new and unprecedented circumstances, thereby maintaining its continuous functioning, against the backdrop of COVID-19 related constraints.

5. The notion of agility was underscored as an indispensable means by which the Security Council could discharge its mandate, capturing not only the Council's ability to convene, but also its ability to respond to emerging issues of concern. It was stressed that the Council's agility must be continually improved and strengthened, including by adopting innovative methods and ensuring the proper use of advanced technologies. In that regard, interventions by members emphasized the need for the Council to remain agile in all circumstances, in order to address the rapidly growing number of threats to international peace and security.

Videoconferences

6. The issue of videoconferences was one that was repeatedly raised by the membership in the open debate. In several interventions, members recognized videoconferences as a positive outcome of the Council's remote functioning. Many members underscored that videoconferences had enabled the Council to engage with, and involve more diverse voices from the field, including civil society, women, peacebuilders and young people. They had also enabled the Council to convene several high-level debates, with the participation of ministers and heads of government, which had brought visibility and weight to a number of issues of international concern, without additional costs to the climate that excessive travel would have otherwise entailed. One briefer also noted that videoconferences had made it easier for the scheduling of meetings of subsidiary bodies, given that they were no longer constrained by a lack of meeting rooms.

7. Despite the advantages that had been facilitated by the Council's use of videoconferences, there remained a divide among members about the status of videoconferences. Some members underscored that they should be used by the

Council only under extraordinary circumstances and reiterated that they could not be considered formal meetings procedurally, legally or logically. In contrast to that position, several members expressed concern about the informal nature of videoconferences, which did not operate subject to the provisional rules of procedure. As such, the Council had been unable to undertake procedural votes on the scheduling of meetings and the participation of briefers and had sometimes been unable to discuss new or existing agenda items more substantively. Members also expressed concern about the potential long-term impact of the lack of official records, as well as the absence of information relating to the dynamic of the voting on resolutions, which hampered the transparency of Council deliberations. It was noted that requiring consensus to convene videoconferences had hindered the capacity of the Council to deal flexibly with impending issues and that there was no reason different rules for agenda-setting should be applied to videoconferences. To that end, some participants urged the Council to consider virtual meetings as formal Council meetings and to further reflect them in the *Journal of the United Nations*, in the spirit of transparency vis-à-vis the wider membership of the United Nations and the general public.

8. Members also recognized that videoconferences had constrained the Security Council in many ways, in particular with respect to voting. While the written voting procedure, as set out in the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253), was a welcomed step that enabled the Council to continue its work, it was suggested that the process would benefit from further refinement.

9. Another aspect of videoconferences that was highlighted as a concern pertained to the restrictions around the participation of the wider membership in open debates, which hampered the ability of non-Council members to be heard in a timely manner. Those constraints were also deemed to have negatively affected transparency and inclusivity in the Council's work. Members expressed their disappointment that open debates conducted within the context of pandemic-related working methods, featured only oral statements from briefers and Council members. It was noted that written contributions were not an appropriate substitution for the wider membership's participation and that the Council must allow non-Council members to speak in open videoconferences, namely, open debates. In that regard, members made a number of suggestions for the Council's consideration, including the following: exploring safe modalities, such as timed arrivals and the use of the antechamber to ensure an uninterrupted flow in the speakers list; using recorded statements; and holding meetings that combined in-person and virtual participation to attract a wide spectrum of briefers in choice events. To that end, the Council was encouraged to leverage modern technology to continue exploring the option of hybrid formats for open debates as long as the wider membership's face-to-face presence at the Council was limited for health reasons.

10. Members generally expressed their anticipation of the resumption of open debates that were not limited to the participation of Council members, while some interventions reiterated that the provisions related to the participation of non-Council members were exceptions not intended to become permanent practice.

11. Many members recognized that virtual engagement could never actually replace in-person interaction among Council members, with some emphasizing that the Council's recent gradual return to its usual mode of functioning should put an end to virtual meetings. That notwithstanding, members generally underscored that there were aspects of that mode of operation that could prove beneficial, such as strengthened engagement with a range of stakeholders from all over the world and the participation of high-level participants, who could not otherwise travel to New York. To that end, many delegations stressed that the use of videoconferences should

be maintained, with an improved quality of simultaneous interpretation that provided fully for multilingualism. Some delegations underscored that videoconferences should be incorporated to the extent that they contributed to the Council's effectiveness and efficiency, while others emphasized that they should be used only to convene informal meetings. In that regard, the hybrid format did not enjoy the support of all members, some of whom expressed concern that unpredictable and serious legal consequences could arise.

Striking a balance: transparency, efficiency and effectiveness

12. Transparency, efficiency and effectiveness are three elements that have been consistently recognized and emphasized as fundamental to the Security Council's deliberations and decision-making and the overall successful discharge of its mandate. Those elements are inextricably interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Accordingly, many interventions from the open debate focused on how best the Council could strike an appropriate balance between ensuring transparency vis-à-vis the wider membership of the United Nations and efficiency in the Council's work. Within that context, members underscored the need for the Council to continue making strides towards finding the right balance between private and public meetings. The Council was urged to enhance the transparency and visibility of its work and encourage more interactivity in discussions and consensus-building.

13. Transparency, efficiency and effectiveness concern the substance of Security Council discussions and how that translates into concrete action to influence situations on the ground. Transparency, efficiency and effectiveness demand, for example, that the format of a meeting be tailored to the expected outcome. Similarly, when a decision is made to hold a meeting in private, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness demand that there be some level of visibility and openness about the deliberations that have taken place. Participants highlighted the notion of transparency, in particular, as one that could help to foster trust and strengthen multilateralism. Members called for the Council to hold more open-format meetings and more informative briefings, with some emphasizing that private meetings and informal consultations should be the exception and not the rule. While it was generally accepted that there was merit in private conversations, some delegations called for the enhancement of inclusion and transparency of the Council towards the wider membership and the public. Other members noted that excessive public meetings to the detriment of decision-making should be avoided. Nevertheless, the adoption of regular press elements was recognized as a means of enhancing transparency, and the Council was therefore urged to agree on public remarks following all closed meetings. It was stressed that the practice of summarizing discussions from closed consultations for presentation to the media should be further developed. A suggestion was also made that the Council should issue minutes of informal consultations.

14. On deciding on the most appropriate format of meetings, it was suggested that consultations between the presidency and briefers ahead of a meeting might be useful, given that briefers might sometimes have a preference of format by which they wished to convey information to Security Council members. Those consultations should be geared towards tailoring the format and focus of the meeting, in order to secure the best chance of meaningful outcomes to deliberations, as well as addressing the risk of conflict before escalation. In that vein, it was suggested that the Secretariat, penholder or presidency might also advise on the necessity of holding meetings on the basis of mandated reporting cycles and determining whether a Council meeting was necessary during a particular month.

15. In an effort to strike the appropriate balance, it was also emphasized that focus should be placed on the agenda of the Security Council, as well as matters of which the Council was seized. The Council was urged to utilize “Other matters” during informal consultations to ensure that emerging threats were addressed in a timely manner, and to reflect those discussions in the informal programme of work. The Council should reflect on its workload and the proliferation of meetings, ensuring its preparedness to innovate and adapt in order to make the best use of its time. Accordingly, it was suggested that rather than scheduling routine meetings on every report of the Secretary-General, more resources should be dedicated to acute crisis situations.

Engagement of the Security Council with United Nations bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission, and regional organizations

16. The sustained coordination, cooperation and interaction of the Security Council with the principal organs of the United Nations, as well as with the Human Rights Council, was a recurring theme throughout the interventions of many delegations, and the President of the Council was encouraged to regularly engage with the heads of those principal organs. Members called for the Council to enhance its interaction with the General Assembly and other principal organs of the United Nations, paying particular attention to the need to avoid encroachment of, or interference in, the issues falling within the purview of those other organs. Some members noted that the practice of considering thematic subjects in the Council that fell under the competence of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other organs violated the well-established division of labour and distracted the Council from addressing its priorities.

17. Acknowledging that the number of items addressed in the Security Council had swelled, various members called on the Council to increase its communication and coordination with the General Assembly to avoid broadening its scope of consideration and prevent duplication of efforts. Members also recognized the Council’s annual report to the Assembly, which provided a valuable overview of the work of the Council, as a key tenet of the interaction between the two organs and as a means by which the Council maintained transparency and kept the wider membership well-informed about various Council issues. While members generally welcomed the Council’s efforts to ensure the timely submission of the annual report, they also called on the Council to ensure that the report was more analytical, detailed, contextualized and forward-looking. Members also stated that the annual report should incorporate the main challenges to international peace and security, with a dedicated section on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic providing an overall and cross-cutting analysis of the matter. In considering the annual report, the issue of monthly assessments was also raised, with various delegations calling on Council members to ensure the timely preparation of those assessments.

18. Members also acknowledged the role of the Peacebuilding Commission as one that should be further utilized by the Security Council to enrich its discussion of mandates and to provide cross-cutting perspectives on different topics. The advisory body was recognized as being uniquely placed to provide reliable and first-hand information, as well as advice on its country configurations. It was suggested that interaction between the Council and the Commission should be enhanced, including by inviting the Chair of the Commission to discuss issues of common interest and by considering relevant joint outcomes of the two organs, where possible.

19. The interaction between the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations was an issue that recurred in various interventions. Members called on the Council to ensure continued targeted periodic engagement with such organizations

to satisfy the Council's efforts to be agile and promote transparency, as well as prevent conflicts. It was underscored that interaction between the Council and regional and subregional organizations should not be limited solely to signature events, but should also include topical issues that arise, such as the exchange of experiences and views in regional management of the pandemic. Moreover, in addressing hotspots, the Council was encouraged to heed the views of regional organizations.

Council engagement with the wider membership, including troop- and police-contributing countries and civil society

20. The enhanced and sustained interaction of the Security Council with the wider membership, including troop- and police-contributing countries and civil society, was recognized as critical to securing transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in the Council's work. Participants recognized the role of the President of the Council in ensuring that engagement, including by holding briefings on the programme of work, conducting wrap-up sessions and preparing monthly assessments. Accordingly, members welcomed the preparation of monthly commitments in an effort to enhance the implementation of the note by the President of 30 August 2017 (S/2017/507) and the subsequently adopted notes by the President.

21. Members welcomed the briefings on the programme of work and the wrap-up sessions, which had become widely established meetings that contributed to the enhanced level of interaction between the Council and the wider membership. The Council was encouraged to endeavour to enhance the interactivity and candid nature of those discussions and to consider drawing from the proposals contained within the non-paper on wrap-up sessions prepared by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group in June 2021. It was further suggested that issues relating to working methods should be addressed during those sessions, including with the direct participation of the Chair of the Informal Working Group. While delegations encouraged the further institutionalization of the sessions, they also urged the Council to consider other ways to interact with, and keep the wider membership informed, throughout the month.

22. The Security Council was also encouraged to increase its engagement with non-Council members, including by exploring innovative ways and new spaces, both formal and informal, to strengthen ties with the wider membership. It was suggested that an informal channel should be established between the Council, perhaps through the President, and directly affected Member States.

23. The sustained engagement of the Security Council with the wider membership was underscored as being critical to its overall efficiency and effectiveness. The ability of the Member States directly involved or particularly affected by an issue to participate in Council discussions and decision-making processes was of importance to that interaction. The Council was also urged to heed the views of the wider membership, especially the countries concerned and countries of the region, countries affected by sanctions measures, and host countries in the context of the formulation or modification of peacekeeping mandates. To that end, there was a call for the full implementation of Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter of the United Nations, which called for the invitation of non-Council members to participate in discussions on matters of direct importance to them, within the context of the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

24. The engagement of the Security Council with civil society actors, who were uniquely placed to provide a clear, accurate and factual picture of various situations, was also critical to the Council's efficiency, effectiveness and transparency. Accordingly, the membership encouraged the inclusion and meaningful participation

of civil society representatives, including women, young people and persons with disabilities, as briefers in Council discussions.

25. Troop- and police-contributing countries were further acknowledged as key actors with whom the Security Council should enhance its interaction. Many Member States encouraged the Council to ensure that its consultations with those countries were timely and substantive and were undertaken at the early stages of the decision-making process, when formulating or modifying mandates of peacekeeping operations, and during transitions. Furthermore, consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries during mandate renewal discussions should be extended to include countries hosting United Nations peacekeeping operations.

26. While noting the irreplaceable nature of Security Council meetings, the wider membership generally recognized Arria-formula meetings as a platform that facilitated interaction with actors directly involved in situations that threatened peace and security. Those meetings remained relevant to the promotion of frank discussions on existing and emerging security challenges, in particular when a formal meeting was not possible. However, the membership urged that Arria-formula meetings not be used to promote narrow political interests aimed at influencing public opinion. Delegations also considered the issue of how to strike the appropriate balance between open and closed Arria-formula meetings, noting that they should not be used to add to the programme of work at the expense of the time needed to deal with crises.

Subsidiary organs

27. Many of the interventions by Member States, both oral and written, addressed issues related to the conduct of work of subsidiary bodies, as well as the process for the selection of chairs of subsidiary bodies. On the former, the importance of accountability and transparency in the work of the sanctions committees was stressed, and that an open and evidence-based methodology with respect to the working methods of subsidiary bodies should be followed. It was suggested that any agenda item being introduced for consideration, as well as holds placed on listing requests or other matters of the committees' business, should be supported in writing with necessary justification by the requesting members. In addition, various members underscored that specially affected Member States should be able to participate in the meetings of subsidiary bodies and that when panels and groups of experts prepared reports, they should consult with the concerned and affected States.

28. On the issue of the process for the selection of chairs, members highlighted the need for transparency and the importance of the timelines, urging that the appointment of chairs of subsidiary bodies be agreed upon no later than 1 October, in accordance with the note by the President of 30 August 2017 ([S/2017/507](#)). The timely completion of the process would enable efficiency and a smooth transition, which would allow newly elected members to monitor closely and better understand the work of the subsidiary bodies that they were expected to chair. It was also noted by numerous members that a fair and equal burden-sharing or division of labour should apply to the distribution of the chairpersonships of subsidiary bodies. Members also underscored the importance of strengthening the capacity-building of incoming members, including by assisting newly elected members in familiarizing themselves in advance with the work of the Council and its subsidiary organs. In that regard, it was suggested that the informal process of consultations should start as soon as possible after the elections and in conjunction with the envisaged capacity-building, which should involve the chairs of subsidiary organs.

Intra-Security Council cooperation and consultation

29. During the open debate and throughout the various written interventions of the wider membership, there was recognition that improved cooperation between elected and permanent members of the Security Council would lead to greater effectiveness around the common objective of improving working methods. Such coordination would maintain coherence, continuity and consistency in working priorities among members. It was stressed that Council members should build broad consensus and accommodate the concerns of all parties and avoid resorting to a vote when differences arose. It was therefore suggested that Council members should create informal spaces for meaningful discussions aimed at identifying collective approaches and solutions to situations of which the Council was seized.

30. On the issue of intra-Security Council coordination, it was suggested that smaller groups of like-minded Council members should speak out in the form of joint statements if Council actions or press statements were blocked and consensus was not achievable.

31. Members also referenced the issues of penholdership and fair burden-sharing and the need for the freedom of any Council member to submit draft texts to be preserved. Members recognized that the fair and adequate distribution of penholdership, as well as co-penholdership, would help to foster greater levels of transparency and accountability. In that regard, the notion of democratization of the Council was emphasized, as various delegations urged that the Council members consistently act together on equal footing. Many members emphasized the need for more equal burden-sharing between permanent and elected members with respect to penholdership, including with elected members serving as co-penholders. Accordingly, it was emphasized that elected members should take a more active role in the drafting and consultation process.

32. Reflecting on paragraphs 78 and 79 of the note by the President of the Security Council of 30 August 2017 (ibid.), members reiterated that multiple Council members could serve as co-penholders and that non-penholders should be encouraged to actively contribute to the drafting of documents. It was also underscored, however, that the process of allocating penholders should be more rational and should reflect shared responsibilities and collective participation.

Field visits and virtual missions

33. Field visits remain an important tool at the disposal of the Security Council that can enhance the implementation of Council decisions, enable Council members to form their own impressions of situations on the ground and strengthen the Council's engagement with key stakeholders. As such, members encouraged the Council to continue exploring ways to develop and enhance visiting missions in an effort to promote greater efficiency and flexibility, including by utilizing different composition formats, such as sending smaller groups of the Council. However, such a suggestion was not accepted by all Member States, some of which underscored that visiting missions should include all Council members, adding that a lack of full Council representation might be construed as a political signal. It was also noted that there were opportunities for the Council to derive more value from such visits in a number of ways, such as by consolidating its travel schedule with those of sanctions committees, other subsidiary organs and the Peacebuilding Commission, for greater coherence and effectiveness.

34. While some delegations underscored that hybrid or virtual visits would not allow the Security Council to sufficiently achieve the goals set for the visits, others recognized that there might be merit in carrying out visits virtually and urged the

Council to consider that format when travel was not possible and to do so with the same frequency that in-person visits would have been conducted, so as to enable the Council to be more agile and responsive in the discharge of its mandate. It was underscored that virtual visits should not be intended as a replacement for in-person visits, but should complement them to ensure that the Council could interact directly with relevant stakeholders in a time-efficient manner. In that regard, Member States encouraged the Council to remain flexible and creative in organizing field visits.

Looking ahead: lessons learned

35. Despite the unforeseen and far-reaching consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and its related constraints, many Member States lauded the Security Council for its ability to adapt quickly to the evolving circumstances, particularly as it related to the temporary, extraordinary and provisional measures that were developed to ensure the continuous functioning of the Council. Against the backdrop of the Council's efforts towards a full return to ordinary functioning in the Council Chamber, the statements made orally and submitted in writing made many references to the best practices and lessons learned from the past year, many of which could be considered in future situations that might affect the Council's ordinary operations. In that regard, the Council was urged to consider the pandemic and its related constraints as a positive opportunity to make permanent some of the recent adaptations, particularly where they reinforced the transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the Council's functioning. On the other hand, some Member States reiterated that the contingency modus operandi during the COVID-19 period was merely an interim measure that could not replace normal working modalities or constitute a precedent for the future work of the Council.

36. Despite the outstanding challenges, members recognized many best practices adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic and urged the Security Council to consider incorporating videoconferences into its work, thereby preserving valuable avenues for more inclusive and dynamic engagement. The Council was encouraged to maintain the use of videoconferences to enhance the inclusivity of its discussions and channel the views of those working on the ground into its work, including by allowing briefers to deliver remarks virtually when they were unable to attend in person and maintaining, in combination with in-person meetings of the Council, virtual high-level participation of all United Nations members. That practice was regarded as one that would not only strengthen the inclusivity of the Council's work but also provide equal opportunities for all Member States to be represented at high levels. Members also welcomed the practice of allowing non-Council members to submit written statements during open debates and encouraged the continued circulation of written compilations of briefings and statements after Council meetings, including explanations of votes. Against the backdrop of the continuously evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Council was encouraged to continue its discussions on useful practices, including flexible decision-making methods through the silence procedure and the holding of virtual or hybrid-format meetings, with the objective of reaching consensus on their use and future implementation.

37. Members recognized that there was much to consider for future extraordinary circumstances and emphasized the need to contemplate the future and agree on working methods that could withstand pandemics and other major future disruptions to the work of the Security Council. Some participants encouraged the Council to codify and ensure a ready set of working methods for similar future crises. Others stressed that the codification of the interim practices was unnecessary given that they were already set out in the letters from the President, to which the Council could also return in the event of a recurrence of a similar crisis. The Council was called on to actively engage in contingency planning that would allow for the Council and its

subsidiary organs to carry out all aspects of its work in line with Article 28 of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisional rules of procedure. The Council was urged to engage with the Secretariat to draw lessons from the Council's experience during COVID-19 and to put in place adequate contingency planning for similar future challenges, including voting virtually and in real time on substantive and procedural matters and ensuring official meeting records for Council public meetings that would reflect the meetings verbatim. Ensuring that, under extraordinary circumstances, the Council could adopt necessary products without delay, keep its work as transparent as possible and effectively relate to Member States directly affected by its work was recognized as an imperative.
