



Security Council

Sixty-eighth year

7052nd meeting

Tuesday, 29 October 2013, 10 a.m.

New York

Provisional

President: Mr. Musayev (Azerbaijan)

Members:

Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
Australia	Mr. Quinlan
China	Mr. Wang Min
France	Mr. Araud
Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
Luxembourg	Ms. Lucas
Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
Pakistan	Mr. Masood Khan
Republic of Korea	Mr. Lee Kyung Chul
Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
Rwanda	Mr. Nduhungirehe
Togo	Mr. M'Beou
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

Security Council Working Methods

Letter dated 16 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/613)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507)

Security Council Working Methods

Letter dated 16 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/613)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2013/613, which contains a letter dated 16 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank the presidency of Azerbaijan for having convened today's important open debate — important not only for the members of the Security Council but also for the general membership.

Argentina has historically advocated that efforts to improve transparency, inclusivity, openness, democratization and efficiency in the work of the Security Council should be ongoing. Argentina is therefore honoured to have the responsibility of chairing the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions.

It is fundamental to recognize the positive developments that have taken place in recent years,

including the holding of debates such as today's, which provide an opportunity to all Members not members of the Council to make proposals to improve our working methods and democratize our decision-making mechanism. Those developments are attributable to the commitment of Council members, whom we thank, and to their continuing responsibility to improve the Council's working methods. However, that shared responsibility to improve our working methods is also a response to the ongoing support and initiatives of the general membership, which appreciate all opportunities to engage in a more interactive dialogue with the Council so as to air the concerns of all Member States.

Argentina has engaged with enthusiasm in its chairmanship the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, as it has always done during its previous chairmanships of the Working Group. We acknowledge that the other members of the Council have consistently supported our efforts to seek practical ways of making the Council's work more transparent and of improving its dialogue with the general membership, the troop-contributing countries (TCCs) and police-contributing countries (PCCs), and other bodies.

In August, we adopted note S/2013/515 on Security Council dialogue with the broader membership and other bodies in response to a commitment undertaken years ago by the Council. Some of its elements are reflected in note 507 of 2010. The note contains provisions on open meetings, interactive dialogues, Arria Formula meetings, invitations to the President of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Chairs of country-specific configurations to informal dialogues, the need for subsidiary bodies to submit substantive information to the wider membership and to add momentum to their work, and the modalities of wrap-up meetings.

The last item on that list must be stressed. Several members of the Council acknowledge that its methodology should and must be improved. Argentina recognizes in particular the commitment of the Working Group to take up the issue of wrap-up meetings so as to develop them to their full potential for providing summaries of the Security Council's monthly activities and for highlighting for the general membership the varying approaches and priorities of Council members on agenda items. The wrap-up meetings are very valuable, and we therefore urge all members to convene them at the end of their respective presidencies and to

abilities, the Council could and must be more transparent in its its relations with the general membership. I am grateful for the support I have received from all the other members of the Working Group, who have without exception worked in a constructive spirit, which I trust we will continue to enjoy.

I also thank the group of members that are engaged in an analysis of the concerns of general membership in respect of this issue, as well as all members taking part in today's debate. Their views assist in the ongoing task of improving our working methods.

Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Azerbaijani presidency of the Security Council for convening this open debate on the working methods of the Security Council and for providing a very useful concept paper to guide our discussions (S/2013/613, annex). This open debate has become an established annual tradition. It is a good tradition, since it allows non-members of the Council to share their views on improving the working methods of the Council.

This debate can feed the discussions in the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Matters. Since the beginning of the year, the Luxembourg has actively contributed to the Working Group, which is chaired with competence and commitment by Ambassador Perceval of Argentina. I thank my colleague and her team for their efforts to improve the efficiency and enhance the transparency of the work of the Council.

Thanks to these efforts, this year we have adopted presidential notes S/2013/515 and S/2013/630 to strengthen exchanges and dialogue with non-member States, in particular countries that contribute troops and police to peacekeeping missions. The two notes strengthen the provisions of note S/2010/507. They give the body to the commitment undertaken by our Heads of State and Government on participation, accountability and transparency at the World Summit of 2005.

Tangible progress has been made in recent years. I note the increased use of new technologies, such as video-teleconferencing, the improvement of the Security Council web site, the more frequent resort

The Council can discharge its responsibility to the broader membership only if it is keeping the whole membership informed of its deliberations. In September, my own delegation conducted substantive briefings at the beginning and end of our Council presidency to ensure that non-members were informed of important developments. We think this practice should be institutionalized. Regular press stakeouts are also important, particularly following closed meetings.

Much of the Council's work takes place in its subsidiary bodies and therefore is seldom visible to the membership. It is unfathomable, frankly, that the Council has allowed a situation whereby only five of its 21 subsidiary bodies are mandated to openly brief the Council on their work. Transparency is particularly important in those subsidiary bodies that administer binding obligations on all States, including the sanctions regimes. While that is captured in note 515, much more needs to be done to make it a reality.

Australia, as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) — the Iran sanctions Committee — initiated in June an open briefing to all Member States on that Committee's work. As Chair of the 1737 (2006) Committee and of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, on 18 November Australia will provide a joint briefing to the broader United Nations membership with the Chairs of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) Counter-Terrorism; the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), on non-proliferation; the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the President of the Financial Action Task Force. The effectiveness of the work of those Committees depends on the implementation efforts of all Member States, and it seems obvious that all Member States should be more engaged in that vital aspect of the Council's work on peace and security.

Troop- and police-contributing countries are at the forefront of implementing many decisions by the Council. The security environments in which peacekeepers operate, especially in an era when the Council has mandated historically robust operations, require that we ensure a level of information, communication and consultation that enables us to put together sustainable operations. The voices of contributing countries need to be heard prior to key Council decisions. That

is why the Council's presidential note S/2013/630, issued yesterday, is so important. The note goes further than previous measures to enable troop- and police-contributing countries to better engage with the Council, including at their own request.

Even when the Council is informed, transparent and accountable — even when it is — there are times when it is unable to act. The Council has at times come under widespread and, frankly, justified criticism for its inability to discharge its responsibility to maintain peace and security. Much of this revolves around the use of, or the threat of, the veto. As a long-standing proponent of limiting the use of the veto — Australia has historically opposed it — we welcome France's recent call for permanent members to renounce their veto powers voluntarily in instances of mass-atrocity crimes. The French Permanent Representative's comments this morning are very encouraging. This is an important discussion we need to have.

Mr. M'Beou (Togo) (*spoke in French*): Mr President, I thank you for having convened this open debate on the working methods of the Security Council. I congratulate you on the thorough concept paper (S/2013/613, annex) that is guiding our discussions. This is the sixth open debate on the matter, and it gives us a real opportunity to evaluate the road covered in implementing the note by the President in document S/2010/507, which reviewed and completed note S/2006/507.

I welcome the substantial progress made since 2006 on a number of topics to respond to the concern over ensuring the transparency and effectiveness of the work of the Council and its interaction and dialogue with non-member States. In this context, I welcome the remarkable ongoing work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, under the excellent chairmanship of Argentina since the beginning of this year.

The points covered in note 507, and those adopted since then, are numerous and are all equally important. But in the framework of this debate I will focus on just four points, since during the debate on the same subject on 26 November 2012 (see S/PV.6870), we presented our position at length on many of them.

The first point is the open debates. Open debates take place in a formal setting that allows States not members of the Council to express their views on issues of major importance, for the settlement of which the United Nations has delegated the power of decision to

the Council. Even if we acknowledge, after two years in the Council, that only a quarter of non-members take an active part in these debates, we nonetheless consider that their usefulness is such that the Council should use them more in order to promote more interaction with all Members of the Organization.

These open debates have often ended with the adoption of resolutions or presidential statements that have been cleverly negotiated beforehand, solely by members of the Council. However, note 507 suggested that interested non-members, particularly countries directly or indirectly affected by the issue, should be consulted in order to get their views and contributions. Therefore it is important — as numerous non-member States expressed during previous debates — for the documents that result from these meetings to be adopted later in order to allow the views expressed by States and interested bodies to be incorporated.

My second point concerns open briefings and consultations. Open briefings provide an opportunity for countries and other bodies affected by the topic to share their views and intentions with Council members. Closed consultations, on the other hand, take place just among members of the Council, and do not offer this opportunity. Therefore, those countries and other bodies have perforce to wait around in the immediate environs to collect, by any means they can, information on the Council's deliberations.

To remedy that state of affairs, we would like the members of the Council to agree systematically on the information content to be delivered by the President to the media in order to provide the same level of information to all the interested States on the result of such consultations. That would enable their Governments to determine their position on those matters. Moreover, needless to say, the consultations are private in name only, since non-members know shortly after the meetings the content of deliberations, with precise details, and sometimes the views expressed by each member.

Third is the interaction with other organs of the United Nations and with regional and subregional organizations. This issue is of major importance. My country welcomes the various initiatives that have been taken to date in this framework by the Council. With regard to the General Assembly in particular, the presentation of the annual report of the Security Council does meet the concern about transparency, in

that it allows the sharing with all Members of the United Nations the work carried out on their behalf during the year. Therefore, it is important that all countries actively participate, not only in drafting the report but also during its presentation by giving statements and suggestions. Greater cooperation with the Economic and Social Council should also be encouraged.

During past debates, some delegations also stressed the need for greater interaction between different stakeholders in peacekeeping operations. In that regard, we would like to commend the establishment of an annual meeting with the commanders of different missions around the world. We would like this sort of meeting to be also organized with the Peacebuilding Commission and with country teams in order to evaluate their work on the ground .

In addition, regular meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries are opportunities to exchange views on existing problems and to report on new measures, in the context of the harmonious and coordinated implementation of mandates in order to achieve the desired results. We welcome those excellent initiatives and would like the time spent in these meetings to really enable us to go through the item on the agenda. Moreover, we would like cooperation with regional and subregional organizations to be strengthened and supported, because they enable us to attain positive results in the maintenance of peace and security.

The fourth point concerns Arria Formula meetings and informal interactive dialogues. The usefulness of such meetings is clear. In those meetings Member States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society can exchange opinions on specific issues that are on the agenda of the General Assembly and of the Security Council and that have a real impact on the maintenance of international peace and security. Their consideration enables us to better understand them and to propose appropriate solutions.

Since those meetings promote a dialogue with experts and specialists, we believe that they should be encouraged. We commend the efforts of the Secretariat to encourage their convening. In order to reduce costs of participation of people are invited to participate, we could perhaps use videoconferencing.

As mentioned earlier, the points of understanding in the Informal Working Group, which were the subject of the presidential notes, are as important as they

are varied. The note of 28 August 2013 (S/2013/515) expresses the points of view. We welcome the agreements reached within the Council, but we think that the hardest thing to do remains their implementation. Too many decisions have already been taken without being effectively implemented.

We express the strong hope, since we are discussing this as an outgoing member, that the permanent members will show themselves much more willing to undertake a real reform of the working methods. They have long experience of Council's working, and they know better than anyone the limits of current working methods. This internal reform will enable the Council to successfully carry out the mission that the Charter of the United Nations has conferred upon it, namely, the maintenance of international peace and security. A successful reform of the working methods could augur a promising future for the discussions, which have been going on for nearly two decades in the General Assembly, on the question of the reform of the Security Council.

The President: I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate their texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I now give the floor to the representative of Switzerland.

Mr. Guerber (Switzerland): I am pleased to take the floor in my capacity as the coordinator of Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT), a cross-regional group of 22 States. ACT is currently composed of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Hungary, Ireland, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania and Uruguay.

ACT was launched in May 2013 as a new initiative to improve the working methods of the Security Council. The name is an acronym - accountability, coherence and transparency — which stands for our common conviction that these qualities are needed in all the Council's activities. ACT is convinced that the Council, whatever its composition, can and should improve its working methods through a set of pragmatic and concrete measures.

Let me be clear: ACT is independent of the negotiations on the comprehensive reform of the Security Council. ACT takes no position on the reform, composition and enlargement of the Council, and it will remain outside of that process. ACT intends to work constructively with members of the Security Council and with the broader United Nations membership to increase the involvement of non-Council members and the accountability of the Council to the entire United Nations membership.

Today's meeting is an opportunity to enhance that dialogue, and ACT welcomes today's open debate organized by Azerbaijan and the excellent concept note (S/2013/613) distributed.

ACT encourages all States Members of the United Nations to dedicate their energy and their knowledge to the improvement of the Security Council's working methods. Under the Charter of the United Nations, Member States confer on the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council acts on behalf of all Member States, and all Member States agree to accept and carry out those decisions. Therefore, all of us have a fundamental interest in the Council's decisions and the process leading to them.

Recently, the Council's responses to activities in different areas have shown how much support is needed from Member States. Member States have been ready to join their efforts together, to take risks and, sometimes, to grieve the loss of nationals engaged in missions. That is valid for the domain of peacekeeping operations, but it is also true in regard to special political missions and to economic and/or other sanctions. In the latter case, all Member States are obliged to implement measures in connection with listed individuals and entities. In all domains, the effectiveness of all decisions — mandatory or not — greatly depends on the support and level of implementation by the Member States.

It is therefore crucial for every country to be more involved in the Council's decision-shaping and decision-making. It is our right and our responsibility. The Security Council itself would benefit from the full support of the wider membership. Moreover, the relationship of the Council with other organs can and should be strengthened, for instance, with regional and other international organizations. Concrete action is also needed to improve the Security Council's practice of referring situations to the International Criminal

Court. Dynamics should be improved between the Council and the peacebuilding configurations, too, in order to maximize the impact on the ground.

ACT recognizes past efforts of the Security Council to improve and adapt its working methods. ACT also commends former and present chairs of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, and acknowledges the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2013/515) on working methods issued in August, which detailed ways to improve the Council's dialogue with non-Council members and bodies.

ACT takes note with appreciation of the greater level of interactivity achieved in recent months through, for instance, horizon-scanning sessions and interactive wrap-ups. In 2013, wrap-ups have taken place regularly and in different formats. We are seeing greater interest on the part of Member States, with steadily increasing attendance being a clear demonstration of the value, relevance and demand for such mechanisms.

While ACT warmly welcomes resolution 2118 (2013), aimed at destroying Syria's chemical weapons, we should not forget the Council's long paralysis in addressing other aspects of the Syrian crisis, which is a particularly vivid illustration of the need and the imperative to make progress in the field of working methods.

ACT welcomes the proposal made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs for France, Mr. Laurent Fabius, that the five permanent members themselves voluntarily regulate their right to exercise a veto in the case of mass atrocity crimes. We are convinced that this pledge indicates the need to find new avenues in order to respond efficiently to crises and to live up to the responsibilities deposited in the hands of the Council. ACT encourages the other permanent members to further explore that proposal.

ACT has organized itself in subgroups that have started their work and have already developed concrete ideas on issues ranging from accountability, transparency, follow-up to the note S/2010/507, and improvements in working methods relating to peacekeeping and conflict prevention. During today's debate, various ACT members will inform the Council about the practical work under way in the subgroups. As our work continues to gain momentum, ACT may broaden the scope of its efforts according to needs and relevant developments.

We are aware that many of our suggestions are already included in the past commitments assumed by the Security Council in existing President's notes. We encourage the Security Council to ensure the full and consistent implementation of the commitments in the President's notes, and indeed other existing and future recommendations on working methods. Moreover, ACT will monitor the Council's existing commitments in all aspects in order to promote transparency and improve the accessibility of information.

Our suggestions and interests cover a wide range of issues, but ultimately have one goal — a Security Council that carries out its duties in the maintenance of international peace and security in a more effective and open manner. All Member States, including members of ACT, have a responsibility to support the Council and to hold it accountable for the consistent and effective implementation of its resolutions and decisions. Today's debate on working methods is the fourth in what has become, since 2010, an annual practice. It is an important milestone for all of us and one that we strongly encourage Council members to uphold.

ACT pledges to continue to carry on that important dialogue with all Member States, and in particular with the members of the Security Council, constructively and openly.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Moura (Portugal): Let me first thank you, Mr. President, and the delegation of Azerbaijan for its initiative in organizing today's important open debate on the Council's working methods.

Improving working methods is a continuing task. Indeed, there is always room to improve the transparency of the Council's work and to enhance its relationship with the broader membership, the General Assembly and other United Nations organs, as well as with regional and subregional organizations. That is what brings us to the Council today.

We welcome the recent measures the Council has taken to improve its working methods. We also commend the continuous efforts in the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, led by Argentina. On our part, we continue to support all efforts within and outside the Council to improve working methods with the sole aim of strengthening

and enabling the Council to better discharge the role entrusted by the Charter of the United Nations.

As a member of the recently established Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group, Portugal aligns itself with the statement just made by the representative of Switzerland on behalf of ACT members. Portugal has considered particular aspects related to the implementation of note S/2010/507 and subsequent notes by the President of the Security Council. I would like, therefore, to concentrate on four of those aspects and to suggest concrete measures for improvement.

The first aspect concerns open debates. Open debates have become regular features of the Council's monthly programme of work. We welcome them as they fit into the trend we expect the Council to follow, which is to have more open meetings with greater participation by the broader United Nations membership. However, open debates are meant to allow the Council to listen to the broader membership. That is why we suggest that whenever an open debate is expected to have an outcome, the Council should consider adopting the outcome statement at a later time so that it can reflect on the input of non-Council members, as the Council deems relevant.

Greater interactivity in open debates could be encouraged by alternating the statements of Council members with those of non-members and by promoting the use of a summary at the end of a debate. The Council has done the latter in the past, and we think that it could be a useful practice to revive, such as in certain open debates in which the Council launches discussions on new themes.

Allow me to point out something that we all, not only non-Council members, should do. We should follow note 507 and not exceed five minutes in making our interventions — a point also stressed by the representative of the United Kingdom this morning. That is an effort we encourage all to make for the sake of efficiency in all open debates.

Secondly, with respect to wrap-up sessions, we see the practice resumed since January as very positive. I commend the delegation of Pakistan for kicking off so promptly and effectively the implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council contained in document S/2012/922. Wrap-up meetings have since been organized as formal private meetings, with the attendance of interested non-Council members.

Alternatively, some presidencies have opted for informal briefings to the broader membership at the end of their respective presidencies. Those have also proved very useful and have allowed for an informal exchange of views between non-Council members and the presidencies on the work done. We strongly suggest the continuation of such practices. However, with respect to formal wrap-up meetings, we believe that they would benefit from being more future-oriented, more concise or else focused on specific issues of relevance and timeliness in the Council.

Such formats — both wrap-ups and informal briefings — should have two aims, namely, more information and more interactivity. Those two goals could be usefully combined. For instance, nothing prevents presidencies, after convening a private wrap-up meeting in which only Council members speak, from inviting interested non-Council members to an informal briefing in another room on the same or the following day, where interactivity can then take place. Alternatively, may we suggest that the Council periodically open up wrap-up meetings for genuine participation and interventions by non-members. That would hardly be a first: the Council has done that successfully before on several occasions.

My two next remarks concern aspects of the Council's internal work, although they remain relevant to the implementation of note 507, since they relate to the transparency, inclusiveness and effectiveness of the Council's work.

First, with respect to the issue of penholders, which was touched upon by the representative of the Russian Federation this morning and on which the Informal Working Group initiated a reflection last year, the question here concerns the implementation of note 507, in particular how to give real meaning to the notion of participation in the preparation and drafting of Security Council decisions, as called for in paragraph 42 of the note.

One decisive step in the right direction would be to introduce the practice of joint-penholdership or co-penholdership to initiate and chair the drafting process. Such a practice, in our view, would help promote broader participation by Council members in the decision-making process, in particular those from the same region as that of a particular situation under consideration who are willing to raise their level of participation, or those with a special interest in it, for

instance those who Chair the Sanctions Committees or subsidiary bodies directly related to a given situation. At the same time, such joint-penholdership would help share the burden of keeping all Council members informed about initiatives from the earliest possible stage.

Finally, with respect to the appointment of the chairpersons of subsidiary organs, a point just mentioned by the representatives of Morocco and Pakistan moments ago, it is important for the Council to give concrete meaning to the consensus reached in December through the note by the President of the Security Council contained in document S/2012/937, that is, to establish an informal process with the participation of all Council members and in consultation with the newly elected members.

The current practice would gain if such a process of facilitation were made more participatory and inclusive. Instead of relying on a single facilitator in the outreach to and consultation with Council members, including incoming ones, the Council should usefully involve other co-facilitators in the process, including outgoing chairpersons, in order to take advantage of their experience. That would allow for a more transparent, inclusive and participatory process leading to the appointment of chairpersons. Building on last year's consensus, that could be the next concrete step towards improving the upcoming process of appointing chairpersons with respect to transparency and the participation of all Council members.

Those are just a few concrete ideas. We are convinced that they would serve to strengthen the Council's effectiveness by improving its relationship with the broader membership and by promoting enhanced participation in its decision-making.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Kumar (India): Let me, at the outset, thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on the working methods of the Security Council. I also thank your delegation for authoring the concept paper (S/2013/613, annex), which gives a perspective on the various issues being discussed under the broad rubric of working methods. I would also like to put on record our deep appreciation of Ambassador María Cristina Perceval's stewardship of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions during the year 2013.

In the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), Heads of State and Government supported an early reform of the Security Council and recommended that the Council should continue to adapt its working methods to the exigencies and imperatives of a vastly altered global order. It is a matter of regret that so far very little has been done to achieve either of those mandates.

As the primary organ of the United Nations system for the maintenance of international peace and security, the working methods of the Council are of interest to the entire international community, and not only to Council members or the permanent members. As your concept paper has rightly mentioned, Mr. President, issues of transparency and interaction with non-members of the Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and relevant United Nation bodies are important for the overall efficiency of the Council and urgently need to be addressed. I would like to briefly share India's perspective on how the Security Council could improve on its performance.

Let me start by quoting the famous writer and poet Victor Hugo, who said, "There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come". The reform of the Security Council in tune with contemporary realities is an idea whose time has come. The permanent members of the Council must recognize, not only individually but also collectively, that the Council must be reformed to make it reflect the contemporary realities of the international system. It is self-evident that the expansion of the Security Council to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities would improve its representative character and grant greater legitimacy and credibility to its decisions. Also, the improvement of the Council's working methods would enhance its effectiveness and efficiency. We strongly believe that real improvements in the working methods need change in both processes and approach, which requires a reform in the composition of the Council.

The most important change required in the working methods is to make them transparent and inclusive. The Security Council needs to increase access to documentation and information and curb the tendency to hold closed meetings that have no records. Even worse is the practice of taking decisions among the five permanent members to the exclusion of other Council members, as was seen just last month on an important issue of international peace and security.

During the past few years, my delegation has strongly supported efforts within the Informal Working Group aimed at improvements in the Council's working methods. I will offer a few specific suggestions in that regard.

First, the Council should amend its procedures so that items do not permanently remain on its agenda.

Second, the reporting cycle should be practical and results-oriented, so that issues do not come up for consideration simply as a matter of routine, putting pressure on the limited time the Council has at its disposal.

Third, Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter must be fully implemented through consultations with non-Security Council members on a regular basis, especially members with a special interest in the substantive matter under consideration by the Council. There is a need to strengthen the trend of meeting more often in public, including through holding public briefings and debates.

Fourth, penholders should allow greater and systematic participation of elected members as co-penholders.

Fifth, non-members should be given systematic access to subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, including the right to participate. Furthermore, the participation of troop- and police-contributing countries in decision-making concerning peacekeeping operations must cover the establishment, conduct, review and termination of peacekeeping operations, including the extension and change of mandates, as well as for specific operational issues.

Sixth, there is a need to ensure more informative annual Security Council reporting to the General Assembly. The Council should also concentrate its time and efforts on dealing with issues concerning its primary responsibility concerning international peace and security, as mandated by the Charter of the United Nations, rather than encroaching upon the mandate of the General Assembly and other United Nations organs.

Seventh, before mandating measures under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council should first make serious efforts for the pacific settlement of disputes through measures under Chapter VI.

In conclusion, let me reiterate India's considered view that genuine reform of the working methods of

the Security Council requires comprehensive reform in the membership of the Council, with expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories, and not only improvement in its working procedures. This is essential both for the Council's credibility and for the continued confidence of the international community in this institution. It is our sincere expectation that these ideas will be pursued by Council members so that the views expressed by the wider United Nations membership find resonance in the Council's work and working methods.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. De Aguiar Patriota (Brazil): I thank you, Sir, for convening this important open debate on the working methods of the Security Council and for circulating the concept note that guides our discussions today (S/2013/613, annex). Allow me to also take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador María Cristina Perceval on Argentina's leadership in the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions.

Brazil welcomes the adoption of presidential note S/2013/515 and the commitments of Council members therein to increasing the efficiency and the transparency of the Council's work, as well as to improve dialogue with non-Council members and other bodies. We also welcome the adoption of presidential note S/2013/630, which encourages a more interactive dialogue between Council members and troop and police-contributing countries. It is of utmost importance that the views of the troop- and police-contributing countries be fully taken into account by the Council. For this to happen, consultations with them should be held as early as possible in the negotiation of mandate renewals of peacekeeping missions.

My country has long advocated for a Security Council that is more transparent, efficient, inclusive, accountable and accessible to the broader membership. The Security Council acts on behalf of all United Nations Members and has the political responsibility to maintain a permanent and meaningful dialogue with the whole membership. Therefore, we welcome the fact that the holding of wrap-up sessions at the end of each presidency is becoming a regular practice among Council members. We expect that those sessions can gradually become more open to the effective participation of non-members. Monthly discussions of

the Council's work are a valuable tool for the broader membership to have a better understanding of its deliberations and of the issues on its agenda.

Since it is of utmost importance to enhance the transparency of the Council's work, Brazil believes that the Security Council should meet as often as possible in public. We reiterate our understanding that private meetings should be reserved for exceptional circumstances. Furthermore, it is our belief that the Security Council should consult more regularly — formally or informally — with non-members. It is disappointing that, although binding on all Member States, Security Council decisions seldom are discussed with the openness desired by the majority of the membership.

In line with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, it is important to allow all United Nations Members to express their views and to influence decisions whenever they may have a special interest in substantive matters under consideration by the Council. Encouraging the wider participation of the membership in the Security Council's deliberations is the path to enhancing the legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of its decisions. Greater transparency is also much needed in the activities of the Council's subsidiary organs. Substantive and interactive briefings with Member States offer an opportunity to all interested delegations to provide inputs to the work of those bodies.

It is imperative to strengthen the relationship between the Security Council and other United Nations bodies. Closer cooperation is needed not only with the General Assembly, but also with the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Brazil believes that the PBC's advisory role to the Security Council has not been explored to its full capacity. Greater interaction between the two bodies could be fostered. We once again encourage the participation of the Chairs of PBC configurations in the Council's debates and consultations. We also welcome the expansion of consultation and cooperation with relevant regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

As we have stated in the past, the interpretation and implementation of Council decisions is an important part of the discussions regarding working methods. The establishment of objective parameters, especially when

the use of coercive measures is contemplated, would clearly contribute to increasing the accountability and effectiveness of Council decisions, and to avoiding the loose interpretations of mandates. We also encourage the Security Council to dedicate more of its time and efforts to preventive diplomacy.

The Council's exercise of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security should be informed by the principle that prevention is always the best policy to reduce the risk of armed conflict and the human costs associated with it.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome the launching of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group. Brazil shares with the group the understanding that reform of the working methods of the Security Council is much needed and commends the pragmatic and concrete approach that is being pursued by ACT.

Since we are speaking of accountability, I must reiterate that when matters of the utmost interest to this Council are dealt with outside this body, the least we can expect is regular reporting. Such reporting has been seriously inadequate in situations such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, where a more forthcoming approach and regular briefings by the Quartet are clearly due.

We commend France for presenting a proposal regarding the use of veto. We believe that this is a clear demonstration of the necessity and urgency of considering substantive decisions to update the organ.

The decision of Saudi Arabia not to take its seat on the Council until the organ is reformed is also very relevant to our discussions. It only reinforces the widely held view that the more we protract the unavoidable reform, the more often the Council will be confronted with the serious limitations that jeopardize its capacity to maintain international peace and security.

In conclusion, Brazil would like to underline that the working methods of the Security Council cannot be entirely improved without a comprehensive reform of the body that brings the Council in line with today's geopolitical realities and make it truly capable of addressing the challenges of the twenty-first century.

In this context, we welcome the initiative taken by the President of the General Assembly to establish an advisory group to draft a text that would serve as a basis for the intergovernmental negotiations in the

General Assembly. This initiative has the potential to overcome the artificial delays imposed on negotiations and materialize the existing widespread political support for Council reform. As the General Assembly nears its seventieth session in 2015, concrete outcomes should finally be achieved on this important matter. We remain convinced that such reform is the only way to achieve a more representative, legitimate, efficient, effective and accountable Security Council.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Alyas (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on the working methods of the Security Council. I would also like to associate myself with the statement made by the representative of Switzerland on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group, as well as that to be delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The international community's attention is focused on the Council more than ever before. Innocent people throughout the world yearn for the Security Council to save them from the scourges of war by implementing its mandate for the maintenance of international peace and security without further delay, which will make the world a safer place. On that basis, the process of reforming the Security Council and its working methods must be inclusive, comprehensive and designed to strengthen the Council's ability to fulfil its mission, reflect contemporary realities and the diversity of the international community, and take into consideration the interests of the entire United Nations membership.

The change in the Security Council's structure should reflect the current situation, as well as new developments in the international arena. It should reflect the equitable geographic distribution of Member States and preserve its ability and effectiveness in fulfilling its duties, including in preventing conflicts and international disputes before they escalate and lead to grave consequences. The Security Council should benefit from the expertise of regional and subregional organizations in solving and preventing conflicts.

We emphasize the need for all States to abide by the Council's resolutions equally and without selectivity. The Middle East has long suffered from continuous violations of international peace and security without effective and efficient intervention. That has led to calamities in the region and within the international

community. We are perplexed by the double standard applied to the Middle East. Instead of the Council preserving the prestige of the United Nations and safeguarding its efficiency and credibility, that double standard will definitely lead to a loss of confidence among the peoples of the region in international institutions, in particular in the Security Council.

With regard to the situation in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories, the Security Council has considered that issue almost since the day it was established. It is unable to maintain international peace and security or restore the rights of the legitimate holders. Israel persists in violating international law and in changing the situation on the ground.

The Syrian crisis has festered without being addressed in a manner conducive to achieving the aspirations of the Syrian people and reflecting the will of the international community, as represented in the resolutions on the issue adopted by the General Assembly, which have not been appropriately translated into reality by the Council. That confirms once again the gravity of delaying the adoption of appropriate resolutions at the right time to achieve peace in the region and the world. Those delays lead to the spread of anarchy, wars, killing and destruction.

My delegation emphasizes the need for the Council to consider the aspirations and hopes of the peoples of the world and the region.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden.

Mr. Grunditz (Sweden): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Let me, first of all, thank Azerbaijan for organizing today's debate and for providing a very good concept note (S/2013/613 annex). We appreciate that these debates are turning into yearly events, since the working methods of the Council indeed concern the membership as a whole.

Since last year's open debate (see S/PV.6870), the attention to this matter has increased further. Argentina has continued the excellent leadership of Portugal of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. The adoption of note S/2013/515 during the presidency of Argentina in August was a welcome step in which the Security Council committed

to a number of measures for increased transparency and consultations.

Outside the Council, the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group has joined together in order to push for a reform of working methods. We welcome the establishment of the group and fully support the statement made on its behalf made by the representative of Switzerland.

The two most central aspects of the discussion on working methods continue to be transparency and the possibility of non-members to interact with the members of the Council in a substantive way. That is why note 515 is important and encouraging. With the Council's commitment to enhancing its interaction with Member States, as well as with other United Nations entities and regional and subregional organizations, it is our hope that more concrete steps will be forthcoming. The issue now is the implementation of the commitments contained in the notes that have been adopted over the past years.

We continue to underscore the need for regular, informative briefings to non-members of the Council, and welcome the wrap-up sessions that have been held so far. As the Council continues to review the concept of wrap-up sessions, we would suggest an interactive model whereby non-Council members are invited to participate. That relates to a number of situations, in particular to discussions on peacekeeping missions in which troop- and police-contributing countries should be involved to the greatest extent possible. We welcome the most recent note S/2013/630 in that regard.

There is also room for improving the quality of open debates by ensuring that concept papers and outcome documents reflect the input of all participating countries. The adoption of note S/2012/922 on ways to improve open debates is welcome in that regard.

The Nordic countries welcome all efforts to enhance transparency. Therefore, we continue to support the work of *Security Council Report*, which provides valuable insight and knowledge about Council activities, including working methods, to the wider membership.

Given the ever-increasing workload of the Council, let me also stress the importance of efficiency. We encourage the continued implementation of note S/2012/402, including technical improvements, such as the more frequent use of video-teleconferences.

Efficiency also relates to the internal distribution of labour among Council members. We welcome the adoption of note S/2012/937 focusing on the selection of chairs of the subsidiary bodies. We still encourage the Council to be more forthcoming with the scheduling of those meetings in order for the broader membership to be better informed.

The discussion on penholding should also continue. In our view, elected members of the Council could have a greater role in drafting and presenting products of the Council.

Nothing is more important for the Council than to prevent and respond to conflict. The Council should continue to actively seek ways to improve its ability in that regard. We would therefore encourage the Council to return to horizon-scanning briefings at the beginning of every month. That concept offers the Council a chance of early warning, and thus the possibility of acting before a conflict erupts. A broader approach to prevention and conflict resolution also relates to the connection between thematic issues and country-specific situations. The Council could do more to integrate those perspectives.

In closing, the Nordic countries call on the Council to continue on its path of reforming its working methods. There is still plenty to do.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Montaña (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): The holding of this debate shows the Council's openness to considering improvements in its working methods, and that is why we welcome Azerbaijan's initiative. In addition, Mexico welcomes and is grateful for the work carried out by Ambassador Perceval and her diligent leadership of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions.

The progress that has been made in recent years on some of the practices of the Security Council is undeniable. The larger number of open debates and public meetings and the increasing interaction between the Council and police- and troop-contributing countries are the direct result of the adoption of the note by the President contained in document S/2010/507. Unfortunately, progress has been uneven, and questions remain concerning the holding of monthly wrap-up meetings and whether that should become the norm — an idea that has met with resistance among

some members of the Security Council. The rejection of such simple proposals reinforces the stereotype of a Security Council characterized by secrecy and prevents a more dynamic and transparent relationship between those who sit at this table, whether for two years or forever, and those — like ourselves — who simply observe as spectators.

Mexico would like to take this opportunity to highlight the excellent information that the representatives of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries provide to the rest of the regional Group on a monthly basis.

The elected members of the Security Council are those who have historically promoted and continue to promote reforms to the working methods and those who are more conscious of the value and importance of transparency in their work. However, on many occasions, those countries are marginalized in negotiations and only included in the process once decisions are already agreed. The democratic principles that rightly motivate the Council should begin at home.

We express our satisfaction with the recent establishment of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group. We hope that the work of the group will help make the work of the Security Council more efficient, transparent, inclusive and legitimate.

We also believe that it is crucial to strengthen cooperation between the Council and regional and subregional organizations on issues of armed conflict and crisis management, in particular when the Council is acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

We must also foster greater interaction with other Security Council bodies, in particular the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, when considering decisions with financial implications, such as the establishment or renewal of the mandates of special political missions.

Every day, the importance of changing the way in which the Council ensures peace and security becomes more apparent, as already mentioned by previous speakers. The paralysis that has prevented any action on the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic for more than two years now is a reminder that the current composition of the Security Council and its functioning need to be restructured in order to respond in an

effective and democratic way to the challenges on the international agenda.

Mexico welcomes the recent proposal by France to develop a code of good conduct among the five permanent members of the Council, so that when the Council is considering war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide, the five permanent members collectively renounce their right of veto. We are willing to work together to advance that initiative.

In conclusion, allow me to say that such realistic improvements in the working methods of the Security Council, the one proposed by the French delegation and the ACT group, will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening the Council's ability to maintain international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil (Egypt): Egypt associates itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, I would like to commend the Azerbaijani presidency of the Security Council for convening this open debate on the working methods of the Security Council. I would like also to take this opportunity to congratulate the countries that were elected this month as members of the Security Council for the next two years and to thank Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo for their efforts during their membership during 2012 and 2013.

Today's open debate is the sixth debate on the Security Council's working methods. We hope that the views expressed by non-members of the Council will be reflected in any outcome of this debate in order to enhance the transparency and inclusiveness of the Council's work. We also expect the Security Council to add to its upcoming annual report — which the Council is to adopt tomorrow — more detailed information on the measures taken to improve the Council's working methods in order to properly assess the progress achieved in this regard.

The effective functioning of the Security Council has a direct impact on the maintenance of international peace and security. Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations indicates that the Council acts on behalf of the entire membership of the United Nations. Therefore, the Council's working methods do not belong only to

its 15 members; they are the collective responsibility of the general membership. For that reason, reforming the Security Council's working methods is one of the five inextricably linked items to be negotiated in the overall reform and expansion of the Council in accordance with General Assembly decision 62/557.

Egypt appreciates the efforts by the Security Council Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions under the chairmanship of Argentina to improve the Council's working methods. Yet, more efforts should be exerted to promote the full implementation of the note by the President contained in document S/2010/507 and subsequent notes. We must also be more ambitious and advance our discussions beyond those notes. For example, reaching an agreement on the Security Council's provisional rules of procedure, which have been in force for over 60 years, would be a major step towards improving the working methods of the Council.

The working methods of the Security Council will not be improved unless we effectively address the use of the veto. In that regard, we note with interest the proposal by President Hollande of France, which was reflected in his statement in the general debate of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session (see A/68/PV.5): that the permanent members collectively refrain from using the veto in cases of mass atrocities. Let me recall here that Africa is opposed to the veto as a matter of principle. We believe that it should be abolished. However, as long as it continues to exist, and as a matter of common justice, it should be extended to all permanent members of the prospective enlarged Security Council, in full application of the principle of equality between current and new permanent members.

Private meetings, informal consultations and closed meetings should be kept to a minimum. Issues to be covered at any briefing by the Secretariat should be determined in coordination with the concerned State and after the approval by all members of the Security Council. Interventions after such briefings should not be restricted to Council members. The concerned party should be given the opportunity to express its views on such briefings. Any decision by the Security Council to initiate formal or informal discussions on a situation in any Member State or other issues that do not constitute a threat to international peace and security is contrary to Article 24 of the Charter. We urge the Council to strictly follow its mandate in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

Through note S/2013/515, Council members agreed to make more effective use of public meetings, informal interactive dialogues and Arrria Formula meetings. These meetings should be used effectively by providing for real opportunities and more meaningful exchanges of view to take into account the contributions of non-Council members, in particular those that may be directly affected by decisions of the Council. A mere quantitative increase in such meetings without a qualitative benefit or outcome would be a waste of time and resources.

The participation of troop- and police-contributing countries in decision-making concerning peacekeeping operations must cover their establishment, review and termination, including the extension or change of mandates. We welcome as a step forward the recently adopted note by the President S/2013/630 on enhancing consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries.

Wrap-up sessions have proven useful in taking stock of the activities of the Security Council at the end of each month. We thank those Council members that have held wrap-up sessions at the end of their presidencies. This practice complements that whereby Council Presidents brief the wider membership on the programme of work at the beginning of each month.

Monthly assessments are important in providing a more coherent account of the main aspects of the work of the Council during that month. In note S/2012/922, Council Presidents were encouraged to submit the monthly assessments soon after the end of their respective presidencies. We note, however, that the latest monthly assessment posted on the Security Council's website relates to April, under the presidency of Rwanda.

We appreciate the continued efforts of the Secretariat in developing the Security Council's website, making it more informative and user-friendly, as well as in publishing its programme of work and the monthly forecast in a timely manner.

Finally, there is still much room for improvement. We count on all members of the Council, in particular its permanent members, to make greater progress in improving the Council's working methods so as to strengthen its ability to carry out its mandate of maintaining international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Hungary.

Mr. Körösi (Hungary): Hungary, as a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group, aligns itself fully with the statement made on the group's behalf by the representative of Switzerland. Our statement in full written form will be made available to all Member States. In order to save time, I would like to focus here on six concrete proposals, all of which are related to the interlinkages between the work of the Council and questions of accountability for major international crimes.

First, the open debate on the International Criminal Court (ICC) held under the Guatemalan presidency in October 2012 (see S/PV.6849) was a crucial initiative in examining the important link between peace, security and accountability. We hope that such debates will be held on a regular basis in the future.

Secondly, the question of accountability in general is an issue that concerns not only the Security Council but other bodies within the United Nations. Interaction between the different bodies should be regular, and developments in other forums should be taken into consideration by the Security Council.

Thirdly, in cases where the Security Council has to act to maintain international peace and security, we encourage the Council to develop a coherent accountability strategy with clear criteria to guide its future decisions and to send an important message to Member States.

Fourthly, the work of the Council in the field of accountability deserves better reflection on the Council's website. In that regard, we note that at present there is no information on the reasons and basis for the establishment of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda by the Council, and not a word is devoted to the role of the Council in ICC-related proceedings, as set forth in the Rome Statute.

Fifthly, when the Council uses its prerogative to refer cases to the ICC, it has the responsibility to do so in a predictable and even-handed manner, and then to provide support by setting up appropriate follow-up mechanisms and procedures. So far we have seen only partial results in this area.

Last but not least, Hungary appreciates and very much supports the repeated initiatives of France

proposing that the permanent members of the Council voluntarily refrain from using their veto power in situations of mass atrocities. Hungary believes that any and every proposal that brings the Council closer to its ultimate *raison d'être* and the fulfilment of its responsibilities in a flawless and predictable manner merits serious consideration.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Estonia.

Mr. Kolga (Estonia): At the outset, Sir, I would like to thank you for organizing today's open debate on the Security Council's working methods — the sixth of its kind — and for the very comprehensive concept paper (S/2013/613, annex). As a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group, we fully support the statement delivered by the representative of Switzerland on the group's behalf. In order to respect the time constraints, a longer version of our statement has been distributed.

As set out in the Charter, the Members of the United Nations have conferred the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security to this 15-member body. It is therefore hard to overestimate the role of its working methods. How the Council works and how its decisions are taken is of the utmost importance to every single country in the Organization. Let me focus today on the transparency and accountability of these processes.

Estonia attaches great value to transparency in all decision-making processes and therefore highly praises any steps taken with that as a consideration. As the Council's decisions affect all of us, we expect to be involved in that process. Therefore, the greater the transparency that accompanies them, the easier their implementation will be. Through enhanced engagement with the interested parties, transparency can be improved on all levels.

The Council has demonstrated responsibility to the wider membership by adopting presidential note S/2010/507 and more recently, in August, note S/2013/515, committing to closer collaboration and engagement with non-members. Estonia considers the implementation of those decisions to be instrumental for the future. Many of the incorporated commitments have already been implemented. We have witnessed a growing trend in open debates and other public meetings. That trend should continue: open meetings should become the norm, rather than the exception.

In that regard, we would like to recall, as an excellent example, the open debate organized a year ago by Guatemala on peace and justice, with a special focus on the role of the International Criminal Court (see S/PV.6849). That was the first thematic debate focusing on the relationship of the Council with the Court, and it was, we believe, a timely and fruitful exercise. Estonia therefore strongly encourages members of the Security Council to organize a follow-up debate on the topic.

We would also like to commend the Council for organizing informal interactive dialogues and Arria Formula meetings with other interested parties. The informal introductory briefings on the Council's programme of work, as well as the recently reintroduced wrap-up meetings, are also of the great value to the wider membership. Estonia encourages both the Council's current and newly elected members to continue that practice during their presidencies, so that it can become an integral part of the Council's work.

Transparency is a multilayered issue. It should be enhanced both horizontally and vertically. In a decision-making process, the wider membership's involvement should start at an early stage and continue through to the end of a decision's implementation. On the other hand, an even wider range of different stakeholders, including civil society, should be involved in the work of the Council. We believe that exclusion creates frustration, while participation increases ownership — and thus responsibility and accountability as well.

A great deal has in fact been done, but there is still room for improvement. An example of the lack of transparency in the work of the Council was the process that led to adoption of the long-awaited resolution 2118 (2013), on Syrian chemical weapons, which for the first time in history determined that the use of chemical weapons anywhere constituted a threat to international peace and security. We certainly welcome the resolution, but the process of making the decision showed that transparency could be enhanced.

With respect to accountability, which is another important goal that the Council should pursue, we again cannot overlook Syria, the most tragic ongoing conflict. The Council has been paralysed for too long, and the international community has therefore not been able to assume its responsibility to protect the people of Syria, who have been systematically attacked and killed by their own Government, a Government that

has not lived up to the rightful expectations of its own people to a peaceful and stable living environment. We would call upon the Council to reflect on its working methods — on how such a situation has occurred and how it could be avoided in future.

One of the issues to explore is the veto and its use. Estonia would call on the permanent members of the Council to seriously consider refraining from its use in cases of genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity. In that regard, Estonia welcomes the French proposal to define a way the permanent members of the Council could decide to collectively renounce their veto powers in the event of a mass crime.

Finally, as a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group, Estonia is ready to work closely with the Council in order to identify further ways to increase transparency and interaction between all States Members of the United Nations and the Council.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Percaya (Indonesia): Allow me, at the outset, to thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's important open debate. I would also thank you for your concept note highlighting the need to further deliberate on ways to improve the Council's work (S/2013/613).

My delegation associates itself with the statement to be made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

It is encouraging that, as reflected in the Council's presidential note of 28 August (S/2013/515), the Council will strive to improve dialogue with non-members of the Council and representatives of other bodies, as part of its commitment made in 2010 to enhance Council's efficiency and transparency and to increase its interaction and dialogue with external stakeholders. In undertaking the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security in an effective manner, the Security Council must take actions and decisions that garner support and cooperation from the greater United Nations membership. Accordingly, greater communication, understanding and input from the Member States is vital to enriching the Council's decision-making capacity and to the achievement of its aims.

As the Council is entrusted with its responsibilities on behalf of the entire United Nations membership,

its meaningful engagement with the non-members of the Council reflects its intention to heed and voice the aspirations of the whole of the United Nations, and not just those of a privileged few. The Council should therefore show a greater degree of transparency, accountability and efficiency and democratic values.

In order to help enhance the working methods of the Council and increase inclusiveness therein, Indonesia would like to share its views as follows.

First, Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter of the United Nations should be implemented in an effective manner by consulting with non-members of the Security Council on a regular basis, especially those with a special interest in the substantive matters under consideration by the Council. The Council should also seek those countries' views in order to ensure that countries are able to implement the Council's decisions. Furthermore, Member States particularly affected by sanctions should be given an opportunity, at their request, to participate in meetings of the relevant Sanctions Committees. The Council should also grant affected non-members access to its subsidiary bodies, including the right to participate and give substantial input.

Secondly, the Council should hold regular, timely and meaningful consultations with troop-contributing countries, financial contributors and other countries that are directly concerned or affected by a peacekeeping operation before and during the decision-making process for establishing, conducting, reviewing and terminating a peacekeeping operation, including for a change of mandates and specific operational issues.

Thirdly, draft resolutions, presidential statements and other documents submitted at informal consultations of the whole of the Council, if so authorized by authors of the drafts, should also be promptly made available to non-members of the Council.

Fourthly, the reasons for exercising a veto should be explained at the time of doing so, and a copy of the explanation should be circulated to all Member States.

Fifthly and lastly, as a general rule, the Council should meet in a public forum that is open to all Member States. It could decide to meet in private on an exceptional basis.

Accordingly, we welcome the Council's enhanced engagement with troop- and police-contributing countries, relevant regional and subregional

organizations and the Peacebuilding Commission. The constructive steps taken should be maintained and enhanced.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Indonesia's commitment to supporting the Council in its work and in its efforts to incorporate greater transparency, inclusiveness, accountability, efficiency and democratic values as it carries out its responsibilities.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

Mr. Haniff (Malaysia): I shall deliver a shorter version of my statement, while the full text is being circulated in the Chamber.

I wish to commend the Azerbaijani presidency on its initiative to convene today's meeting on the working methods of the Security Council.

Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Malaysia welcomed the note by the President of the Security Council contained in document S/2010/507, which remains a landmark document aimed at developing and improving the work of the Council. Malaysia recognizes that the Council's working methods have continued to evolve. The most recent note on its working methods, issued on 28 August (S/2013/515), focuses on ways to improve the Council's dialogue with non-Council members and bodies. The note continues the series of commitments on the part of the Council that include making more effective use of public meetings, expanding consultation and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, providing opportunities to hear the broader membership's views on the Council's working methods, including in open debates, maintaining regular communication with the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and its country-specific configurations, convening wrap-up meetings and informal briefings and improving consultations with police- and troop-contributing countries (TCCs).

One critical issue that has marked much of the discourse on working methods between the Council and the membership at large is the debate concerning Article 30 of the Charter of the United Nations, which stipulates that the Council shall adopt its rules of procedure. On the other hand, Article 10 of the Charter states that the General Assembly may make recommendations to the

Council on its powers and functions. A key to resolving that debate is whether all Members are willing to ease that tension and work together to help make the Council function more effectively. Members must be prepared to leave their entrenched national interests behind in order to enable the matter to progress and make the Council an organ that serves the wider membership.

In taking steps to increase transparency and improve the efficiency of its working methods, the Council must also address shortcomings raised by non-Council members, as it has done with such past issues as the early distribution of draft Council documents to non-members, the convening of more public meetings and increases in the frequency and types of formats used for informal interactions with non-members.

Malaysia appreciates the practical measures the Council has taken to provide frequent dialogues and exchanges between it and non-members. In that regard, we welcome the holding of Arria Formula meetings as a means to ensure closer interaction with non-Council members and regional and subregional organizations. We also commend the Council for its ongoing briefings and consultations with TCCs. The Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations should involve TCCs more frequently in its deliberations through timely and regular interaction. The Council's request, in resolution 2076 (2012), that the Secretary-General consult with countries contributing troops to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, is a clear example of the benefits of consulting TCCs.

Malaysia is of the view that given the linkages between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, the Council has benefited tremendously from its increased interaction with the PBC. Due to the advisory nature of the PBC's role, its views should be duly considered when the peacekeeping mandates are discussed.

In conclusion, Malaysia believes that more steps will have to be taken to improve the Council's working methods, and will require Member States, particularly the permanent members of the Council, to display the necessary political will. It is incumbent upon all of us to put aside our individual political agendas and work for practical, attainable changes. The reform of working methods is part of a larger, comprehensive reform. What is required is structural reform of the Council — reform that makes it more representative of the United Nations membership, thereby ensuring greater effectiveness and legitimacy in its work.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Slovenia.

Mr. Logar (Slovenia): I would first like to thank the Azerbaijani presidency for convening today's open debate.

Slovenia is a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) group and aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the representative of Switzerland on behalf of the ACT.

Ensuring the legitimacy, efficiency and strength of the Security Council, as the body entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security, should be based on transparent, accountable and coherent procedures in order to address the concerns of the entire international community and involve all Members of the United Nations. Open briefings and debates have been an opportunity for States to share their views and actively engage in the work of the Council. We also warmly welcome the practice that some of the permanent Council members, as well as those from non-permanent-member States, have begun of distributing concept papers, and we call on the other members to follow their example.

We should consider further improvements relating to the order of speakers and the adoption of outcome documents, which present an opportunity to help strengthen the Council. Drafts of presidential statements and resolutions should be made available before they are adopted, and non-Council members should be consulted about them — when, of course, appropriate. The availability of modern technologies makes such action possible in a variety of ways. Decisions should be adopted at the end of debates, not the beginning.

Transparency should be a core element of the Council's working methods and can serve as a way to engage non-members in its work. When mandates are being drafted, we would welcome early participation in the process on the part of all Council members, as well as consultations with the regional organizations concerned. For the sake of transparency, we would encourage the Council to open meetings for briefings by United Nations officials and relevant special rapporteurs to all United Nations Members, while allowing for the possibility of holding consultations privately afterwards.

Every Member of the United Nations has had to deal with an increasing number of decisions by the Council. Since all States Members of the United

Nations have a responsibility to support the Council and hold it accountable for the consistent and effective implementation of its decisions, we believe that each and every resolution or decision of the Council should be accompanied by an action plan for its implementation, which should, of course, be regularly monitored. In recent decades, we have witnessed the evolution of new areas of conflict and issues of concern to the international community, an evolution that the Security Council should reflect by reviewing its agenda.

States that have been entrusted with membership in this body must uphold and promote international law and ensure that their own decisions are firmly rooted in that body of law. Accountability and the fight against impunity must be a foundation for their work when dealing with breaches of international peace and security. In that regard, the International Criminal Court (ICC) should be perceived as an effective mechanism, one that is based on firm respect for the rule of law, the protection of civilians and the punishment of grave atrocities regardless of the perpetrator in a conflict. We encourage Council members to refer cases of the most serious crimes of concern to the international

community to the ICC and to establish an effective follow-up mechanism for such actions.

In addition, we repeat our call to the permanent members to refrain from the use of the veto in situations involving genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or serious violations of international humanitarian law. We welcome France's initiative condemning the use of the veto in cases of mass atrocities and encourage the other permanent members of the Council to address the issue seriously and in good faith.

To conclude, it is crucial to ensure that the Security Council continues to regularly assess how its practice matches the goals as outlined in presidential note contained in document S/2010/507 and all its updates, and that it continues to collect and build on the valuable input from the United Nations membership as a whole on ways to further improve its working methods.

The President: There are still a number of speakers remaining on the list for this meeting. Given the lateness of the hour, I intend, with the concurrence of the members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.10 p.m.