



BOĞAZIÇIMUN 2026

H-UNSC HANDBOOK

Agenda Item:

**1) The Situation in Darfur (2004): Addressing the
Genocide and Ensuring Accountability**

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Handbook for the United Nations Security Council

1. Scope

The UN Charter serves as the governing document of the United Nations. It was enacted on 24 October 1945 and established six primary organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. The principal chapters relevant to the Security Council are Chapters V, VI, VII, and VIII. Chapter V addresses its composition (Article 23), functions and powers (Articles 24-26), voting (Article 27), and procedures (Articles 28-32). Chapter VI pertains to Security Council measures for the peaceful resolution of disputes (Articles 33-38), whereas Chapter VII pertains to Security Council actions regarding threats to peace, breaches of peace, and acts of aggression (Articles 39-51). Chapter VIII pertains to the Security Council's engagement with regional arrangements or agencies (Articles 52-54).

2. Powers

The Charter provides multiple channels for bringing a matter to the Security Council:

Parties to a Dispute

- Article 33(1): This article places the primary responsibility for peaceful settlement of disputes with the parties to the dispute. After exhausting Article 33(1) procedures, parties may bring the dispute to the Council.
- Article 94 (2): According to this article, if a party fails to perform the obligations upon it under a judgement rendered by the ICJ, the other party may have recourse to the Council



The General Assembly

- Article 11(3): This article allows the General Assembly to call the Council's attention to "situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security." However, Article 12 (1) states that on disputes or situations that the Council is seized of, the General Assembly should not "make any recommendation with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Security Council so requests.

Once seized, the Council can take action on its own under Chapter VI or VIII.

- Article 33 (2): This article gives the Council the option to recommend that the parties abide by their obligations under the Charter and refers responsibility for the settlement of the dispute back to the parties: "the Security Council shall, when it deems necessary, call upon the parties to settle their dispute."
- Article 34: This article invests the Security Council with a commitment to "investigate any dispute or situation that might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute in order to determine if the continuance of the dispute or situation it likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security."
- Article 36 (1): This article gives the Security Council the power to recommend to parties a specific means for the settlement of a dispute.
- Articles 39, 40, 41, 42: These articles give the Security Council the power to determine whether or not in a specific case there exists any "threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression" and to make recommendations or decide on measures both not involving and involving the use of force in accordance with Articles 41 and 42.

The Security Council can decide to act under Chapter VII, Article 39, if it determines the existence of a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, to make non-binding recommendations or binding decisions on measures to be taken.

- Once the Council has made a determination under Article 39, it may: call upon the parties to abide by such provisional measures as it deems necessary (Article 40);
- Decide to employ measures not involving the use of force to give effect to its decisions (Article 41);



- Decide to employ the use of force to give effect to its decisions (Article 42);
- Decide to entrust the use of force to all or some member states (Article 48, and pursuant to Article 42).

3. Role of the President

According to the Provisional Rules of Procedure, the president:

- Calls meetings when necessary (Rule 1)
- Approves the provisional agenda (Rule 7)
- Presides over meetings (Rule 19)
- Cedes the presidency when he deems that he should not preside due to an issue having a direct connection to his country (Rule 20)
- Calls on representatives to speak in the order they have asked to speak (Rule 27)
- Accords precedence during a meeting to any rapporteur appointed by the Council (Rule 29)
- States a ruling if a representative raises a point of order and, if challenged, submits the matter to the Council (Rule 30)
- If two or more amendments to a draft resolution are proposed, rules upon the order they are to be voted on (Rule 36)
- Signs verbatim record of Council meetings (Rule 53)
- Refers application for UN membership to a committee (Rule 59)

4. Debates

4.1. Formal Debates

4.1.1. Open Debate

An open debate allows participation from non-member states, permanent observers, and members of the Secretariat.



Non-member states of the Security Council may seek authorisation under Rules 37 or 39 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure to participate without voting rights, and the Council determines whether to grant such requests. Media representatives and the public are permitted to attend these meetings. Open debates have increased in frequency over the years, predominantly concentrating on themes rather than specific issues on the Council's agenda.

4.1.2. Debate

Only Council members participate in the debate. The involved parties may request participation pursuant to Rule 3.

4.2. Private Meetings

Per Rule 48 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, the Council is generally required to convene in public. Rule 48 specifies at least one occasion when the Council must convene privately: regarding the Council's recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General. It remains utilised for deliberations and determinations concerning the appointment of the Secretary-General. This format has been utilised for wrap-up sessions at the conclusion of a presidency, aimed at assessing the Council's work, evaluating the execution of its decisions, and emphasising significant decisions made during that month.

4.3. Informal Meetings

4.3.1. Informal Consultations of the Whole

Consultations are informal gatherings of Security Council members. Members of the Secretariat may be invited to provide briefings; however, member states not on the Council are excluded from participation. These meetings occur in a private setting adjacent to the Council Chamber. No formal record of consultations exists. The agenda, adopted at the commencement of each meeting, encompasses "other matters," allowing for the discussion of



issues pertinent to both the Council's agenda and concerns raised by individual members or groups of members.

4.3.2. Informal Interactive Dialogue

An Informal Interactive Dialogue is a private meeting of Security Council members convened to engage in discussions with one or more non-Council member states, regional organisations, or other invited speakers, facilitating an exchange of perspectives on pertinent situations. Informal interactive dialogues are conducted by the Council president in a meeting room distinct from the Council chamber or consultation room. Such meetings are typically context-dependent; participants are generally senior officials, and despite the informal nature, all Council members are present. Access is restricted to Council members and the Secretariat.

5. Documents of the Committee

5.1. Resolution

Resolutions constitute formal determinations of the Council and, upon publication, are sequentially numbered according to the format S/RES/(number). Any UN member may propose and draft resolutions, but these are voted on only upon the request of a Council representative (Rule 38). The designated lead or "penholder" for a particular issue on the Council's agenda will generate a preliminary draft, potentially in collaboration with a "Group of Friends.". Draft resolutions undergo a negotiation process prior to entering a "silence procedure," which permits final remarks from Council members before being designated as "in blue." Resolutions are employed to authorise and renew UN mission mandates, establish and renew sanctions regimes and the mandates of sanctions expert panels, provide recommendations to conflict parties, and authorise the use of force, among other Circumstances.



5.2. Presidential Statements

Presidential statements (PRSTs) are consensus documents ratified during formal Council meetings. In these meetings, the Council President will either recite the statement or announce that it has been ratified by Council members and will be disseminated. Council members may issue statements subsequent to the adoption of a presidential statement.

5.3. Press Statements

Press statements do not constitute decisions of the Council. They are issued by the president on behalf of the Council and disseminated as UN press releases by the Department of Public Information, designated with the symbol “SC” followed by a sequential number. A press statement necessitates consensus among all Council members and is a negotiated document. It is frequently employed when an immediate response is required—such as in the aftermath of a terrorist attack. They are tasked with communicating political messages, often following a briefing on an issue within the Council's agenda. Press statements may be released regarding issues not included in the Council's agenda, indicating that the Council is monitoring a situation. Press statements are typically delivered orally by the president in the "stakeout" area, but they may also be disseminated electronically without a verbal Presentation.

5.4. Directives

When a crisis arises that requires UNSC to act immediately, directives will be issued during the unmoderated caucuses. However, by definition, UNSC will only permit collaborative action that is constrained by its policies and capabilities. Instructions should be readable, eligible, and sufficiently specific to allow one to completely reconstruct a plan after reading them.



6. Processes for Voting

6.1. Substantive Voting

A substantive voting procedure may be used in the voting process for a clause or press release, in which the chair board will request three levels of votes: in favour, veto (For P5 countries), and abstention.

6.2. Roll Call Voting

To put a particular document to a roll call vote, any delegate may make the motion. In addition to having the option to conduct roll call voting at their discretion, the Chair may choose to entertain or reject the motion. The names of every nation will be read aloud on the chairboard in alphabetical order. After hearing the name of their country, the delegate has the option to respond with Yes, No, Yes with Rights, No with Rights, Pass, or Abstain. Only the delegates who selected Pass in the first round of voting will participate in the subsequent round. It will then be up to the delegates to respond, either yes or no. Following the conclusion of the second round, delegates who voted Yes with rights or No with rights may be granted one minute to speak about their votes.

6.3. Voting with Acclamation

The Committee Board may wish to know if there is any opposition to the proposal or motion being passed. Without a vote, the resolution is approved if there are no objections to the motion or proposal. Any objection will be considered a request for a vote.

6.4. Reconsideration

Upon the adoption or rejection of a substantive amendment, a motion to reconsider is appropriate. The motion will be called right away for a vote after the Committee Board recognises the two speakers who are opposed to it. To be considered for reconsideration,



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two-thirds of the current members must vote. The process restarts at the beginning of the voting process if the motion for reconsideration is approved.