

# Relationship of the Security Council to the General Assembly

*Briefing for delegates on the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly*

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New York, 14 September 2021



# The GA and the Council: some key differences

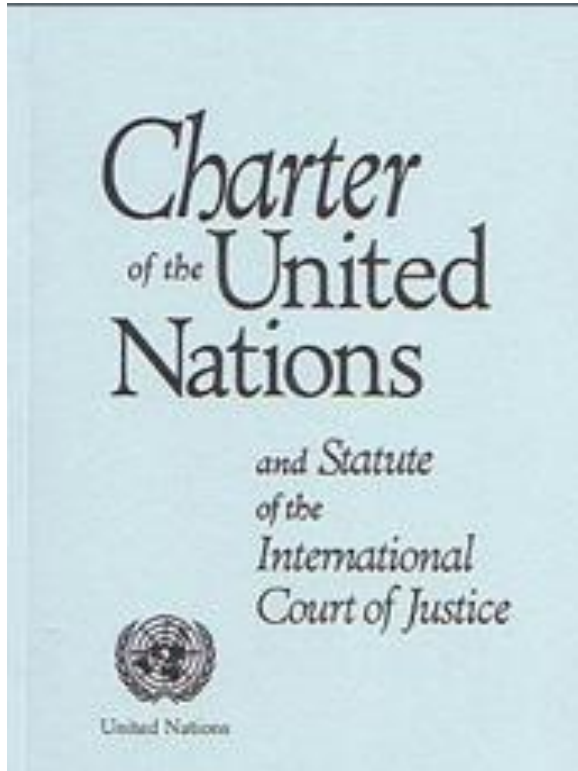
## General Assembly

- Composition: 193 members (all with equal status)
- Scope: any questions or any matters within the scope of the Charter of the United Nations
- Decision-making: two-thirds majority for 'important questions'
- On the maintenance of international peace and security: recommendations

## Security Council

- Composition: 15 members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent)
- Scope: primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security
- Decision-making: nine votes absent veto for substantive questions
- On the maintenance of international peace and security: decisions

# UN Charter: key provisions in a nutshell



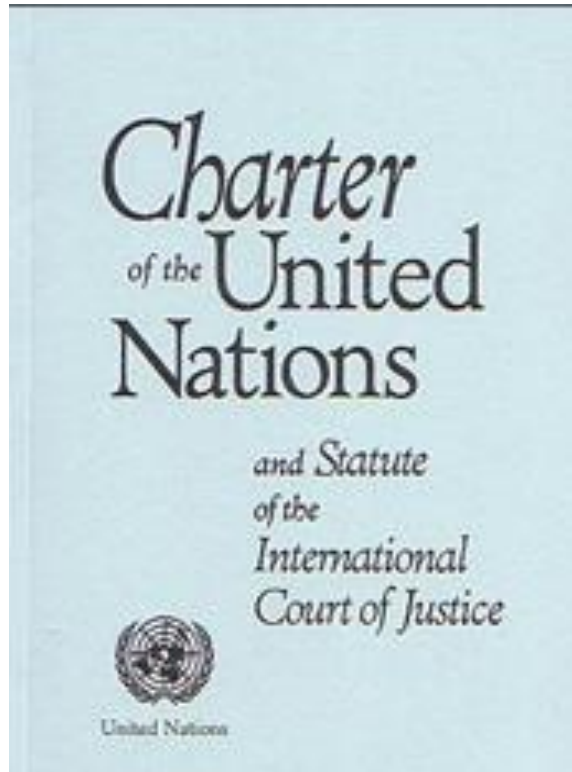
## Article 10

Except for Article 12, the GA may discuss or make recommendations (also to the Council) on any questions or matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the functions and powers of other organs

## Article 11

The GA may discuss and make recommendations on general principles and questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. But if action is necessary, it shall be referred to the Security Council before or after discussion. The GA can also bring matters to the attention of the Security Council

# UN Charter: key provisions in a nutshell



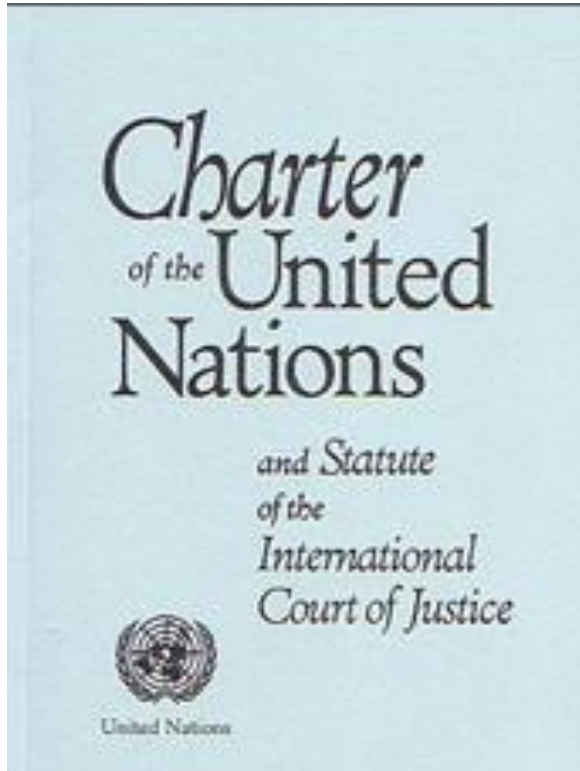
## Article 12

While the Security Council is seized, the General Assembly shall not make any recommendation with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Security Council so requests. Consequently, the SG notifies the GA of any matters on the Council's agenda

## Article 14

Subject to Article 12, the GA may recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation, which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations

# UN Charter: key provisions in a nutshell



## Article 24

Member States have conferred on the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and agreed that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility it acts on their behalf. Consequently, the Council acts in accordance with the Charter and submits annual and special reports to the GA for its consideration

# Main areas of collaboration

## On the maintenance of international peace and security

- Early practice
- [Uniting for Peace](#) and its aftermath
- Contemporary practice
- GA recommendations to the Council:
  - On general principles concerning special political missions, cooperation with regional organisations as well as others
  - On specific situations such as the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

## On elections and appointments

- Appointment of the Secretary-General
- Appointment of judges to the ICJ and international tribunals
- Admission, suspension, expulsion of members
- Election of non-permanent members

# Main areas of collaboration

## On working methods

- Monthly coordination [meetings](#) between the Presidents of the GA and the Security Council
- Briefing on the Security Council's [programme of work](#) and wrap up sessions
- Annual open debate on working methods (last one was held on [16 June 2021](#))
- Note by the President of the Security Council on working methods ([S/2017/507](#)), additional notes of 27 December 2019 ([S/2019/990](#) to [S/2019/997](#)) and 12 July 2021 ([S/2021/645](#) to [S/2021/648](#))

## Annual notifications, annual and special reports

- Annual [notification](#) to the GA (A/SESSION/300)
- Summary [statement](#) (“seizure list”, S/YEAR/10)
- Weekly [addenda](#) to the summary statement (S/YEAR/10.Add.#)
- [Annual report](#) and special reports



PGA speaks at the Security Council, 2007



PGA meets President of the Security Council, 2015



PGA speaks at the Security Council, 2015



Security Council discusses annual report, 2020





# Main areas of collaboration



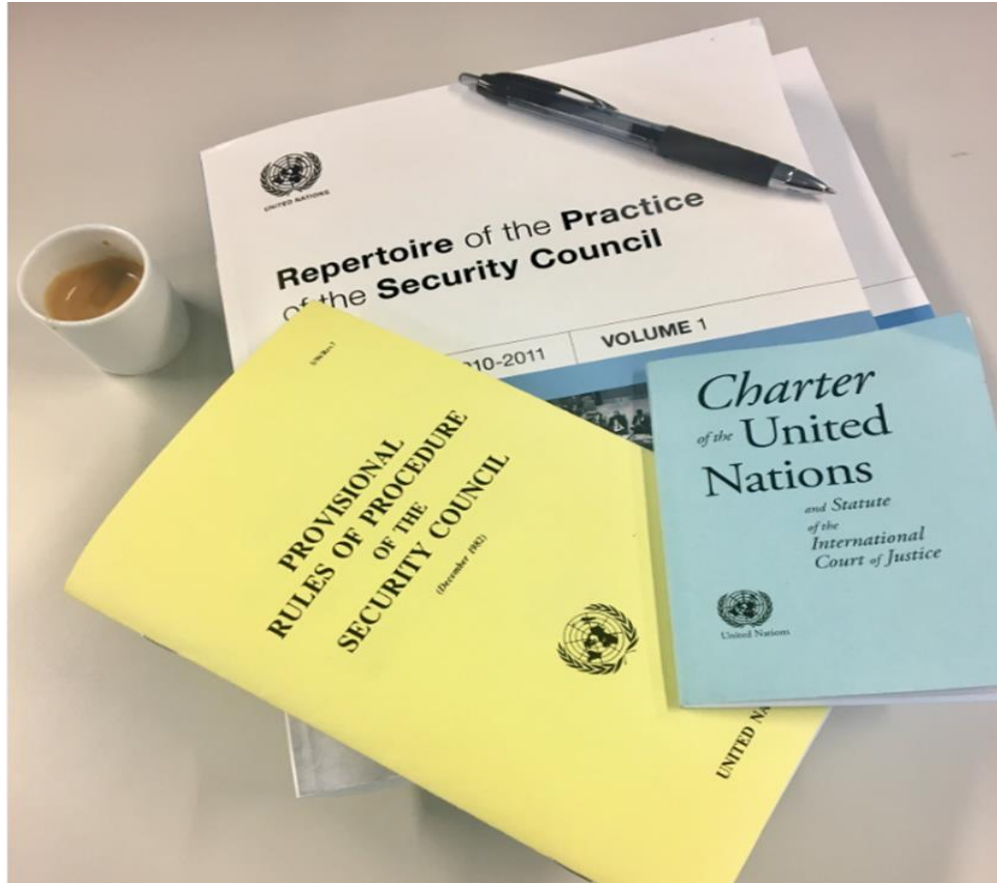
## Relations with subsidiary organs established by the GA

- Committee on the Exercise of Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
- Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations
- Human Rights Council
- Peacebuilding Commission

# What to expect this year

- On the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform
- On recommendations from the GA to the Council
- On country and region-specific situations
- On peacebuilding and sustaining peace
- On working methods

# Resources



- [Charter of the United Nations](#)
- [Provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council](#)
- [Note by the President of the Security Council of 30 August 2017 \(S/2017/507\) and subsequent notes](#)
- [Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council](#)
- [Rules of procedure of the General Assembly](#)
- [Statute of the International Court of Justice](#)
- [Index to proceedings](#)