

Relationship of the Security Council to the General Assembly

Briefing for delegates on the 76th session of the General Assembly

Security Council Affairs Division | Ms. Blanca Montejo, Senior Political Affairs Officer

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The GA and the Council: some key differences

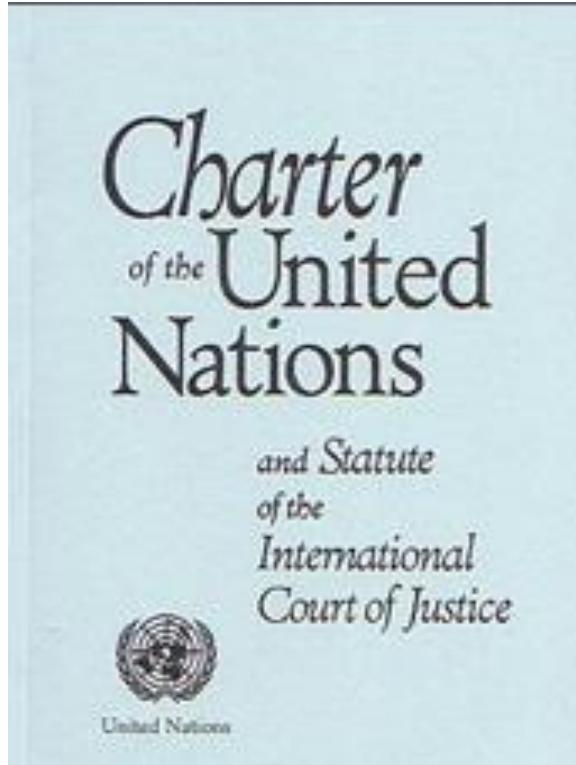
General Assembly

- 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



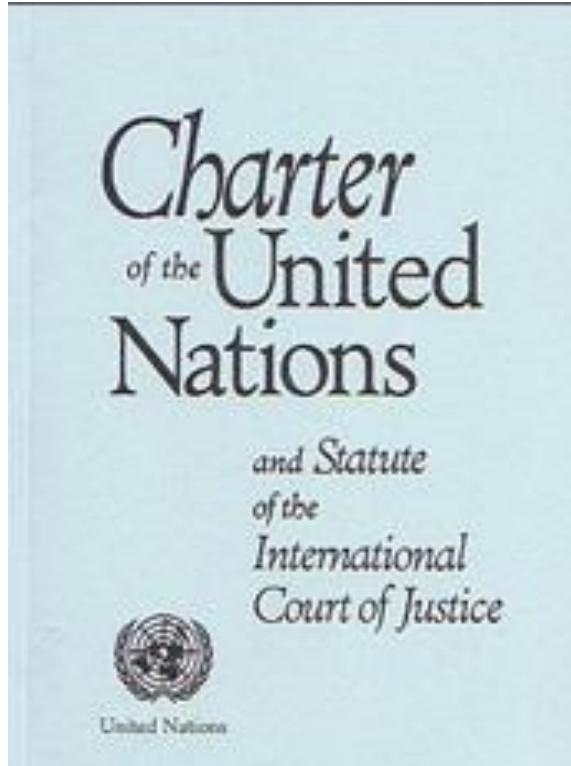
Article 10

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



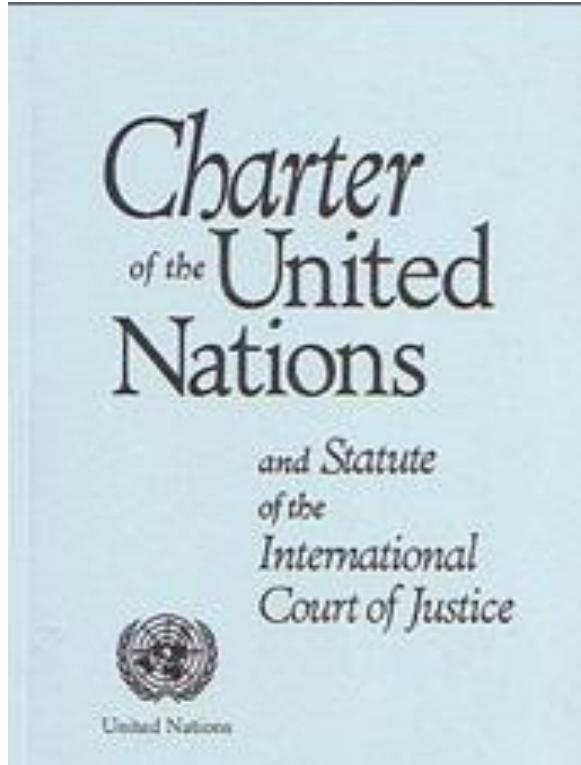
Article 12

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



Main areas of collaboration



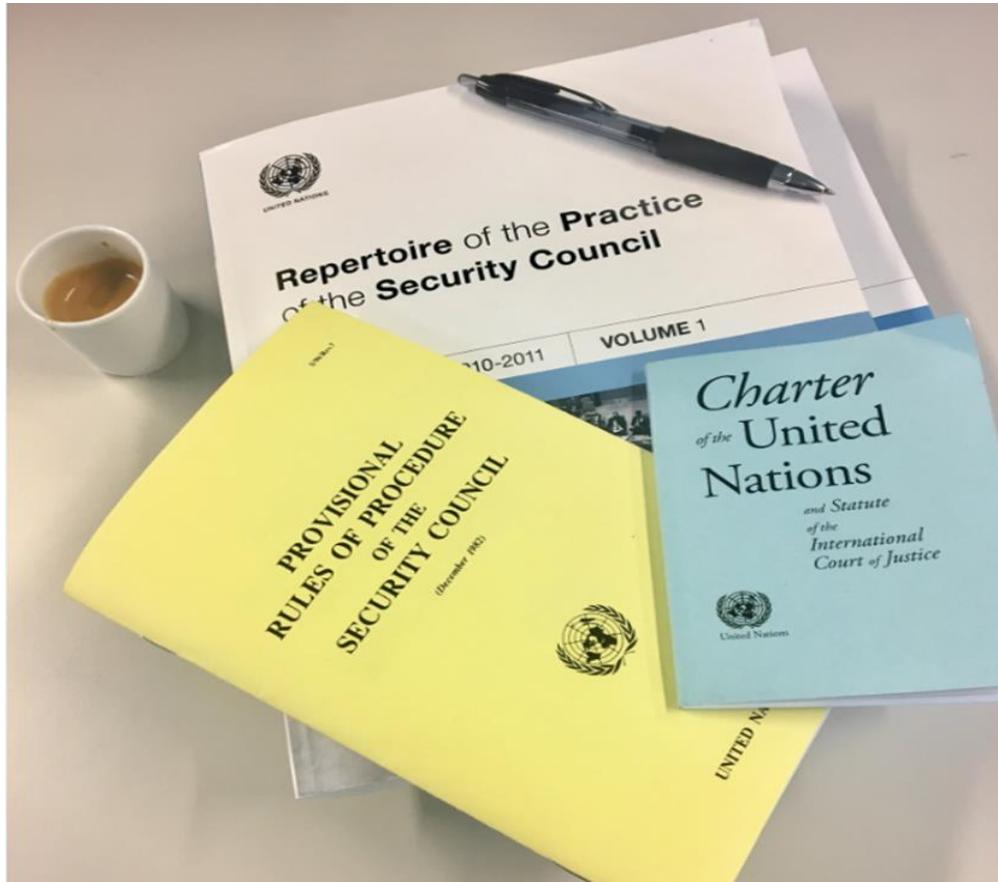
Relations with subsidiary organs established by the GA

- 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](#)