

# Security Council and Subsidiary Organs

## *Workshop for Election Officers*

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# Elections to the Security Council: normative framework

- Pursuant to Article 23 of the [Charter](#), the 10 non-permanent members (elected members) of the Security Council are elected by the General Assembly every 2 years in “batches” of 5 each time
- Article 18 of the Charter establishes that the election shall be by a two-third majority of the members present and voting
- GA resolution [1991 \(XVIII\)](#) of 1963 amending the Charter established the pattern regarding geographical distribution. As a result, the distribution of the 10 non-permanent members is as follows:
  - ✓ 5 African (3) and Asian States (2)
  - ✓ 1 EES
  - ✓ 2 LATAM
  - ✓ 2 WEOG
- GA resolution [68/307](#) of 16 September 2014 advanced the election of non-permanent members to 6 months before assuming functions (as of 2016, first vote took place in June 2017)
- This year the elections will take place on [11 June 2021](#) and up for election will be 2 African seats (Niger, Tunisia), 1 Asian seat (Viet Nam), 1 Latam seat (Saint Vincent & the Grenadines) and 1 Eastern European seat (Estonia)

## Subsidiary bodies: normative framework

- Article 29 of the Charter provides that the Security Council may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions
- Article 47 established the Military Staff Committee, the only subsidiary organ of the Council established by the Charter. Whilst its activity remained dormant during the Cold War, it has regained activity and impact lately. The membership of the Committee consists only of permanent members
- Rule 28 of the [provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council](#) provides that the Security Council may appoint a commission or committee or a rapporteur for a specified question
- Historically, the Council has established a wide variety of subsidiary organs, including commissions of inquiry, working groups, international tribunals
- Subsidiary organs of the Security Council are also field missions (PKOs and SPMs) as well as sanctions committees and the groups and panels of experts

# Process for the selection of Chairs: normative framework

- Note by the Security Council President of 30 August 2017 ([S/2017/507](#)) provides that:
  - ✓ Agreement on appointment of the Chairs should be reached no later than 1 October;
  - ✓ Informal consultations as soon as possible after each election of members of the Council and with all Council members as well as newly elected members;
  - ✓ Process to be undertaken in a balanced, transparent, efficient and inclusive way and facilitated jointly by two members of the Security Council working in full cooperation; and
  - ✓ Members and newly elected members should be informed of the outcome in a transparent and substantive way prior to the provisional agreement on appointment.
- Further, the note by the Security Council President of 27 December 2019 ([S/2019/991](#)) provides that:
  - ✓ Informal consultation process should take into account the need for a shared responsibility and a fair distribution of work for the selection of the Chairs among all members of the Council, bearing in mind the capacities and resources of members.

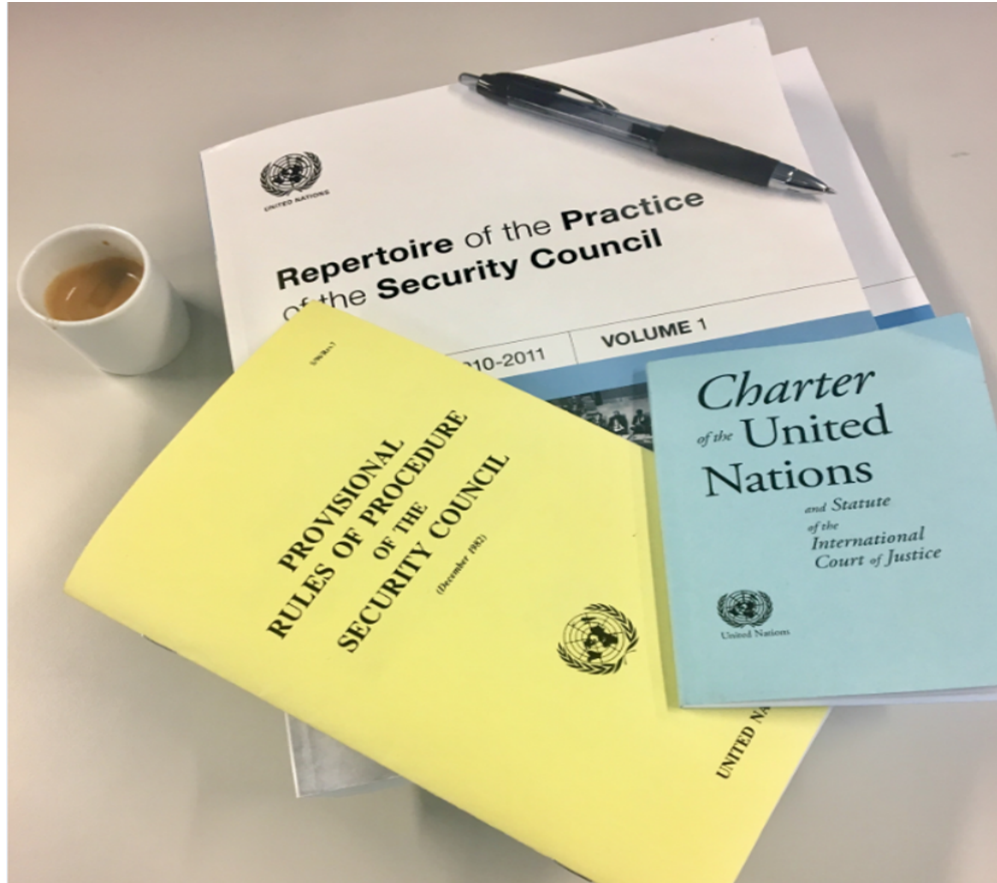
## Process for the selection of Chairs: calls for enhancing the process and fair burden sharing

- In practice, the facilitating role has been undertaken by the Coordinator of the P5 (appointed quarterly) together with the Chair of the Security Council Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions (appointed as part of the bureaux).
- In a letter dated 13 November 2018 ([S/2018/1024](#)) the then 10 elected members and incoming 5 advocated for “fair burden-sharing”, “equal distribution of work” and no more than 2 subsidiary bodies per member.
- Note by the Security Council President of 27 December 2019 ([S/2019/991](#)) refers to a shared responsibility and a fair distribution of work for the selection of the Chairs among all members of the Council.
- IWG is currently discussing ways to further enhance the process for the selection of Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

## Subsidiary bodies: the bureau and how it works

- Sanctions committee bureaux (Chair and Vice-Chair(s)) commenced to be systematically appointed and published every year since 1999 and since 2008 in a standard document (S/[DATE]/2).
- Chairs are elected in their personal capacity (PRs and DPRs) whereas Vice-Chairs are held by the entire delegation.
- Subsidiary organs have 1 Chair and between 1-3 Vice-Chairs.
- Sanctions committees are currently chaired exclusively by non-permanent members of the Council while Vice-Chairs sometimes include also permanent members.

# Questions and resources



- [Charter of the United Nations](#)
- [Information on sanctions committees](#)
- [Information on working methods](#)
- [Provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council](#)
- [Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council](#)
- [Annual report](#)