

Briefing for Delegates on the Work of the United Nations Security Council

*INFORMATION SESSION OPEN TO ALL MISSIONS IN NEW YORK
ON THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL*

Wednesday, 20 May and Friday, 22 May
Conference Room 8, UNHQ

I. Introduction to UNITAR

UNITAR is the principal training arm of the UN system headquartered in Geneva with Offices in New York, Hiroshima, Bonn, and Port Harcourt. At the UN Headquarters in New York, and for the last 6 years, UNITAR New York has been the gateway to learning opportunities, with a vision of providing knowledge “on the UN, by the UN and for the UN”. It develops and delivers an average of 30 courses annually to thousands of members of the international community – diplomats, UN staff, and members of civil society (including NGOs) and the private sector.

UNITAR’s courses focus on: 1) developing technical knowledge of the UN system and its functioning, such as through its General Assembly and Main Committee briefings; 2) building skills that are specific to multilateral diplomacy, such as negotiations and drafting skills workshops; and 3) exchanging information and research in the form of Conferences (or series of conferences) on areas of topical and immediate interest to negotiators at the UN, as well as the UN decision working process.

II. Introduction to the Briefing on the United Nations Security Council

The training will consist of a two-day information session on the Security Council’s procedures and working methods, open to all UN delegations interested in its work. It will focus on the practical application of working methods, key topics discussed in the Council, and its relationship with other UN organs and organizations. Proposed subjects to be covered are detailed below.

The training will be conducted in a hybrid format to accommodate both in-person participants (subject to seating limits) and virtual attendees. It is open to all Missions to the UN, ensuring that delegates, including those from non-Member States of the Security Council, can better understand its work and identify opportunities for engagement.

III. The Programme

DAY 1: Wednesday, 20 May 2026

10:00 am

Opening Segment

- Mr. Rabih El-Haddad, Director of the Division of Multilateral Diplomacy, Head of Representation Office in New York, UNITAR (*Opening Remarks*)
- H.E. Ambassador Rui Vinhas, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations (*Welcoming Remarks*)
- H.E. Mr. Fu Cong, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, President of the Security Council for May (*Welcoming Remarks*)
- Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary General, United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (*Keynote Address*)

Session I – Introduction to the UN Security Council

10:45 am

Functions and Powers

30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A

- Ms. Shamala Kandiah Thompson, Executive Director at Security Council Report

11:30 am

Foundations of Council Procedure and Working Methods

30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A

- Ms. Loraine Sievers, Director at Security Council Procedure

12:15 pm

Programme of Work, Meeting Formats and Agenda Items

30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A

- Ms. Claudia Banz, Director at Security Council Affairs Division

1:00 pm

Session I concludes

Break

Session II – Mechanics of the Security Council in Action

3:00 pm

Procedures and Documentation

30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A

- Mr. James Sutterlin, Chief of Security Council Secretariat Branch

3:45 pm **Sanctions Committees and Other Subsidiary Organs**

30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A

- Ms. Michi Ebata, Chief of Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch

4:30 pm **Research tools and Repertoire**

30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A

- Mr. Ahmed Ghanem-Ali, Chief of Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

5:15 pm **Session II concludes**

DAY 2: Friday, 22 May 2026

Session III – Decision-Making in the Council

10:00 am **The Presidency of the Security Council**

30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A

- H.E. Ambassador Abukar Dahir Osman, Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations and President of the Security Council in January 2026
- H.E. Ambassador Jamal Fares Alrowaiei, Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations and President of the Security Council in April 2026

10:45 am **Council Decisions and Other Outcomes**

30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A

- H.E. Ambassador Eloy Alfaro de Alba, Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations
- H.E. Ambassador Sanita Pavluta-Deslandes, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations

11:30 am **Decision-Making and the Use of the Veto**

30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A

- H.E. Oliver Hoehne, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN
- H.E. Ambassador Tania Romualdo, Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde to the UN

- 12:15 pm **Informal Meetings and their Conduct**
30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A
- Mr. Rodrigo Amaya, Political Coordinator at the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations
 - Mr. Serge Banza, Political Coordinator at the Permanent Mission of DRC to the United Nations
- 1:00 pm **Session III concludes**
- Break**
- Session IV – Broader Engagement and Opportunities**
- 3:00 pm **Improving the Working Methods of the Council**
30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A
- Mr. Troels Bay, Political Coordinator, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations
 - Mr. Gul Qaiser Sarwani, Political Coordinator, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations
- 3:45 pm **Preparation of the Incoming Five (I5) and Negotiation Dynamics of the Elected Ten (E10)**
30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A
- Ms. Lois Wisner, Political Coordinator, Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations
 - Mr. Konstantinos Thanopoulos, Political Coordinator, Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations
- 4:30 pm **Council's Relations with other Organs and Regional Organizations**
30 min presentation + 10 min Q&A
- H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale, President of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations
 - H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Edrees, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations
- 5:15 pm **Session IV concludes**

5:15 pm **Closing remarks**

- H.E. Ambassador Rui Vinhas, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations (*Closing Remarks*)
- Mr. Rabih El-Haddad, Director of the Division of Multilateral Diplomacy, Head of Representation Office in New York, UNITAR (*Closing Remarks*)

5:30 pm **End of programme**