



Arria-Formula Meeting of the Security Council on Bridging the Implementation Gap: Security Council Resolutions and the Maintenance of International Peace and Security

**Organized by the Permanent Mission of China and Permanent
Mission of Pakistan**

Concept Note

(23 June 2026)

(time: 1500-1800 hrs)

The Security Council is the principal organ of the United Nations entrusted with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Its resolutions are among the most authoritative instruments of collective security, setting out the legal and political framework for preventing conflict, resolving disputes, maintaining ceasefires, authorizing peace operations, imposing sanctions, protecting civilians, facilitating humanitarian access, countering terrorism and responding to threats to peace, among others.

2. The significance of Security Council resolutions lies not only in their adoption, but in their implementation. A Security Council resolution that is not implemented, selectively applied, or left without follow-up undermines international peace and security. The full, faithful, timely and non-selective implementation of Security Council resolutions is therefore essential to the credibility of the Council and to the integrity of the UN Charter system.

3. Article 25 of the Charter affirms that Member States agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the Charter, while Article 2(2) requires all Members to fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them. These provisions reflect a fundamental principle: collective security can function only when Council decisions are treated as obligations to be implemented, not as choices to be observed selectively.

4. It has been observed that the persistent non-implementation of Security Council resolutions has serious implications for international peace and security. It weakens the authority of the Council, erodes confidence in multilateralism, undermines respect for international law, as well as conflict prevention and resolution. In practical terms, non-implementation can prolong disputes, entrench unlawful situations, deepen grievances, obstruct humanitarian access, embolden unilateral actions, and increase the risk of escalation or recurrence of conflict. In addition, where Council resolutions provide agreed parameters for resolving disputes, their non-implementation leaves root causes unaddressed and allows perpetuation of conflicts.

5. The implementation record of Security Council resolutions remains uneven across situations, mandates and political contexts. Resolutions adopted under Chapter VII are often accompanied by enforcement tools, sanctions regimes, monitoring arrangements, reporting requirements, panels of experts, peacekeeping mandates or other operational mechanisms. Other resolutions, including those adopted in the context of Chapter VI - peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as resolutions on thematic and conflict-specific issues, may at times lack comparable follow-up, periodic review or dedicated implementation mechanisms. While non-implementation may lead to protracted situations, the underlying issues continue to threaten regional and international peace and security. More broadly, when the Council's decisions are not translated into action, its preventive role is undermined.

6. In some cases, selective implementation has further compounded this challenge. When some Council decisions are pursued with urgency while others are neglected or delayed, perceptions of double standards and non-compliance deepen. This erodes trust in multilateralism, weakens respect for international law, and risks turning Council resolutions from instruments of peace into unfulfilled promises. It also sends a troubling signal that compliance may depend less on legal obligation and more on political expediency.

7. Strengthening the implementation of Security Council resolutions is therefore not a procedural issue alone; it is central to conflict prevention, peaceful settlement of disputes, accountability, and the credibility of the multilateral system itself. This Arria Formula meeting will provide an informal platform for Security Council members, the wider United Nations membership, UN officials and experts to examine the implications of non-implementation of Security Council resolution for international peace and security, identify recurring obstacles, and consider practical ways to strengthen follow-up, compliance and accountability in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

Objectives

8. The Arria Formula meeting aims to:

- i. Reaffirm that the full, faithful, timely and non-selective implementation of Security Council resolutions is essential to effective maintenance of international peace and security and to the credibility of the Council;
- ii. Examine the implications of non-implementation, delayed implementation or selective implementation of Council resolutions for international peace and security;
- iii. Identify the institutional, legal and political factors that impede implementation of Council resolutions;
- iv. Explore practical measures to strengthen monitoring, reporting and periodic review of unimplemented Council resolutions; and
- v. Consider how relevant UN mechanisms and regional arrangements, within their respective mandates, can more effectively support the implementation of Council decisions.

Guiding Questions

9. The discussion will be guided by the following questions:
 - (a) What are the implications of non-implementation of Security Council resolutions for international peace and security?
 - (b) How does selective or delayed implementation of Council resolutions affect the credibility, legitimacy and authority of the Security Council and the wider multilateral system?
 - (c) What are the main political, legal, operational and institutional obstacles to the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions?
 - (d) How can the Security Council strengthen monitoring, reporting and follow-up mechanisms to ensure timely, consistent and non-selective implementation of its resolutions?
 - (e) How can UN peacekeeping operations, special political missions, sanctions committees, judicial or dispute-settlement mechanisms and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, better support implementation of Council resolutions? And
 - (f) How can the Council ensure the implementation of resolutions relating to preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and the peaceful settlement of disputes for the maintenance of international peace and security?

Suggested Briefers

- Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific
- Ms. Shamala Kandiah Thompson, Executive Director, Security Council Report
- Mr. Richard Gowan, International Crisis Group

10. The Arria-formula meeting will be Co-Chaired by Ambassador Fu Cong, Permanent Representative of China and Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Permanent Representative of Pakistan. All UN Member States, Permanent Observers, and relevant UN entities are invited to participate.

11. Delegations are requested to inscribe on the list of speakers by COB on 19 June 2026. To facilitate broad participation, statements should not exceed three minutes. Time management will be strictly observed. The meeting will last approximately three hours.

12. Speaking slots will be prioritized for members of the Security Council, followed by other interested delegations and organizations, time permitting. Interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations will be provided, subject to availability.
