

Relationship of the Security Council to the General Assembly

Briefing for delegates on the 77th session of the General Assembly

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The GA and the Council: some key differences

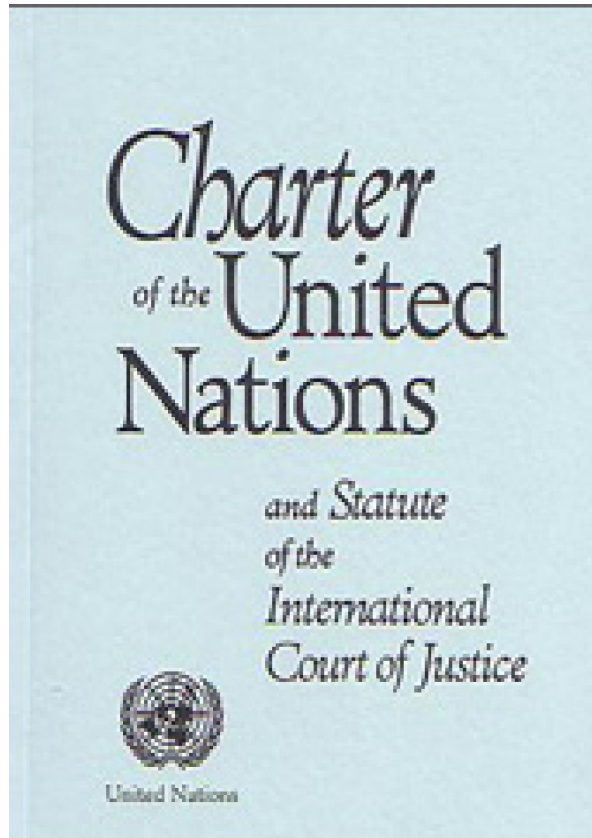
General Assembly

- 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



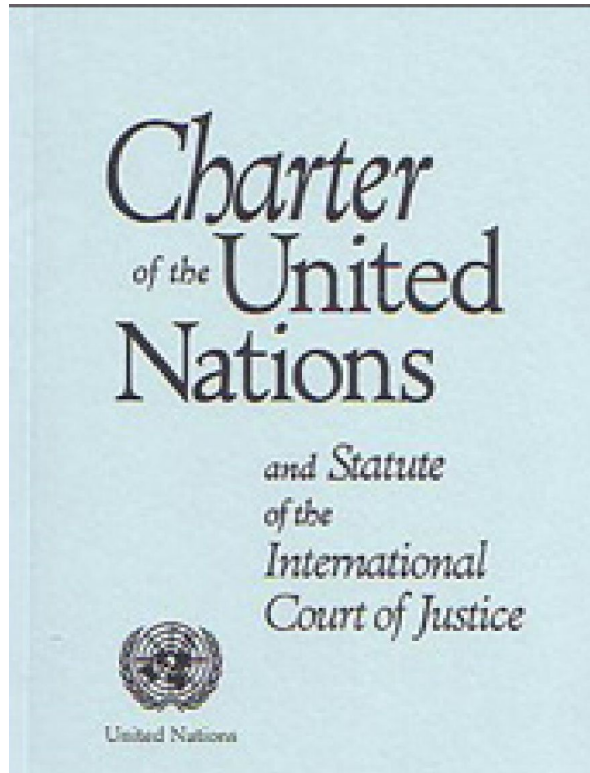
Article 10

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



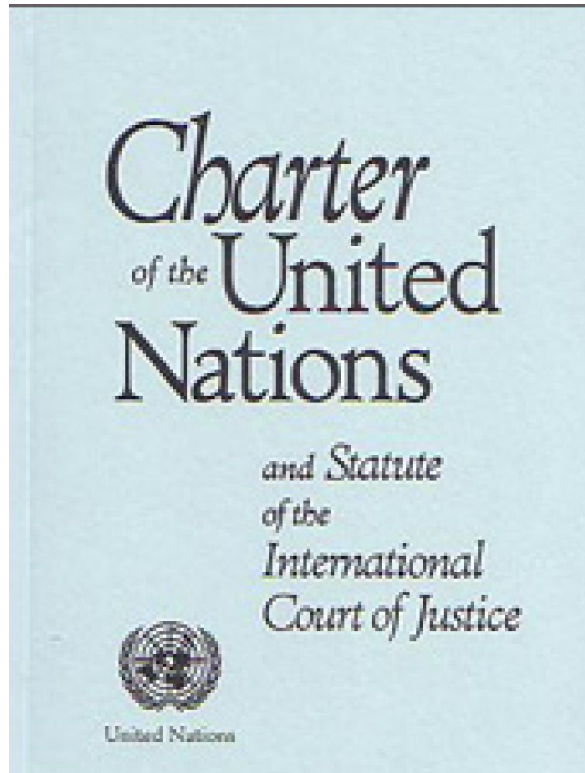
Article 12

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



Article 24

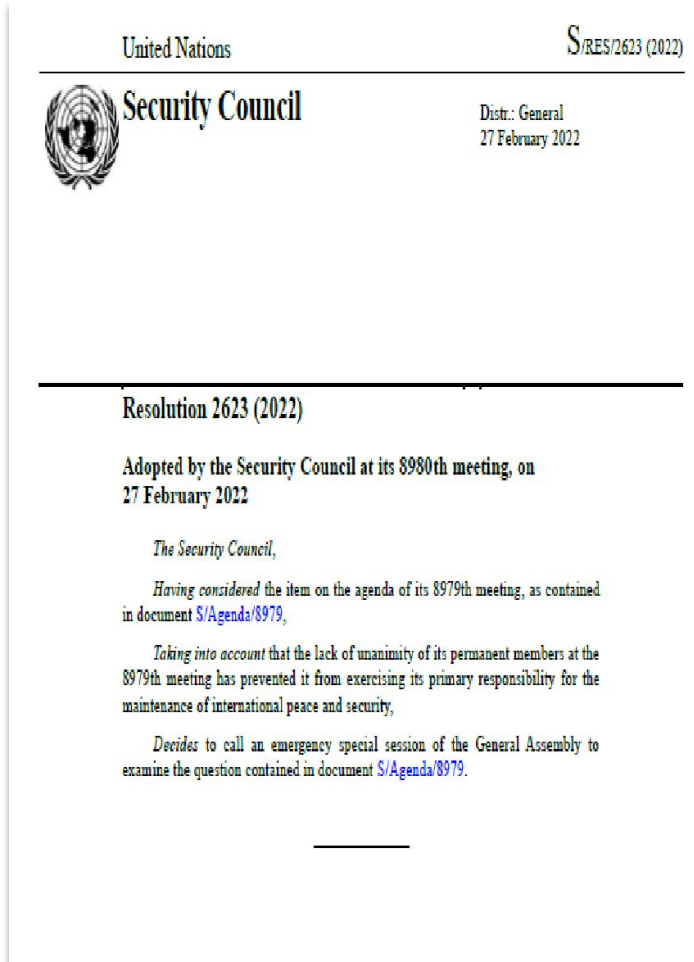
Member States have conferred on the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and agreed that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility it acts on their behalf. Consequently, the Council acts in accordance with the Charter and submits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

Main areas of collaboration: maintenance of international peace and security



- Early practice and [Uniting for Peace](#)
- Contemporary practice and the [new Veto Initiative](#)
- [GA recommendations to the Council:](#)
 - On general principles
 - On specific situations

Most recent Emergency Special Session (invoked by the Council)



Chronology of events:

- **27 February 2022** – adoption of resolution 2623 (2022) by the Council
- **28 February 2022** – Assembly convened its 11th Emergency Special Session
- **2 March 2022** – the Assembly adopted resolution ES-11/1
- **24 March 2022** – the Assembly adopted resolution ES-11/2
- **6 May 2022** – the Council issued its first PRST in connection with the item “Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine”

Emergency Special Sessions (invoked by the Council)

	Resolution reference	Meeting	Vote	Repertoire reference
1	Resolution 119 (1956)	S/PV.751 31 October 1956	7Y-2N-2A	https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/en/sc/repertoire/56-58/56-58_06.pdf#page=5 (France and UK voted against; Belgium and Australia abstained)
2	Resolution 120 (1956)	S/PV.754 4 November 1956	10Y-1N-0A	https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/en/sc/repertoire/56-58/56-58_06.pdf#page=5 (USSR voted against)
3	Resolution 129 (1958)	S/PV.838 7 August 1958	11Y-0N-0A	https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/en/sc/repertoire/56-58/56-58_06.pdf#page=5
4	Resolution 157 (1960)	S/PV.906 17 September 1960	8Y-2N-1A	https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/en/sc/repertoire/59-63/59-63_06.pdf#page=4 (Poland and USSR voted against; France abstained)
5	Resolution 303 (1971)	S/PV.1608 6 December 1971	11Y-0N-4A	https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/en/sc/repertoire/69-71/69-71_06.pdf#page=4 (France, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland abstained)
6	Resolution 462 (1980)	S/PV.2190 9 January 1980	12Y-2N-1A	https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/en/sc/repertoire/75-80/75-80_06.pdf#page=4 (GDR and USSR voted against; Zambia abstained)
7	Resolution 500 (1982)	S/PV.2330 28 January 1982	13Y-0N-2A	https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/en/sc/repertoire/81-84/81-84_06.pdf#page=4 (UK and US abstained)
8	Resolution 2623 (2022)	S/PV.8980 27 February 2022	11Y-1N-3A	Not available (to be featured in the 25 th Supplement of the Repertoire) (Russian Federation voted against; China, India and United Arab Emirates abstained)

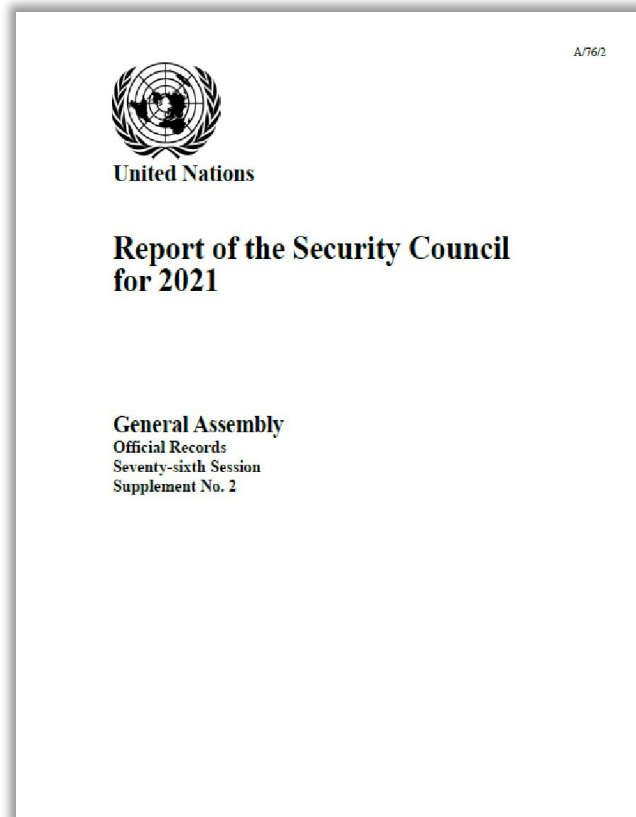
***There have been eleven Emergency Special Sessions, eight of which were invoked by the Security Council**

Main areas of collaboration: appointments and elections



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

Main areas of collaboration: annual notifications and 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: 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 [28 June 2022](#))
- Participation of Presidents in their respective activities



Collaboration with the GA's subsidiary organs



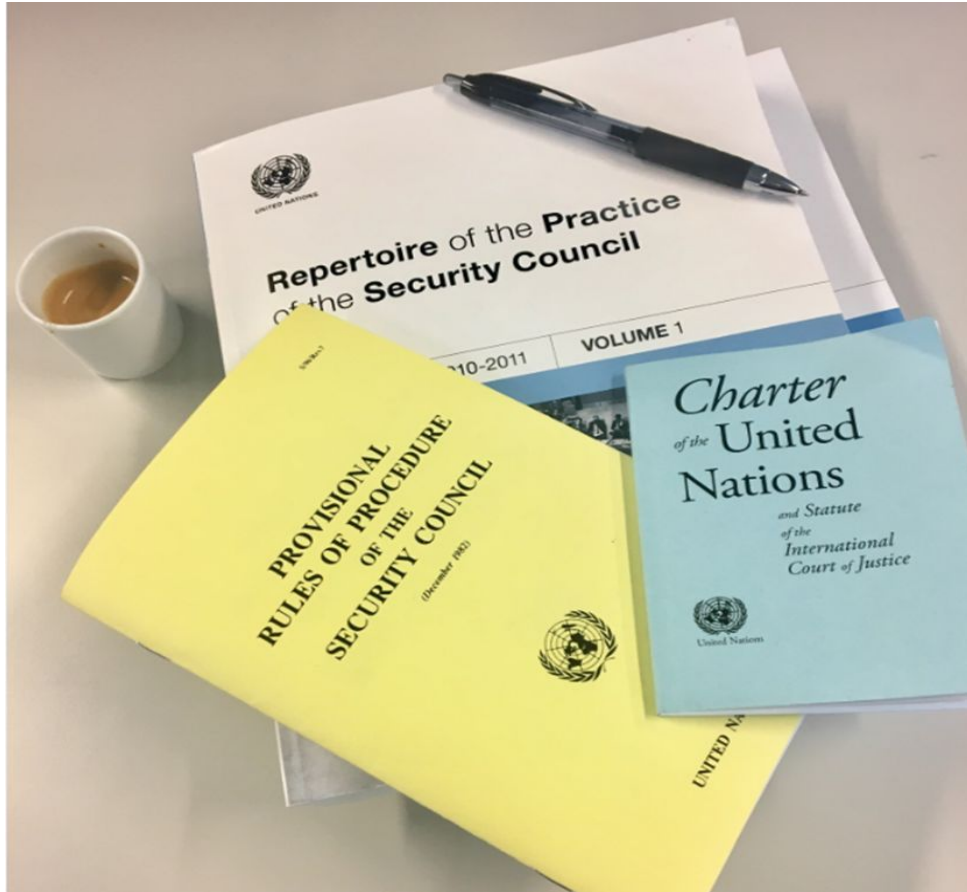
- Committee on the Exercise of Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
- Human Rights Council
- Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

Collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission

- Coordinating programmes of work and agenda items (S/2022/202)
- Advanced unedited versions of the reports of the Secretary - General to the Council
- Written advice to the President of the Council
- PBC's annual report (S/2022/89)



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](#)
- [Research and analysis resources on the Security Council](#)
- [Rules of procedure of the General Assembly](#)
- [Index to proceedings](#)