

## **Security Council Open Debate on Working Methods**

November 30<sup>th</sup> 2011, Security Council Chamber

*Statement by H.E Ms. DiCarlo, Representative of the United States*

The United States appreciates the commitment of Portugal to improving the working methods of the Security Council, as shown by your initiative, Mr. President, in convening this fourth open debate on the topic.

Additionally, we recognize Ambassador Ivan Barbalčić of Bosnia and Herzegovina for his work as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, and the excellent management of those issues by the Bosnian Mission.

Our discussions of the working methods of the Council are important in order to ensure that the Council remains able to address the challenges of the twenty-first century. Acting on behalf of the membership of the United Nations, the Council bears the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. It is essential that, in carrying out this role, its work be as effective, efficient and transparent as possible. Article 30 of the Charter mandates the Council to adopt its own rules of procedure. In doing so, the Council recognizes the need for other United Nations Members who are our partners in the maintenance of international peace and security to be informed of and appropriately involved in the work of the Council.

To that end, the Council some years ago revitalized its Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. Our discussion today builds upon the Group's extensive work and the recommendations outlined in the annex to note by the President of the Security Council contained in document S/2006/507. In that regard, we would like, once again, to thank Japan for its efforts to develop updates to that note.

We should bear in mind the steps taken thus far by the Council to implement those recommendations. With respect to transparency, Council Presidents brief non-Council members shortly after the adoption of the programme of work each month. Each Council President further prepares a published assessment of its month-long term, thereby expanding the information available to all Member States on the problems facing the Council and how those problems have been addressed.

The Council has increased its interaction with non-Council members by holding open debates and informal discussions. We are encouraged by the growing number of Member States that choose to participate in open meetings, such as today's, and look forward to subsequent open sessions on a range of issues that are relevant to the Council's agenda.

The Council has further welcomed the Chairs of the various country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission, inviting them to participate in Council deliberations. The subsidiary bodies of the Council, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee, have held more open meetings, and sanctions committee Chairs have organized more open briefings for the broader United Nations membership to discuss sanctions regime objectives and committee activities. Sanctions committees have also invited representatives of Member States to brief them on issues of mutual concern, and we encourage interested Member States to pursue such opportunities.

Troop-contributing countries play a critical role in the development of peacekeeping operations. The Council has sought to increase the role that troop-contributing countries play in discussions of the mandates of missions to which they contribute. To highlight the importance that the United States assigns to troop-contributing countries, President Obama met with top contributors in September 2009 to hear their perspective on ways to improve United Nations peacekeeping.

The Council has also increased its interaction with non-Council members through informal processes, such as groups of friends. The Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, for instance, informs the Council's actions through inclusive and transparent dialogue between Council and non-Council members.

Making the work of the Council more efficient requires constant effort. In that regard, we all face the challenge of balancing the substance with the length of our remarks. All of us, Council members and non-Council members alike, should aim to convey our message succinctly, so that as many Member States as possible can speak with the many other States that are present to hear them.

Today's debate offers members the opportunity to share views on whether the practical applications of the innovations listed in the 507 note have helped them to better follow and participate in the Council's work. The United States welcomes constructive comments that will inform future efforts of the Working Group and allow it to assess the effectiveness of measures to enhance transparency, dialogue and efficiency. We look forward to continued discussions on those issues and thank the Portuguese presidency once again for this initiative.