



**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

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BENELUX statement delivered by

Ambassador Philippe Kridelka, Permanent Representative

**UNSC - Working methods of the Security Council**

New York, 11 March 2024

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Mister President,  
Excellencies,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the three Benelux countries – Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and my own country, Belgium.

We thank you, Mr. President, for having convened this open debate on the working methods of the Security Council, and we commend the efforts of Japan as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. We also sincerely thank Ms. Landgren for her briefing and her recommendations.

Allow me to quote Article 39 of the UN Charter, “the Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken to restore or maintain international peace and security”.

Recently, the Council has not been able to do so - unable to fully implement its mandate. This inability to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations, is notably due to the use of the **veto**. We deplore this **impasse**.

The **lack of respect for the Charter** of the United Nations and international law has devastating consequences for civilians in many regions of the world, including in the occupied Palestinian territories, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria and Afghanistan.

Allow me to focus on 3 points.

1. Let me start with a very tangible problem. The past years, **vetoes** have prevented the Security Council from effectively fulfilling its primary responsibility. The Benelux countries firmly believe that special consideration should be given to ways to limit the use of the veto.

As a general principle, we strongly support the political declaration on the suspension of veto powers in cases of mass atrocities, presented by France and Mexico, as well as the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, developed by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group.

In the same vein, we believe that all members of the Security Council must adhere to **Article 27.3** of the UN Charter, which stipulates that “a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting”.

2. Regarding the Council approved **missions and operations**, we welcome and encourage **extensive dialogue between the penholders and the host governments**. Within that continuous dialogue, an annual in-country visit by the penholders to engage the host government on their expectations ahead of negotiations on mandates or sanctions is a matter of basic respect.

Systematic coordination and regular exchange with regional organizations, concerned countries, civil society and relevant entities, especially the UN Peacebuilding Commission as well as field visits from the Security Council and the sanctions committees will not only benefit the work of the Council, but also increase support to the decisions eventually taken.

The Council stands to gain from exchanging not just with the national and local authorities, but also with the staff and specialists of the mission, the local population including vulnerable and underrepresented groups and peacemakers, and civil society representatives. The field visits should also take stock of the progress in Transition planning and handover to the host state and the UN country team.

- 3. Sanctions** are an important and legitimate preventive tool of the Security Council under Article 41 of the UN Charter. The Council must apply fair and clear procedures in its sanction regimes. The Benelux countries emphasize the need to respect international **due process** standards in that framework. One consideration is to continuously strengthen due process and to ensure that fair and clear procedures exist for delisting individuals and entities.

Mr. President, in conclusion, the Benelux countries recognize the **investment and leadership of your country, Japan**, and are confident that under your stewardship, together with your fellow Council members, you will be successful in adopting of a new Note 507 before the end of 2024.

I thank you.