



# UN Security Council: Switzerland's Working Methods Commitments for May 2023

Switzerland is committed to improving the working methods of the Security Council, which are key to its effectiveness and capacity to fulfil its mandate. As such, Enhancing effectiveness is one of our priorities for our two-year mandate on the Council.

As President of the Council for the month of May 2023, Switzerland will be guided by the Provisional Rules of Procedure, Presidential Note S/2017/507, and subsequent Presidential Notes on working methods. We also subscribe to the Shared Commitments on Women, Peace and Security and the Joint Pledges on Climate, Peace and Security. During our Presidency, we aim to contribute to an accountable, coherent and transparent Council:

## 1. Accountability: Strive for an open and inclusive Council

- We will interact and consult with countries concerned and regional organizations, as well as partners within the UN System, on the work of the Council ahead of and during our Presidency.
- We will engage with civil society before, throughout and beyond our Presidency, listening to diverse actors.
- We will strive to have civil society brief the Council on thematic, country-specific and regional issues to hear from those directly impacted by situations on the ground.
- We will highlight the contributions and recommendations made by the entire UN membership and CSOs for continued consideration by the Council in the relevant discussions.
- In line with our Shared Commitments on WPS, we will strive to ensure gender-balance among briefers, encourage all speakers to include gender aspects in their statements, and work to prevent, and take a zero-tolerance approach to reprisals against CSO briefers.
- We will encourage briefers to address the impacts of and risks associated with climate change on peace and security in the contexts concerned.

## 2. Coherence: Increase cooperation and interaction

- As President of the Council, we will meet with the Presidents of the General Assembly and ECOSOC as well as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission in line with paragraphs 93–94 of S/2017/507 and with representatives of other UN entities such as the Human Rights Council as appropriate.

- We will engage with and bring in the views of regional and subregional organisations into the Council.
- We will contribute to the discussion on working methods within the Council and the wider UN membership with a view to strengthening effectiveness.
- We will work with all Council members toward the timely adoption of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly in line with Presidential Note S/2019/997, which states that the report should be discussed and adopted no later than 30 May.
- We will build on the practice of previous presidencies to foster interactive discussions.
- We will ask Rule 37/39 participants to not exceed five minutes in their interventions, and briefers to limit their remarks where possible to 7–10 minutes.
- We will encourage the delivery of joint statements both by Council members and the broader membership where appropriate, in line with the spirit of paragraph 43 of S/2017/507.

## 3. Transparency: Make the Council's Work more visible

- We aim for an adequate balance of open briefings and closed consultations, to combine transparency of the Council's work with the opportunity for candid discussions behind closed doors.
- We will encourage efforts to inform the wider public about the main outcomes of closed deliberations through elements to the press.
- We will continue the practice of presenting an informal, digital programme of work as an additional source of information on the Council's scheduled activities: [www.aplusforpeace.ch](http://www.aplusforpeace.ch)
- As President of the Council, Switzerland will engage the wider UN membership, including by presenting the programme of work when adopted and organising a wrap up session.

