

Informal Consultation on the work of the Security Council in 2024

16 January 2025

ACCOUNTABILITY, COHERENCE & TRANSPARENCY (ACT)

**Statement delivered by
the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations
on behalf of the ACT Group
Ambassador Rui Vinhas**

Excellences,

I am pleased to take the floor on behalf of the 27 members¹ of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group, committed to promoting a more transparent, effective, and efficient United Nations. We advocate improved working methods for the Security Council and stronger interaction with the General Assembly.

We commend your initiative to convene this informal consultation on the Security Council's work, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation, leading the drafting of the 2024 Annual Report per Note 507, as previously suggested by the ACT Group.

We appreciate that this meeting is becoming standard practice and encourage its formalization to ensure full participation, particularly of smaller delegations. Formalization would also prevent the short notice seen this year, allowing delegations sufficient time to prepare and provide substantive input.

The ACT Group would like to address the process and the substance of the Annual Report of the Security Council.

1. On timelines: The Annual Report should be adopted by the Council no later than 30 May 2025, with its consideration by the GA in June or earlier, if agreed by the Council ahead of time, to ensure a timely and relevant review of the Council's work by the GA.

2. On statistics: The Report should provide a factual overview of the Council's 2024 work, including disaggregated data on women's and civil society's participation as briefers.

¹Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Uruguay.

3. On substance: While strides were made last year, we believe the introduction of the Annual Report should be more analytical. It should not only report facts, but analyse and examine trends. We commend the inclusion of the veto chapter and suggest adding statements of explanation by those who use the veto, statistics on veto use, details on the implementation of Resolutions, and insights on draft resolutions that failed to be adopted. The Report should also cover closed consultations and “any other business” discussions to enhance transparency.

As vetoes reach their highest number since 1989, the GA must strengthen its peace and security role when the Council cannot act. The recently published *Assembly for Peace* handbook underscores this need. Contributions to the Security Council Affairs Division’s Repertoire of Practice also ensure institutional memory.

The ACT Group has long advocated for greater transparency in the work of the Council. We encourage timely and consistent compilation of monthly Assessments by Council presidencies and emphasize that such assessments represent the view of the Presidency of the month and not necessarily the views of the Council as a whole, so its substance should not be reduced to the lowest common denominator, through lengthy negotiations.

We commend the efforts to increase the transparency by holding wrap-in and wrap-up sessions, and we recall ACT’s non-paper with a view to improve interactive exchanges.

Finally, the ACT Group encourages the President of the General Assembly to summarize today’s debate and share recommendations with Member States and the Security Council President for consideration by the Informal Working Group on Documentation, as encouraged by Note 507.

As always, the ACT Group looks forward to engaging with all Council members throughout this process.

I thank you.