



Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council

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Part V

Functions and powers of the Security Council

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Introductory note

Part V of the *Repertoire* covers the functions and powers of the Security Council, as provided for in Articles 24, 25 and 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, and is accordingly divided into three sections. Under each section, implicit and explicit references to those Articles in decisions, meetings and communications of the Council during 2014 and 2015 are listed. Each section also includes case studies that examine specific instances where those Articles were discussed or which otherwise illustrate how the Council has applied Articles 24, 25 and 26.

During the period under review, as covered in Section I below, the Council referred explicitly and implicitly to its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security according to Article 24, in 30 decisions in connection with, *inter alia*, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, the situation in Libya, women and peace and security, and maintenance of international peace and security. The primary responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of international peace and security was the subject of discussions also in several meetings of the Council in relation to a wide range of items, including the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, and the implementation of note [S/2010/507](#).

Throughout 2014 and 2015, as featured in Section II below, the Council referred to Article 25 in four resolutions, recalling that members of the United Nations had agreed to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the Charter. Furthermore, in discussions held during meetings of the Council the speakers who took the floor made reference to Article 25 on eight occasions and in relation to different items, including the situation in the Middle East and threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

Lastly, as described in Section III below, in 2014 and 2015 the Council did not make reference to its responsibility for formulating plans for the establishment of a system for a regulation of armaments, pursuant to Article 26 of the Charter. No reference to Article 26 was found in communications to the Council either. However, Article 26 was explicitly referred to once during a meeting of the Council.

Section I

The primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security under Article 24

Article 24

1. In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf.

2. In discharging these duties the Security Council shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The specific powers granted to the Security Council for the discharge of these duties are laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII and XII.

3. The Security Council shall submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly for its consideration.

Note

This section covers Article 24 of the Charter,¹ and is divided into two subsections. Subsection A deals with decisions adopted in 2014 and 2015 that refer to the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security. Subsection B examines references to the Council's primary responsibility pursuant to Article 24 made in discussions held during Council meetings.

During the review period, only one decision contained an explicit reference to Article 24, speakers explicitly referred to Article 24 during the course of ten meetings of the Council, and four communications to the Council contained explicit references to Article 24.²

¹ Article 24 (3), requiring the Council to submit annual and special reports to the General Assembly, is dealt with in part IV.

² See the following letters: Annex to the letter dated 23 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/432](#), p. 2); Annex to the letter dated 22 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([S/2014/526](#), p. 2); Annex I to the letter dated 1 August 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/68/966-S/2014/573](#), pp. 47, 50, 53-55); Annex to the letter dated 6 August 2014 from the

A. Decisions referring to the primary responsibility of the Security Council

As mentioned above and further described below, only one decision of the Council made an explicit reference to Article 24, whilst 22 resolutions and seven presidential statements contained implicit references to the Council's "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security". Such references were generally included in preambular paragraphs of resolutions and in the initial paragraphs of presidential statements.

Furthermore, in some cases, reference to its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security was made whilst adopting resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter as further detailed in subsection 1 below.

1. Resolutions

During the review period, only one decision of the Council, namely resolution [2154 \(2014\)](#) contained an explicit reference to Article 24. This resolution was adopted under the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security" and it recalled that Article 24 conferred upon the Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.³ In addition, 22 resolutions contained implicit references to Article 24. Indeed, in those resolutions the Council reiterated, reaffirmed, recalled, bore in mind, or indicated that it was mindful of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.⁴

Of the 23 resolutions mentioned above, containing explicit or implicit references to Article 24, eight were adopted under country or region-specific agenda items,⁵ while 15 resolutions concerned thematic agenda items.⁶

Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/575](#), p. 32).

³ Resolution [2154 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph.

⁴ Resolutions [2143 \(2014\)](#), eleventh preambular paragraph; [2144 \(2014\)](#), twenty-third preambular paragraph; [2151 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2167 \(2014\)](#), third preambular paragraph; [2171 \(2014\)](#), fourth preambular paragraph and para. 1; [2173 \(2014\)](#), seventeenth preambular paragraph; [2174 \(2014\)](#), tenth preambular paragraph; [2175 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2177 \(2014\)](#), second preambular paragraph; [2180 \(2014\)](#), twenty-third preambular paragraph; [2185 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2195 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2199 \(2015\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2214 \(2015\)](#), second preambular paragraph; [2220 \(2015\)](#), first and fifth preambular paragraphs; [2222 \(2015\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2225 \(2015\)](#), second preambular paragraph; [2228 \(2015\)](#), nineteenth preambular paragraph; [2240 \(2015\)](#), twelfth preambular paragraph; [2242 \(2015\)](#), second preambular paragraph; [2243 \(2015\)](#), twenty-ninth preambular paragraph; and [2250 \(2015\)](#), third preambular paragraph.

⁵ Resolutions [2144 \(2014\)](#), twenty-third preambular paragraph; [2173 \(2014\)](#), seventeenth preambular paragraph; [2174 \(2014\)](#), tenth preambular paragraph; [2177 \(2014\)](#), second preambular paragraph; [2180 \(2014\)](#), twenty-

Of the eight resolutions under country or region-specific agenda items, four were adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter, in connection with the situation in Libya,⁷ and the question concerning Haiti.⁸

The Council underlined the importance of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in connection with the reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan, without prejudice to the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.⁹ Under the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa", by resolution [2177 \(2014\)](#), whilst recalling its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Council requested the Secretary-General to accelerate the response to the Ebola outbreak in collaboration with governments of the region and those providing assistance.¹⁰ In connection with the situation in Libya, the Council emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to fully combat ISIL, groups that pledged allegiance to ISIL, Ansar Al Charia, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida operating in Libya whilst reaffirming its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.¹¹

Of the 15 resolutions under thematic agenda items, two of these resolutions were adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter.¹² In particular, by resolution [2199 \(2015\)](#), concerning threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", the Council modified the sanctions measures concerning Al-Qaida.¹³

third preambular paragraph; [2214 \(2015\)](#), second preambular paragraph; [2228 \(2015\)](#), nineteenth preambular paragraph; and [2243 \(2015\)](#) twenty-ninth preambular paragraph.

⁶ Resolutions [2143 \(2014\)](#), eleventh preambular paragraph; [2151 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2154 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2167 \(2014\)](#), third preambular paragraph; [2171 \(2014\)](#), fourth preambular paragraph and para. 1; [2175 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2185 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2195 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2199 \(2015\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2220 \(2015\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2222 \(2015\)](#), first preambular paragraph; [2225 \(2015\)](#), second preambular paragraph; resolution [2240 \(2015\)](#), twelfth preambular paragraph; [2242 \(2015\)](#), second preambular paragraph; and [2250 \(2015\)](#), third preambular paragraph.

⁷ Resolutions [2144 \(2014\)](#), twenty-third preambular paragraph; and [2174 \(2014\)](#), tenth preambular paragraph. For more information on sanctions measures, see part VII of this Supplement.

⁸ Resolutions [2180 \(2014\)](#), twenty-third preambular paragraph; and [2243 \(2015\)](#), twenty-ninth preambular paragraph. For more information on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and on the peacekeeping and political missions in general, see part X of this Supplement.

⁹ Resolutions [2173 \(2014\)](#), seventeenth preambular paragraph, and [2228 \(2015\)](#), nineteenth preambular paragraph.

¹⁰ Resolution [2177 \(2014\)](#), second preambular paragraph and para. 11.

¹¹ Resolution [2214 \(2015\)](#), second preambular paragraph.

¹² Resolutions [2199 \(2015\)](#), first preambular paragraph; and [2240 \(2015\)](#), twelfth preambular paragraph.

¹³ For more information on sanctions regimes, see part VII of this Supplement.

The Council further reiterated its primary responsibility whilst expressing its commitment to address the widespread impact of armed conflict on children,¹⁴ the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law and the importance of taking measures aimed at conflict prevention and resolution,¹⁵ recognizing that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security can improve collective security, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter.¹⁶ In relation to the maintenance of international peace and security, the Council expressed its determination to pursue the objective of prevention of armed conflict as an integral part of its primary responsibility.¹⁷ Finally, with regard to the item of small arms, the Council noted that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world continued to pose threats to international peace and security, contributed to instability and insecurity, and continued to undermine the effectiveness of the Council in “discharging its primary responsibility”.¹⁸ In addition, bearing in mind the Purposes and Principles of the Charter and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Council reaffirmed that women’s and girls’ empowerment and gender equality were critical to conflict prevention and broader efforts to maintain international peace and security.¹⁹

2. *Presidential Statements*

During the period under review, the Council made implicit references to Article 24 in seven presidential statements,²⁰ reaffirming and recalling its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

In particular, the Council reiterated that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations could improve collective security, and stressed the importance of further strengthening cooperation with the African Union in order to assist building its capacity to deal with common collective security challenges in Africa.²¹ In addition, the Council

¹⁴ Resolutions [2143 \(2014\)](#), eleventh preambular paragraph; and [2225 \(2015\)](#), second preambular paragraph.

¹⁵ Resolution [2175 \(2014\)](#), first preambular paragraph.

¹⁶ Resolution [2167 \(2014\)](#), third preambular paragraph.

¹⁷ Resolution [2171 \(2014\)](#), para. 1.

¹⁸ Resolution [2220 \(2015\)](#), fifth preambular paragraph.

¹⁹ Resolution [2242 \(2015\)](#), second and eleventh preambular paragraphs.

²⁰ [S/PRST/2014/3](#), third paragraph; [S/PRST/2014/4](#), first paragraph; [S/PRST/2014/27](#), second paragraph; [S/PRST/2015/3](#), first paragraph; [S/PRST/2015/14](#), first paragraph; [S/PRST/2015/22](#), first paragraph; and [S/PRST/2015/25](#), first paragraph.

²¹ [S/PRST/2014/27](#), second, fifth and eleventh paragraphs.

welcomed the European Union's comprehensive approach to the maintenance of international peace and security, and noted its extensive co-operation with the United Nations, welcoming in particular the European Union's significant humanitarian assistance to the affected people in the Syrian Arab Republic and in neighbouring countries.²²

The Council further recalled that Member States bore the primary responsibility to respect and ensure the human rights of their citizens, as well as all individuals within their territory whilst reaffirming its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.²³

B. Discussion relating to the primary responsibility of the Security Council

In 2014 and 2015, Article 24 was explicitly and implicitly referred to in numerous meetings of the Council. Explicit references to Article 24 occurred in ten meetings of the Council held under the items entitled: "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2010/507](#))",²⁴ "Maintenance of international peace and security",²⁵ "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security",²⁶ and "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan".²⁷

The following case studies illustrate the broad range of issues discussed during the period under review with respect to the Council's primary responsibility pursuant to Article 24. The discussions took place in connection with the implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2010/507](#)), which concerns the Council's working methods (case 1), the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security (case 2), and children and armed conflict (case 3).

²² [S/PRST/2014/4](#), first, fifth and sixth paragraphs.

²³ [S/PRST/2014/3](#), third and fourth paragraphs.

²⁴ [S/PV.7231](#), p. 2 (Rwanda); [S/PV.7285](#), p. 28 (St. Lucia); [S/PV.7285 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 14 (Nicaragua and Uruguay); p. 20 (Islamic Republic of Iran); p. 26 (Maldives); p. 30 (Egypt); and p. 34 (Algeria); [S/PV.7325](#), p. 2 (Australia); [S/PV.7539](#), p. 16 (Nigeria); and [S/PV.7539 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 5 (Australia); p. 9 (Islamic Republic of Iran); p. 21 (Cuba); and p. 30 (Tunisia).

²⁵ [S/PV.7247](#), p. 49 (Botswana); and [S/PV.7389](#), p. 26 (France); p. 34 (Pakistan); p. 57 (Zimbabwe), p. 80 (Egypt); and p. 97 (Kuwait).

²⁶ [S/PV.7343](#), p. 47 (Namibia).

²⁷ [S/PV.7582](#), p. 16 (Sudan).

Case 1

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2010/507](#))

On 30 July 2014, at the [7231st](#) of the Council, the President recalled that pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter, it is the United Nations general membership that conferred on the Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.²⁸ The representative of the United Kingdom added that every Member State had an individual responsibility to meet the obligations set out in the Charter in addition to the Council's collective responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.²⁹ In connection with the Middle East, the representative of Chile stated that in spite of the Council's responsibility (and early involvement), it still appeared "irrelevant" when it came to preventing the continued escalation of violence.³⁰

On 23 October 2014, at the [7285th](#) meeting of the Council, the representative of Nigeria underscored that as the Council was the main organ of the United Nations charged with the maintenance of international peace and security, the way in which it conducted its work was a matter of great interest to the Member States and to the international community at large.³¹ In this regard, the representative of Luxembourg pointed out that improving the Council's working methods must allow the Council "to best carry out its duties under its primary responsibility," and added that the Council must provide itself with the means to better anticipate and prevent crises.³² The representative of Saint Lucia underscored that what the Council did to discharge its responsibility and how it did it was of interest to the entire international community, and added that Article 24(1) of the Charter clearly prescribed that in carrying out its duties under its responsibility, the Council acted on behalf of the wider membership.³³

On 20 October 2015, at the [7539th](#) meeting of the Council, the representative of Nigeria underscored that Article 24 made it clear that the Council acted on behalf of the Members of the United Nations, and in this sense emphasized the need for the Council to

²⁸ [S/PV.7231](#), p. 2.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 19.

³¹ [S/PV.7285](#), p. 13.

³² [S/PV.7285](#), p. 19.

³³ *Ibid.*, p. 28.

conduct its affairs in a transparent and accountable manner.³⁴ The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, stated that the decision by the Council to initiate formal or informal discussions on the situation in any Member State or on any issue that did not constitute a threat to international peace and security was contrary to Article 24 of the Charter.³⁵ The representative of Tunisia affirmed that in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, it was imperative for the Council to further improve its openness and its communication with the broader membership in order to pursue its mandate transparently and efficiently.³⁶ The representative of Cuba noted further that the Council should guarantee genuine participation on the part of the 193 Member States in its work and decisions consistent with Article 24 of the Charter.³⁷

Case 2

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

During the Council's [7343rd](#) meeting, on 16 December 2014, the representative of France stated that the role of regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of peace was fully recognized by the Charter, and noted that because of their geographic proximity, and their knowledge of local situations, the countries of a region, structured into regional and subregional organizations, were in a position "to provide a useful value-added to the understanding, prevention, management and consolidation of situations". The representative of France concluded that this partnership was foreseen by the Charter in its Chapter VIII, without prejudice to the Security Council's primary responsibility.³⁸ The representative of Namibia noted that although Article 24 vested the Council with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Charter also provided a role for regional organizations and arrangements in their respective regions. In that regard the representative of Namibia added that Article 33, paragraph 1, prescribed that parties to any dispute endangering international peace and security "shall, first of all, seek a

³⁴ [S/PV.7539](#), p. 16.

³⁵ [S/PV.7539 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 9.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 30.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

³⁸ [S/PV.7343](#), p. 22.

solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice”.³⁹

At the Council’s [7402nd](#) meeting, on 9 March 2015, the representative of the Russian Federation defined the leading role of the Council in issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security as “unshakable”, and emphasized that such role was enshrined in the Charter and could not be subject to review despite the growing demand for an effective mechanism for organizing a division of labour between the United Nations and regional associations, including the European Union.⁴⁰

Case 3

Children and armed conflict

During the period under review, the primary responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of international peace and security was also discussed in relation to the agenda item entitled “Children and armed conflict”,⁴¹ although none of the speakers made explicit reference to Article 24.

At the Council’s [7129th](#) meeting, on 7 March 2014, the representative of China stated that in order to protect children, the Council should effectively fulfil its primary responsibility, and reduce and curb conflicts through good offices, negotiations and mediation so as to create a safe environment for the growth of children.⁴²

During the Council’s [7414th](#) meeting, on 25 March 2015, the Permanent Observer of the Observer State of the Holy See noted the rising influence of non-State actors in regions across the globe, and defined the Council’s responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security its “primordial mission”, which must not allow the international community to turn its back on conflicts in the name of national political interests.⁴³

At the Council’s [7466th](#) meeting, on 18 June 2015, the representative of China stated that the Council bore the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and should therefore strengthen preventive diplomacy and make more use of the measures provided for in Chapter VI of the Charter, such as mediation, good offices, dialogue

³⁹ [S/PV.7343](#), pp. 47-48.

⁴⁰ [S/PV.7402](#), p. 15.

⁴¹ [S/PV.7129](#), [S/PV.7259](#), [S/PV.7414](#), [S/PV.7466](#).

⁴² [S/PV.7129](#), p. 17.

⁴³ [S/PV.7414](#), p. 65.

and negotiation.⁴⁴ The Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States recalled the primary responsibility of the Council whilst underscoring the need to focus on the violations committed by non-State armed groups against children, as attested by the fact that most of the parties listed in the annexes to the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict ([S/2015/409](#)) were non-State actors.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ [S/PV.7466](#), p. 17.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 89.

Section II

The obligation of Member States to accept and carry out decisions of the Security Council under Article 25

Article 25

The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.

Note

This section covers the practice of the Security Council in 2014 and 2015 in relation to Article 25, and it is divided in two subsections. Subsection A deals with references made in decisions adopted in 2014 and 2015, while subsection B examines how Article 25 emerged in discussions held during Council's meetings.

During the period under review Article 25 was explicitly referred to in four resolutions as described in subsection A below. Article 25 was also explicitly mentioned in eight occasions in discussions held during meetings of the Council as elaborated in subsection B below. In most cases, those references occurred in connection with the situation in the Middle East, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Furthermore, four explicit references to Article 25 were contained in annexes to letters addressed to the President of the Security Council, as well as to the Secretary-General.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ See: Annex to the letter dated 21 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council "Hitting the ground running" ([S/2014/213](#)); Annex to the Letter dated 9 March 2015 from the President of the International Criminal Court addressed to the Secretary-General – Public Decision on the Prosecutor's Request for a Finding of Non-Compliance Against the Republic of the Sudan ([S/2015/202](#)); Annex to the letter dated 12 June 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Australia, Finland, Germany, Greece and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council – Compendium of the High-level Review of United Nations Sanctions June 2015 ([A/69/941 S/2015/432](#)); Annex to the letter dated 6 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2015/763](#)).

A. Decisions referring to Article 25

During the period under review, four resolutions contained explicit references to Article 25. In all four cases, the Council underscored that Member States were obligated under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations to accept and carry out the Council's decisions.⁴⁷ In three resolutions concerning the situation in the Middle East, the Council demanded that all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, immediately complied with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and "fully and immediately implemented all the provisions" of the relevant Security Council resolutions.⁴⁸

B. Discussion relating to Article 25

In 2014 and 2015, speakers explicitly and implicitly referred to Article 25 in the context of several meetings of the Council held under the items entitled: "The situation in Burundi",⁴⁹ "The situation in the Middle East",⁵⁰ "Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2010/507](#))",⁵¹ "The situation concerning Iraq",⁵² and "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts".⁵³ In those discussions, speakers recalled the binding nature of Security Council decisions, and reminded that Member States were obligated to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council.

The following case studies focus on the discussions concerning the interpretation and application of Article 25 in relation to the situation in the Middle East (case 4), implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2010/507](#)) (case 5), and threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (case 6), with the aim of examining instances in which the obligation of Member States' "to accept and carry out the Council's decisions" was most frequently raised by speakers.

⁴⁷ Resolutions [2165 \(2014\)](#), nineteenth preambular paragraph; [2191 \(2014\)](#), twentieth preambular paragraph; [2231 \(2015\)](#), fourteenth preambular paragraph; and [2258 \(2015\)](#), twenty-sixth preambular paragraph.

⁴⁸ Resolutions [2165 \(2014\)](#), para. 1; [2191 \(2014\)](#), para. 1; and [2258 \(2015\)](#), para. 1.

⁴⁹ [S/PV.7104](#), p. 6 (Burundi).

⁵⁰ [S/PV.7216](#), p. 7 (United States).

⁵¹ [S/PV.7231](#), p. 19 (Chile); [S/PV.7285 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 29 (India); and [S/PV.7422](#), p. 11 (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).

⁵² [S/PV.7271](#), p. 17 (Chile).

⁵³ [S/PV.7316](#), p. 28 (India).

Case 4

The situation in the Middle East

Following the unanimous adoption of resolution [2139 \(2014\)](#) relating to the strengthening of the protection of civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic, during the [7116th](#) meeting of the Council, the representative of Chile stated that the adopted resolution had to be “fully implemented in all its provisions”, and underscored that in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, Member States had agreed “to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council.”⁵⁴

At the [7216th](#) meeting of the Council, on 14 July 2014, further to the adoption of resolution [2165 \(2014\)](#) on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, the representative of the United States said that “under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, Syria was obligated to accept and carry out the decisions made by the Security Council in the resolution”.⁵⁵

Case 5

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council ([S/2010/507](#))

On 23 October 2014, during the [7285th](#) meeting of the Council on 23 October 2014, the representative of Uruguay recalled that in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter, Member States had conferred on the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security coupled with the following article’s provision “to accept and carry out the Council’s decisions”. In this regard, he added that the decisions of the Council were “imposed on the international community both by that Article and Chapter VII”⁵⁶. The representative of India further underscored that in light of the tenor of Article 25, by which all Member States had agreed “to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council,” the working methods of the Council were of paramount importance and interest to all Members States.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ [S/PV.7116](#), p. 12.

⁵⁵ [S/PV.7216](#), p. 7.

⁵⁶ [S/PV.7285 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 14.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

At the [7422nd](#) meeting of the Council, on 30 March 2015, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela encouraged the strengthening of relations between the Council and the rest of the United Nations membership, “in the spirit and purpose of Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations”, recognizing that issues related to international peace and security concern all Member States.⁵⁸

Case 6

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

At the [7316th](#) meeting of the Council, on 19 November 2014, the representative of India referred to Article 25 in the context of an open debate held under the sub-item entitled “International Cooperation on Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism”.⁵⁹ He argued that the international community was facing unprecedented challenges from terrorism, which threatened to endanger the very foundation of democratic societies. In reference to resolution [2178 \(2014\)](#), concerning foreign terrorist fighters, he asserted that the resolution’s impact would depend on its implementation by Member States, “keeping in mind their obligations under Article 25 of the Charter”.⁶⁰ The representative of India emphasized further that the Council needed to act robustly through its collective voice, to ensure that Member States were “legally obliged, under Article 25 of the Charter, to either prosecute or extradite terrorists”.⁶¹

⁵⁸ [S/PV.7422](#), p. 11.

⁵⁹ [S/PV.7316](#), p. 28.

⁶⁰ *Ibid*, p. 28.

⁶¹ *Ibid*, p. 28.

Section III

The responsibility of the Security Council to formulate plans to regulate armaments under Article 26

Article 26

In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.

Note

This section covers the practice of the Security Council concerning its responsibility for formulating plans for the establishment of a system for a regulation of armaments, pursuant to Article 26 of the Charter. Throughout the period 2014 to 2015, the Council did not explicitly or implicitly refer to Article 26 in its decisions. Furthermore, the communications to the Council also did not contain any reference to Article 26.

In the discussions held during meetings of the Council in 2014 and 2015, Article 26 was referred to only once, as described in the case study below (case 7).

Case 7

Maintenance of international peace and security

On 23 February 2015, at the [7389th](#) meeting of the Council under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, the representative of Costa Rica argued that the Council could not “continue to ignore Article 26 of the Charter”, which compelled plans for the establishment of arms control systems with a view to minimizing the diversion

of resources towards weapons. She noted that such resources would be better used for development.⁶²

⁶² [S/PV.7389](#), p. 81.