



Security Council

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Letter dated 3 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

South Africa assumed the presidency of the Security Council on 1 December 2020 amid the persistent coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. As cases spike again in New York City, additional restrictions have been imposed on public and private activities by the Governor of New York State, as announced on 13 November 2020.

With further guidance from the United Nations medical services, a combination of virtual and in-person meetings continue to be held at Headquarters. In-person meetings will strictly comply with the health protocols and guidelines for physical distancing.

In that context, the members of the Security Council are in agreement that the decision on convening in-person Council meetings at Headquarters rests with the Council. Consequently, in-person meetings will be held during December as and when it is deemed appropriate and upon agreement by all Council members, taking into consideration the measures put in place by the host country, the Secretariat and the State and the City of New York.

South Africa, as President, will consult Council members regarding in-person meetings to consider the adoption of Council outcomes.

South Africa, as President, will pursue consultations with the Secretariat and all the members of the Council and continue to implement the working methods of previous presidencies, as outlined in the annex to the letter dated 7 May 2020 from the President of the Council (S/2020/372), as well as the modalities of in-person meetings of the Council contained in the annex to the letter dated 1 July 2020 from the President of the Council (S/2020/639).

The working methods and modalities of the Council are a response to the current exceptional and extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consequently, these guidelines will be reviewed at the end of December and may be revised, adapted or discontinued, subject to the agreement of all members of the Council.

(Signed) Jerry Mathews **Matjila**
President of the Security Council

