

### ***Presidential Notes:***

Also called notes by the president, these are official Council documents issued by the presidency which express Council decisions on procedural issues (e.g. format of documentation, ordering of work of a subsidiary body, etc.).

## **III THE CONDUCT OF COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### ***The Agenda or Program of Work:***

The Council agenda writ large is determined by carry-forward items from previous SC discussions and decisions (e.g. PKO mandate reviews and renewals, sanctions reviews, ongoing informal consultations) and by current events. The first category is largely predictable and pre-programmed. The latter is less predictable; any SC member, under the rubric of "other items", may request that an issue be discussed.

Each incoming president will meet with the outgoing one and with the Secretariat to discuss the program of work for the month. The president will then hold informal consultations, usually by the third day of the month, to seek the Council's agreement on the program of work. All items on the program of work are discussed at length in informal consultations.

The provisional agenda for a formal meeting is a document drawn up by the SG and approved by the president prior to each meeting of the SC. The agenda for a formal meeting is generally discussed and pre-approved during prior informal consultations. Whenever possible, the agenda for a formal meeting is published in the UN journal (though time constraints often rule this out). The first item of the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda. The next item is usually unfinished business from the previous meeting. Efforts are made to have only one substantive item on the agenda.

The SC has been reluctant to reject proposals for agenda items, and does so only after extensive (informal) negotiations.

Non-SC members may propose an item for inclusion in the SC agenda. These requests are made through the president who then consults informally with other SC members.

### ***Meetings:***

Since the end of the Cold War, there has been a three-fold increase in the frequency of Council meetings, particularly of the informal variety. This reflects greater P-5 cooperation and the increased range of issues (including a proliferation of intra-state conflicts) which the SC now considers. Another important trend is the Council's preference to act on the basis of consensus. This development has led to a decrease in formal SC meetings in favour of more informal gatherings which provide