

María Carro-Pitarch*

The Security Council

SLIDE 1

Hello, welcome. I'm Maria Carro and in this video, I'm going to talk about the Security Council and its role in the United Nations or UN.

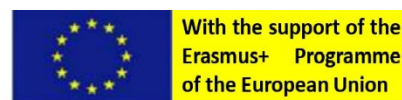
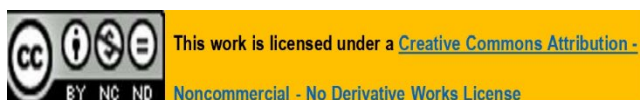
SLIDE 2

The Security Council is one of the principal organs of the UN and is regulated by both the UN Charter and the Provisional Rules of Procedure (S/96) adopted in 1946 and subsequently amended. It is based in New York, where it usually meets. On other occasions, it has met in other cities such as Panama City or Geneva.

Its main mission is to maintain international peace and security.

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The Security Council has fifteen members. Of these, five are permanent members, including China, France, the Russian Federation, the United



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Kingdom and the United States. The remaining ten are elected by the General Assembly for a two-year, non-renewable term, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. As you can see both in the image and in the table, of these ten member states, five will be from Africa and Asia, one from Eastern Europe, two from Latin America and two from Western European and other states.

The presidency of the Security Council rotates monthly among its fifteen members according to the English alphabetical order of the member states.

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The Security Council has a wide range of functions. Among them, some of the most important are outlined here. Most notably, the maintenance of international peace and security, the competence for which is concurrent with that of the General Assembly, but for which the Council has primary responsibility.

It is also responsible for the investigation of any disputes that may generate international friction. It also has the power to determine whether there is a threat to the peace or an act of aggression and to recommend measures.

A priori, when a dispute is brought before it, the Security Council recommends a peaceful settlement reached between the parties, in some

cases intervening in fact-finding and/or mediation activities. However, it can also impose economic sanctions and take action to maintain or re-establish international peace and security, through operations by air, naval or ground forces of Member States, if it deems it necessary.

On the other hand, the Security Council can recommend the admission of new members to the UN and recommend the appointment of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

It is important to note that the Security Council is the only UN organ whose decisions, known as resolutions, are binding on member states when adopted under Chapter Seven of the Charter.

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In terms of its functioning, the Charter requires the Security Council to be organised in such a way as to be able to function continuously. To this end, each member of the Council must always have a representative at UN Headquarters. The Security Council holds regular meetings but may convene emergency meetings to take "rapid action".

The Council can adopt resolutions containing recommendations or decisions. The latter are binding on all UN members when adopted under Chapter Seven of the Charter.

For the adoption of resolutions, there are different voting rules for procedural and substantive matters.

Procedural questions are adopted with the affirmative vote of nine members of the Security Council.

For questions of substance (i.e. all other questions), the affirmative vote of nine members, including the permanent members, is required. Thus, the permanent members enjoy a veto right, which is exercised by expressly voting against and not merely abstaining.

In practice, the Security Council often adopts resolutions by consensus.

I hope you found it interesting to learn more about the Security Council, its composition and functions.

That is all I had to say.

Thank you very much for your attention.