

(Check against delivery)

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GERT ROSENTHAL,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA
OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON WORKING METHODS: “IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL – S/2010/507”
29 OCTOBER 2013**

Mr. President,

We thank you for convening this open debate on the working methods of the Security Council, as well as for the concept note that was circulated to the effect. We hope that our deliberations today help renew the commitment to move forward in improving the efficiency, transparency and interactivity of the Security Council.

Likewise, I would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Argentina for her presentation and her outstanding work as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions.

Mr. President,

In recent years the working methods of the Security Council have evolved in a positive direction, thanks to several factors, which include the contributions and proposals that have been made both by the members of the Council, like those outside it. While sometimes the rhythm of these changes is not accompanied by the pace which many of us want, they continue to demonstrate the importance that Member States attribute to this matter.

We recognize, first, the progress in the improvement of some practices and measures which are reflected in Note S/2010/507 and the successive notes of the Presidency. In this regard, the progress that has been made this year in the Informal Working Group and the measures taken to improve the internal aspects of the Council's work are commendable.

Second, we note that the access to information of delegations of member states that do not belong to the Council has been improving over time. This is due, in part, to the growing call for member countries to inform their counterparts in all matters which, for obvious reasons, do not deserve confidentiality because of their sensitivity. I must say that our delegation has contributed to this practice. So, too, have the improvements on the web site of the Council, which contains abundant and valuable information. One should also mention the work undertaken by some non-governmental organizations which seek to give greater access to the work of the Council to delegations, academics and even the general public. Among these, the *Security Council Report* deserves special mention.

That said, Guatemala considers that there are still some areas where progress can be made. In this regard we would like to highlight some of the practices that can be improved or applied systematically.

First, we believe it is important to maintain the trend of the Council to hold public meetings on a regular basis. The inclusion of the entire membership on issues affecting international peace and security contributes, without a doubt, to achieve an understanding of the seriousness of the situations of conflict. A greater flow of information between all States, members and non-members of

the Council, can help achieve a greater consensus on the urgent need to collaborate in order to avoid further deterioration.

Second, we believe it essential to promote further interaction between the Security Council with troop- and police- contributing countries. Guatemala believes that strengthening the flow of information can broaden the base of countries that participate in this important work of the Organization. We also recall the importance of maintaining the interaction between the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and troop- and police- contributing countries. We commend, in this regard, the work done this year by the delegation of Pakistan, as chairman of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations of the Security Council. We would like to highlight the importance of the recently adopted Note by the President S/2013/630.

Third, we assign priority to continue the improvement of the interaction between the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies with all Member States. For example, the briefing sessions with the participation of all members of the Council have proved very useful and facilitate the exchange of information related to the work done by the Subsidiary Bodies. In the same vein, we further highlight the importance of continuing to consider the question of the selection criteria of Experts of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Security Council, according to the Note by the President S/2006/997, particularly the criterion of broad geographical representation.

Fourth, we believe it is necessary to have a closer cooperation between the Council and regional and sub-regional organizations for crisis management in armed conflict, increasing, among other aspects, the number of consultations between the Security Council and regional and sub-regional organizations that play an active role in crisis resolution and settlement of armed conflicts. This would achieve a greater efficiency in the short, medium and long term with regard to durable solutions of the crisis.

Fifth, we have found the practice of holding wrap-up sessions useful –a practice that has been resumed this year– as well as briefings on the work of the Council at the end of each Presidency, as a mechanism to increase the transparency of its work. We believe that these meetings, well-structured, and analytical monthly assessments, allow us to have a complete picture of the work of the Council and facilitate a better understanding of its work.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we hold the view that it is necessary to continue the innovations and adopt other measures to improve the working methods of the Security Council, and with the political will of Member States, particularly the permanent members, this can be achieved. Transparency, accountability and consistency are key elements that the Security Council should observe in all its activities, approaches and procedures.

Thank you.