

Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs
Supplement Nos. 7-9 (1985-1999)¹

(Advance version, to be issued in volume III of *Supplement Nos. 7-9* (forthcoming)
of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*)

VOLUME III

ARTICLE 28

TEXT OF ARTICLE 28

1. The Security Council shall be so organized as to be able to function continuously. Each member of the Security Council shall for this purpose be represented at all times at the seat of the Organization.

2. The Security Council shall hold periodic meetings at which each of its members may, if it so desires, be represented by a member of the government or by some other specially designated representative.

3. The Security Council may hold meetings at such places other than the seat of the Organization as in its judgment will best facilitate its work.

NOTE

1. Article 28 (1) of the Charter states that the Council shall be so organized as to function continuously. Rules 1-5 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure² provide further details on holding and convening of meetings of the Council, including the interval between meetings and holding of meetings away from Headquarters as mentioned in Article 28 (3).

¹ At the bilateral meeting between the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs and the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs, on 11 March 2011, it was agreed that in order to expedite the elimination of the backlog in volume III, studies on *Supplements 7, 8 and 9* of the volume would be merged.

² S/96/Rev.7.

2. The interval between the Council meetings shall not exceed fourteen days.³ During the period under review, there were two instances where the Council meetings were not convened within the interval of 14 days: 20 days between the 3846th meeting on 23 December 1997 and the 3847th meeting on 13 January 1998; and 20 days between the 3993rd meeting on 9 April 1999 and the 3994th meeting on 30 April 1999.⁴

3. Article 28 (2) provides that the Security Council shall hold periodic meetings at which each of its members may, if it so desires, be represented by a member of the Government or by some other specially designated representative. During the period under review, the Council convened four such meetings, including a meeting convened for the first time at the level of Heads of State or Government on 31 January 1992 on the agenda item entitled “The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security”,⁵ and three ministerial-level meetings on the agenda item entitled “The situation in Africa”.⁶

4. Most of the Council meetings are held at the seat of the Organization. However, the Council may meet at another place, in accordance with Article 28 (3), at the proposal of any member of the Security Council or the Secretary-General. Should the Security Council accept any such proposal, it shall decide upon the place, and the period during which the Council shall meet at such place. During the period under review, the Council met once other than at the seat of the Organization. The 2923rd meeting, on 25 May 1990,⁷ was held at Geneva at the request of the representative of Bahrain in his capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group.⁸

5. The Security Council’s practice on convening and holding meetings (referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4 above) and procedural developments relating to meetings are dealt with

³ Ibid.

⁴ See, for instance, thirteenth supplement to the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (1996-1999), chapter I, part I “Meetings (rules 1-5)”; p. 38.

⁵ For details, see S/PV. 3046.

⁶ For details, see S/PV. 3819, S/PV. 3931 and S/PV. 4049.

⁷ S/PV. 2923.

⁸ See S/21300.

in the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*. For detailed information, see Chapter I of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*:

http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/85-88/85-88_01.pdf#page=3 (during 1985-1988);

http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/89-92/89-92_01.pdf#page=4 (during 1989-1992);

http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/93-95/93-95_01.pdf#page=4 (during 1993-1995); and

http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/96-99/96-99_01.pdf#page=4 (during 1996-1999).