

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 24**TEXT OF ARTICLE 24**

1. In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf.

2. In discharging these duties the Security Council shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The specific powers granted to the Security Council for the discharge of these duties are laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII and XII.

3. The Security Council shall submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly for its consideration.

NOTE

1. During the period under review, none of the resolutions and presidential statements adopted by the Security Council contained explicit references to Article 24 of the Charter.²

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.

However, Article 24 was explicitly referred to in a note by the President of the Security Council in connection with the list of matters of which the Council was seized, where the members of the Council recalled the Council's primary responsibility under Article 24.³ In addition, Article 24(3) was explicitly referred to in a note by the President in connection with a decision of the Council to further change the format of the Council's annual report to the General Assembly.⁴ In one instance, a draft resolution submitted to the Council contained an explicit reference to Article 24, but was not adopted as it did not obtain the required votes.⁵

2. In addition, the principles contained under Article 24 were touched upon, without being invoked explicitly, in a number of resolutions and presidential statements.⁶

3. On a number of occasions, explicit references to Article 24 were made in the proceedings of the Council, in connection with thematic and cross-cutting issues, as well as regional situations.⁷

4. Article 24 was also explicitly invoked in several communications from Member States, for instance in connection with the working methods of the Council.⁸

5. For detailed information regarding the functions and powers of the Council, including its practice in connection with Article 24 (referred to in paragraphs 1 - 4 above), see Chapter XII of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*:

http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/85-88/85-88_12.pdf#page=13 (during 1985-1988);

http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/89-92/89-92_12.pdf#page=35 (during 1989-1992);

² See, for instance, thirteenth supplement of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (1996-1999), chapter XII, Part II "Consideration of the functions and powers of the Security Council (Articles 24 and 25 of the Charter)"; pp. 1210-1215.

³ S/1996/704, para. 3.

⁴ S/16913, 1st para. (note dated 29 January 1985 by the President of the Security Council).

⁵ S/1999/328 (draft resolution submitted in connection with the letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/320)).

⁶ See, for instance, presidential statement of 30 November 1999 (S/PRST/1999/34), in connection with the Security Council's consideration of its role in the prevention of armed conflicts.

⁷ See, for instance, statement by Costa Rica, in connection with the maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peacebuilding (S/PV.3954, p. 6).

⁸ See, for instance, letter from France dated 9 November 1994, transmitting an aide-mémoire concerning the working methods of the Security Council (S/1994/1279, annex, para. 1).

http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/93-95/93-95_12.pdf#page=29 (during 1993-1995); and
http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/96-99/96-99_12.pdf#page=30 (during 1996-1999).