

SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER STATES QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

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These anonymized vignettes, already included in the guide, reflect real practices of Security Council Member States, as described during UN Women's consultations with mission staff in February and March 2026. They are provided only for illustrative purposes and do not represent standard procedures.

Assessing safeguards when engaging young briefers

Excited about sending a powerful message, a mission wanted to invite girls from conflict zones to speak at a thematic event. But partner consultations quickly revealed protection realities, lifelong exposure risks, family pressures and limited safeguards as challenges. These discussions helped identify possible safeguards and informed decisions about how young briefers' participation could take place in a way that prioritized their safety and well-being.

Key takeaway: The participation of diverse civil society voices remains essential. Early consultation and risk assessment can help Security Council Member States missions identify safeguards that support briefers' safe and meaningful engagement.

Coordinating a virtual briefing at UN facilities

A woman civil society representative invited to brief the Security Council was unable to travel due to visa issues, so virtual participation became the only option. Rather than connecting from home, risking exposure of her living environment, the inviting mission coordinated with the briever and the relevant UN entity/agency for her to join from a UN facility, ensuring a stable internet connection while signaling institutional support. No personal details were visible, and the setup looked neutral. After the briefing, the mission confirmed via UN contacts that she remained safe.

Key takeaway: For virtual formats, defaulting to using UN facilities can help mitigate location risks and technical issues. Discuss this option early in talks about consent parameters.

Managing digital exposure during a virtual briefing

While preparing for a virtual briefing, one mission's staff noticed that objects visible in the background of the briever's video could reveal identifying details about the location. The briever and mission staff worked together to adjust the setting and remove identifiable items before the virtual briefing.

Key takeaway: Preparing the visual environment during virtual briefings can help prevent unintended disclosure of sensitive information or the briever's identifying information.

Preparing a civil society briever with a civil society organization's support

For a high-profile thematic debate, one presidency felt the pressure of public scrutiny. Its mission reached out to a civil society organization that had Security Council experience and knew how to handle briefers. Together, the mission and civil society organization staff identified a strong voice and facilitated early discussions with the briever on the format of the meeting, the visibility associated with addressing the Security Council and possible protection considerations. This preparation helped ensure that the briever felt informed and comfortable with the process.

Key takeaway: Early preparation and consultation with actors familiar with Security Council engagement can help Member States missions support briefers and discuss potential risks in advance.

Considering the briefer's seating preferences

Some briefers may not want to sit next to a country's delegation in the Security Council because of worries that images from the chamber might be interpreted as political alignment with that country, increasing pressure on her and her family.

Key takeaway: Seating arrangements can be adjusted discreetly with the UN Secretariat's support to respect briefers' risk concerns, including those about being perceived as politically affiliated with a certain country.

Maintaining contact with the briefer after the briefing

After a woman civil society representative briefed the Security Council on a conflict zone, the inviting mission remained attentive to potential risks in the weeks that followed. The mission staff member responsible for coordinating the invitation stayed in touch with the briefer, initially checking in with her frequently (during the first 24–48 hours) and then weekly. Then, the staff member

gradually reduced contact as the situation stabilized. Although nothing adverse happened, these check-ins made her feel genuinely supported by the mission.

Key takeaway: Maintaining contact with briefers after the briefing can help detect emerging concerns and reassure them that support remains available.

Conducting quiet diplomatic engagements following the intimidation of a briefer

Following a Security Council meeting in which a woman civil society representative raised sensitive issues, concerns emerged about intimidation of the briefer, possibly linked to the briefing. The presidency raised the matter through quiet bilateral engagements with the relevant authorities, recalling that cooperation with the Security Council should not lead to adverse consequences for civil society participants.

Key takeaway: Discreet diplomatic engagement can be one possible avenue to address concerns about reprisals.

UN Women exists to advance women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. As the lead UN entity on gender equality, we shift laws, institutions, social behaviours and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. We keep the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.