



20 November 2020

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## **Secretary-General's bulletin**

### **United Nations Flag Code**

The Secretary-General, for the purpose of updating the provisions related to the protocol and use of the flag of the United Nations, hereby promulgates the following:

- 1.





**Article 4**  
**Flag protocol**

1. Time and occasions for display

(a) The United Nations flag should normally only be displayed on buildings and on a stationary flagstaff from sunrise to sunset. The flag may also be displayed at night on special occasions and, if properly illuminated, during hours of darkness;

(b) The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, unless it is an all-weather flag; and

(c) When used in connection with United Nations conferences taking place outside established headquarters and United Nations offices, the flag shall be raised on the premises provided by the host Government for use by the United Nations for the holding of the United Nations conference, to indicate the handover of responsibility over the premises by the host country to the United Nations, and should



(c) When the flag is displayed on a vehicle specifically for security reasons, it should be displayed in such a manner that creates maximum visibility under the circumstances and should be larger than the normal dimensions set out for vehicle flags in article 1, paragraph 4.

5. Display of the flag on a vessel

(a) The United Nations flag may be flown on a vessel only if that vessel is employed in the official service of the United Nations and if the United Nations flag is flown together with the flag of the flag State under whose laws the vessel is registered or licensed;

(b) The United Nations flag should not be flown by a vessel in such a manner that creates confusion as to the nationality of that vessel and must identify itself by flying the flag of the flag State or by displaying marks of registry;

(c) At a maximum, only the United Nations flag, the flag of the flag State and the courtesy flag of a country in whose territorial seas a vessel is sailing may be flown. No other flags, such as the flags of troop- or police-contributing countries or those of nationals who are aboard a vessel employed in the official service of the United Nations, shall be flown; and

(d) The United Nations flag should be the same size as the flag of the flag State and should fly from the top of the mainmast or the top of the foremast of the vessel. The flag of the flag State should fly from the stern of the vessel or aside the

Audience

**Article 6**  
**Use of the flag in general**

1. The United Nations flag may be used by Governments



5. Without prejudice to article 7, paragraph 8, the flag should never be festooned, drawn back or up, in folds, or used as drapery of any sort, and should always be allowed to fall in such a way that the United Nations emblem is prominently visible.
6. Without prejudice to article 7, paragraph 8, the flag should not be used for draping of any sort.