

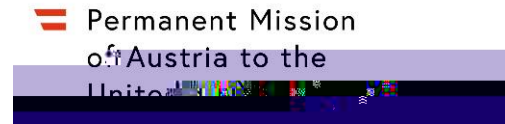


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26 April 2023

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (IGN) during the 77th session of the General Assembly

Throughout the current session of the IGN, work has been guided by the principles of transparency and inclusivity, while taking into account the renewed sense of urgency expressed by many delegations during the General Debate of the UNGA 77th High Level Week and the deliberations in the ongoing IGN process.

In General Assembly decision 76/572 of 12 July 2022, Member States decided to continue the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform by “*building on the informal meetings held during its seventy-sixth*

19 May 2022, as

all as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, reflected in the text and its

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set forth therein and following the positions, proposals, views, and remarks heard from Member States and Groups of States during the IGN meetings held so far this session on 26-27 January 16-17 February, 9-10 March and 3 April, we are pleased to transmit the enclosed document entitled “Revised Co-Chairs Elements Paper on Convergences and Divergences on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters”.

This Revised Elements Paper builds in large part on the “Co-Chairs Revised Elements Paper on Convergences and Divergences on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters” circulated on 19 May 2022. It seeks to reflect the Co-Chairs’ understanding of the current state of the IGN discussions on the five clusters and their linkages, as well as the progress made during the current IGN session, including on procedural matters. The updates made to this year’s Elements Paper have been focused on further expanding the areas of convergence and narrowing down the areas of divergence. We trust that the document will serve as a useful basis for taking the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform forward during the 8th session.

As previously announced, we are also pleased to confirm that the fifth IGN meeting will be held on 4-5 May and will serve as an opportunity to reflect on the way forward the IGN process. Delegations will also have the opportunity to provide comments or suggestions to ensure that the enclosed document, as the basis of the outcome of this IGN session, is reflective of the elements of convergence and divergence that delegations have identified and articulated during this year’s discussions.

We look forward to the continued active participation and constructive engagement of all delegations in the forthcoming meeting.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander V. Lukashenko", is written over a redacted area. The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a large flourish at the end.

To: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
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Co-Chairs IGN GA77

Revised Co-Chairs' Elements Paper on Convergences and Divergences on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Introduction

In the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations (A/RES/75/1 of 21 September 2020), the Heads of State and Government representing the peoples of the world, reiterated a call for reforms of the three principal organs of the United Nations and committed "to instill new life in the discussion on the reform of the Security Council". After decades of debate, the majority of Member States acknowledge that the Security Council could be made more representative of the twenty-first century, such as through enlargement, including better representation for Africa, as well as more systematic arrangements for more voices at the table. Debate during High Level Week of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77), Heads of State or Government, Ministers and other high level participants referred to the need for a reform of the Security Council. This also indicates the renewed urgency for the continuation of the intergovernmental negotiations.

During the 77th session of the UNGA, the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform (IGN) has built on the informal meetings held during its seventh and previous sessions. The question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security

from Think Tanks and Member States to an informal Open House Discussion Outside the Horseshoe. The Co-Chairs also informally met with representatives of present and former Chairs of the Security Council Informal Working Group and Other Procedural Questions to discuss efforts to reform the working methods of the Council.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Co-Chairs in their letter of 3 March 2023 of the third IGN meeting of 9 March 2023 onwards, the first part of the IGN meetings, i.e. the debate States have the possibility to deliver prepared statements until the list of speakers is exhausted, were webcast in order to enhance the transparency and inclusivity of the IGN process. The same letter dated 3 March 2023 recommended that the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) collaborate with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) to establish a specific website to act as a repository of the recordings of the webcasts as well as the letters, decisions and other documents related to the process. These two recommendations by the Co-Chairs (webcasting and website) were widely welcomed by delegations in the IGN meeting on 9 March 2023. The Co-Chairs in their letter of 5 April 2023 announced the launch of the website. It can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/screform/>

Within the IGN process, there are several major Groups, representing a set of positions regarding the reform of the Security Council, including but not limited to: the African Group, the Arab Group, Benelux, CARICOM, the Group of 4, the L69 Group, the Nordic Group, and the Uniting for Consensus Group.

"The World Summit Outcome Document of 2005" adopted by GA Resolution A/RES/60/1 reaffirmed Member States' commitment to strengthen the United Nations with a view to enhancing its authority and efficiency, as well as its capacity to address effectively, and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. It supports in this context an early reform of the Security Council as an essential element of the overall effort to reform the United Nations to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions.

On 15 September 2008, the General Assembly

Developing States (SIDS).

7)

would be useful to discuss the suggestions contained in the documents submitted by the various groups and individual Member States more in detail. This would enhance the possibility of convergence and enhance the interlinkages between the five clusters, addressing them in a comprehensive manner.

Divergences

- 1) There are repeated calls by a number of delegations, in particular the L.69 Group, the Benelux Group, the Group of 4, and the Nordic Group, to introduce a single consolidated document with attributions based on which the IGN negotiations should continue (text-based negotiations) while a number of delegations, in particular the United Consensus Group, the African Group, and the Arab Group, advocate for the need to agree on the principles of the reform, particularly the model of reform, before proceeding to negotiations based on a text.

II. & O X V W H U V

1. Relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly

Convergences

- 1) The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, the only UN body with universal representation.
- 2) The relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly should be mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers, and competencies as enshrined in the Charter, including in respect to matters related to international peace and security. In this regard, it is important to:
 - 2.1 Ensure increased cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the Security Council and of the General Assembly and also with the Secretariat of the United Nations, in particular the Secretary General,
 - 2.2 Continue and institutionalize the practice of regular meetings between the President of the Security Council and the President of the General Assembly,
 - 2.3 Strengthen the cooperation and communication between the Security Council and the General Assembly, in particular through the early submission by the Security Council of annual reports of a more comprehensive and substantive nature, and through a timely, informed and meaningful discussion in the General Assembly of the annual report of the Council and of special reports to the General Assembly, in full implementation of the relevant provisions of the

Charter¹,

2.4

Divergences

- 1) Further ways to enhance the accountability of an enlarged Security Council to the UN membership continue to be explored.
2. Size of an enlarged Security Council and the Working Methods of the Council

Convergences

- 1) There is a shared agreement among Member States that the Security Council needs to be enlarged in order to be more representative of the current membership and reflective of the realities of the contemporary world.
- 2) The reform of the Security Council should lead to an expansion of the Security Council, and therefore, certain areas of working methods need to be addressed as a result of expansion, with a view to increasing the transparency, effectiveness, functionality, and accountability of an enlarged Council.

Size of an enlarged Security Council

Divergences

- 1) The following options in regards to the veto are being discussed by Member States:
 - a. In the case of enlargement of the Security Council in the permanent category:
 - i. Extension of the veto to all new permanent members; or
 - ii. No extension of the veto; or
 - iii. Extension of the veto to be decided in the framework of a review
 - b. Abolition of the veto
 - c. Opposition in principle to the veto but with the caveat that as long as it exists, it should be made available to all permanent members of the Security Council, including any potential permanent members from Africa - based on the common African position reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration adopted by the African Union in March 2005.
 - d. Limiting the scope and use of the veto. The following options have been suggested by Member States, amongst others
 - i. Introducing a possibility for the General Assembly to overrule a veto with a large majority.
 - ii. Limiting the scope of the veto to enforcement measures under Chapter VII.
 - iii. A more consistent application of Art. 27 (3) of the UN Charter.
 - iv. Introducing the necessity of more than one negative vote of permanent members to count as a veto in an enlarged Security Council, in case of enlargement in the permanent category and expansion of the veto to new permanent members.

5. Regional representation

Convergences

- 1) Enlargement of the Security Council should serve to improve the representation of the underrepresented and unrepresented regions and groups.
- 2) An increase in membership should allow for fair and equitable representation of all regional groups, as well as cross regional balances, while maintaining an effective and operational character of the Council.
- 3) There has been overall agreement to the need for an equitable representation of developing countries, small states, cross regional groups such as Small Island Developing States, and Arab States. In this regard, there is significant support for the creation of a rotating cross regional seat for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). However, more in-depth discussions are needed to clarify questions pertaining to the specific mechanics of

nomination and rotation for crossregional groups and countries in special circumstances

- 4) There has been ~~over~~ an agreement that Africa should be equitably represented in a reformed Security Council.
- 5) Africa reserves its right to select Africa's representatives in the Security Council, based on its criteria for selection, as reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. Candidates would then be considered for election by the General Assembly
- 6) Members States have expressed different views with regard to the distribution of

