



Press Release

***OIC calls for adequate representation of Muslim Ummah in the
UN Security Council reforms***

New York – May 20, 2024

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has reiterated that any proposal for the reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that fails to ensure adequate representation of the Islamic Ummah in any category of membership will not be acceptable to the Islamic world.

Ambassador Munir Akram, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, made these remarks on behalf of the OIC during the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) meeting held at the UN headquarters. The meeting considered the revised draft language for inclusion in the Pact of the Future on Security Council Reform. It is important to remember that the OIC is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations.

Ambassador Akram referred to the revised Common Elements Paper issued on April 29, 2024, which indicated a convergence on the need for equitable representation of developing countries, small states, cross-regional groups such as Small Island Developing States, Arab States, the OIC, and other groups. He urged the Co-Chairs of the IGN process to include references to the Arab Group and the OIC in the revised IGN input draft.

Speaking in his national capacity later on, Ambassador Munir Akram aligned with the statement delivered by Italy on behalf of the UfC. He stressed the importance of basing contributions from the IGN to the Pact on the convergences identified in the revised Common Elements Paper.

The Pakistan UN envoy emphasized that this foundation is essential for achieving consensus on the Pact of the Future. He highlighted that the current objective should not be to reopen discussions on Security Council Reform, noting that extensive discussions have taken place throughout the year, and the Co-Chairs have identified areas of both convergence and divergence. Therefore, the focus should be on formulating language for the Summit of the Future based on previously agreed-upon positions, not renegotiating them.

Ambassador Akram clarified that this is not the start of text-based negotiations and that issues settled in the Common Elements Paper should not be revisited. Consequently, he emphasized the need to include the Arab League and OIC countries in the text, as proposed on behalf of the OIC. This inclusion, reflected in the convergences, must not be omitted from the proposed language, he stated.

Ambassador Munir Akram also noted a significant change in the proposed language regarding the expansion of two-year non-permanent seats. He stated that there is a clear agreement on this expansion, with no opposition. However, there is no consensus on expanding to other categories, such as permanent or long-term seats. The agreement solely pertains to the two-year non-permanent seats, and this should be accurately reflected in the input.

The phrase “included but not limited to” suggests potential agreement on other categories, which exceeds the identified convergences and lacks consensus. Therefore, we request the removal of this phrase to preserve the integrity of our agreements within the IGN.

Commenting on an assertion by a member of the Group of Four (G-4) regarding significant support for expanding the permanent category, Ambassador Akram stated that our assessment differs. A review of the positions of various groups reveals diverse proposals. The G4 supports itself and Africa, but the stance of the L.69 on permanent membership remains unclear. Specific lists from some permanent members further complicate the notion of broad support for permanent membership.

“There is agreement and no opposition to the expansion of two-year non-permanent seats. However, there is still no convergence or agreement on expanding any other category, including the permanent category and the long-term seats proposed by the UfC. We only have agreement on the expansion of the two-year non-permanent category, and that is what should be reflected.”

He made it clear that there is no consensus on expanding long-term or permanent membership. This matter requires further discussion within the IGN. Therefore, we urge the removal of any language implying otherwise, he demanded.