



**Statement at the Informal Meeting of the
IGN in the Plenary on SC Reform
(16 February 2023)**

Co-Chairs,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Italy on behalf of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) Group. We warmly welcome the appointment of Ambassador Alexander Marschik as Co-Chair. His diplomatic skills and experience will be invaluable, in assuring progress in the IGN process. We wish all the best to Ambassador Michal Mlynar in his new responsibilities

2. I would like to add our appreciation to you, Co-Chairs, for advising Member States of the timeline for the IGN meetings and the “areas of focus” of each of these meetings. We also look forward to the informal-informals which you intend to convene in the near future. We will participate actively in these frank exchanges of views to move the IGN process forward. And, we will closely consult you to also ensure the “transparency, inclusivity and member-driven nature” of the IGN process.

Co-Chairs,

3. My delegation remains convinced that the IGN process offers the best avenue to reach an agreed outcome to the question of equitable representation and reform of the Security Council. It is only through patient exchanges, mutual accommodation and compromise that we can broaden the areas of convergence and reduce the points of divergence and thus evolve a “model” for the reform that can be accepted by the widest possible majority of Member States, as stipulated in Decision 62/557 of the General Assembly.

4. We remain opposed to attempts to steer Member States towards solutions imposed by votes and majorities. That course of action is a siren call to deadlock and a dead-end. Such attempts are made in the past. They led to an impasse and the breakdown of negotiations.

5. These attempts appear to be driven by a desire of some permanent members to preserve their own privileged position.

6. Clearly, if the Security Council was to be re-constituted today to reflect current realities some of its permanent members would not find a privileged place on it.

7. Yet, the most important change in global realities is that, in contrast to 1945, today the United Nations is constituted by 193 mostly small and medium-sized States largely from Asia, Africa and Latin America. An expanded and reformed Security Council must offer equitable representation, in accordance with their numbers, to these small and medium-sized States. The “regional” approach espoused by the UfC and the African Group offers the best avenue to achieve this objective.

Co-Chairs,

8. You have asked to focus on the issue of the Veto. This issue is closely linked with the other 4 cluster of issues. The “veto” rights accorded by the Charter to the 5 permanent members of the Council is the core of the rationale for the reform of the Council. It is the veto which has been responsible often for preventing the Council from taking decisive action for the maintenance of international peace and security. We support the several efforts to restrict the decisive use of the veto outside the IGN process.

9. It is precisely for this reason that the UfC believes that a reform of the Council should not add permanent members which would add several additional States with the possibility to block and stymie the effective functioning of the Security Council.

10. Various proposals have been advanced with regard to the veto-ranging from its abolition, its restriction to the maintenance of the status quo. We believe that the veto rights of the existing permanent members should be abolished or at least severely restricted, and that the right of veto should not be expanded. Nor should new permanent members be added to the Council, with or without veto, in particular since this would deny equitable representation to the rest of the UN membership and make it even most undemocratic and unaccountable.

11. We see the proposal of the African Group, the Arab Group and the Members of the OIC in a different light i.e. the claim of a region to have the final word on its own destiny. Given the history of colonialism and foreign intervention, this is a reasonable desire. My delegation believes that a model of regional representation could combine a region's ability to nominate and hold accountable its own members on the Council. On the other hand, acting collectively, the region should also be able to avoid decisions by the Council which are contrary to the region's own consensus and interests. A system of international peace and security which operates where possible, on the basis of regional solutions to regional problems would be more realistic, effective and equitable.

12. The UfC looks forward to discussing further the regional approach with the African Group as well as Member States from other regions, including in the IGN meetings and in the informal-informals you will organize.

I thank you.