



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

STATEMENT

By

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To the United Nations

Informal meeting of the plenary on the intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council

New York, 8 February 2022

Dear Co-Chairs,

Thank you for convening today's meeting. In your letter of 27 December 2021, you have invited Member States to share their views on "how they see the IGN process, including with regard to its current format and procedural matters", as well as to start deliberations on the cluster of "Regional Representation". In line with proposed topics of the meeting, my delegation will present Serbia's views on both procedural and substantive issues.

Dear Co-Chairs,

As a firm supporter of multilateralism, Serbia strongly stands for comprehensive reform and revitalization of the United Nations, the only international organization with universal membership. Like the majority of Member States, we acknowledge that "the Security Council could be made more representative of the twenty-first century", as Secretary-General rightly points out in his "Our Common Agenda" report. The fact that the IGN process has made its way in to this report illustrates its importance for the future of our Organization. Being the primary body with the responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security, and whose resolutions are legally binding upon all, the Security Council has a particularly important role, which is why the question of its reform is so delicate. We, the Member States want a stronger, credible, more inclusive, transparent, democratic, efficient and effective Security Council. Giving the importance of the issue at hand, my delegation believes that the reform of the Security Council should enjoy broadest political support.

With regard to the format – we believe that negotiations on such important issue need to be transparent, inclusive and membership driven. Our deliberations should

be continued within the IGN framework, as established by the GA decision 62/557 as an informal plenary meeting. We are convinced that through the IGN process every effort should be made to achieve broadest possible consensus on all five clusters, bearing in mind interlinkages between them.

As for the character and the content of the Co-Chairs' "Elements" paper, we believe that it should be comprehensive and reflective of the positions of all Member States or Groups of States. Treating this, or other documents produced by co-chairs of the ING over the years, in a way which does not reflect the different positions of the UN Member States on ^{their} its status, is not conducive to the constructive atmosphere of our negotiations.

Dear Co-Chairs,

Turning to the cluster "Regional Representation", my delegation shares the belief that the reformed Security Council should be more representative and more inclusive. Once enlarged, it should offer more opportunities for Member States from all regions to have a seat in the Council. Allow me to recall that the Article 23 of the UN Charter refers to "equitable geographical distribution". My delegation believes that this is an important principle that we need to keep in mind in our deliberations on the Security Council reform. In that vein, without going into specifics on the categories of membership and the number of seats, we extend our full support for increased representation of Africa, Latin America and other underrepresented regions or cross-regional groups, like Arab Countries. In this context, allow me to express, once again Serbia's position that the Eastern European Group should get additional non-permanent seat in the reformed Council, in light of the changes that have occurred in our part of the world in the past three decades. We support

reasonable expansion of the Security Council, while maintaining its effective and operational character.

Another principle that should guide us is the equality of all member states, regardless of their size, wealth or political and military might. Therefore, we support increased representations for small and medium-sized countries, including developing countries in the reformed Council.

Thank you.