



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

General Assembly

75th Session

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

STATEMENT

by

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New York, 25-26. January 2021

Madam Co-Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Last year we marked the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. This important milestone is providing us with an opportunity to reflect on results, achievements and goals of our Organization, as well as on its limitations and imperfections. As our leaders have unanimously confirmed in the Declaration on the 75th anniversary, “there is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact as the United Nations”.

The world today is facing the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and public health crises with social, economic, political, and security consequences. It has severely affected all areas of life. The effectiveness and efficiency of multilateral system in the face of these challenges with wide ranging effects is more important than ever. Allow me to quote our heads of states and governments again, who, in the aforementioned Declaration on September 21, 2020 have reiterated the “call for reforms of three of the principal organs of the United Nations” and have committed to “instill new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council”. Our deliberations here, within the framework of the IGN process, have therefore a special relevance in the light of all this. They should be frank and open, with the aim of closing the gaps between different positions. It is Serbia’s longstanding position that Security Council reform should be based on the broadest possible consensus of the Member States.

Allow me to reiterate once again - Serbia is an ardent advocate of the revitalization and reform of the United Nations system, including the reform of the Security Council. Like other Member States, we want a stronger, more efficient, effective, credible and legitimate Security Council.

Madam Co-Chair, dear colleagues.

As stated many times before by my delegation and the others, today’s world map looks very different compared to what it looked like when our Organization was founded 75 years ago. The world experienced drastic geopolitical changes; yet the Security Council has changed very little. For many years, we have been engaged in, sometimes heated, debates on its reform that ranged from issues such as increase in the number of its members to its methods of work and use of veto power, to name just a few. Some may argue the lack of progress in the process, giving the time that has passed since the beginning of our discussions. However, the issues related to the Security Council reform are very complex and not easy to address. There are still great divergences between Member States on some key issues. At the same time, we all want to see a meaningful reform as a result of this process. That is why we believe that it should not be rushed. My delegation is of the view that setting deadlines while consensus is still pending on many issues, would be harmful to the process.

We believe that the reform should make the Security Council more democratic and representative. Having in mind that today the majority of the UN members are small and medium sized countries, like mine, the reform should provide increased opportunities for

those countries to serve on the Council and contribute to its work. With regards to the topic of this round of the IGN, namely regional representation, Serbia believes that balanced expansion of the Security Council membership from all regions is necessary in order to better reflect the realities of the 21st century. Still, while deliberating on the number of new seats in the reformed Council, we should always keep in mind that it should stay fit for purpose and has to be able to act swiftly in the face of challenges to the international peace and security. While number of seats in the expanded Council is yet to be determined, Serbia will continue to advocate for the additional non-permanent seat for the Eastern European Group.

Madam Co-Chair,

My delegation would like to reiterate the principles of the GA decision 62/557, which established the intergovernmental negotiations that should be based on “proposals by Member States in good faith, mutual respect and in an open, inclusive and transparent manner”. It has also decided that this should be a members-driven process.

Serbia believes that the IGN process is still relevant and for now the only legitimate format to discuss the reform. Past sessions have brought progress on some issues, like working methods and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly. To achieve concrete results, we all need to demonstrate the will to discuss, compromise and negotiate.

Thank you.