

Dear Co-Chairs,

I have the honor to make brief remarks on behalf of the Benelux countries, Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. The Benelux countries welcome your “Revised Elements Paper on Convergences and Divergences” that was circulated with your letter dated April 5. We believe this paper is an excellent reflection of the current state of the IGN discussions on the five clusters and their interlinkages, as well as of the progress made so far.

In addition, we would like to highlight the following 4 points:

1. We appreciate that the updates made in this year’s Elements Paper focus on further expanding the convergences and narrowing down the areas of divergences. We agree with the overall assessment by the Co-Chairs, although we would welcome more attributions in the document.
2. The updated Elements Paper rightfully emphasizes the co-chairs’ efforts on a new and innovative approach to conduct the business of the IGN. As reflected in the Elements Paper, there is an agreement on the usefulness of the structured dialogues on models proposed by States and Groups. These structured dialogues have given us a better understanding of the different proposals and have also helped us to identify and increase the overall convergences. We would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation for the States and Groups that have presented their models, and we welcome that several of the presenters have indicated a willingness to adapt their model and to display flexibility.
3. We appreciate that the updated Elements Paper reflects the repeated call of a number of delegations, including the Benelux countries, to introduce a single consolidated document with attributions. The Benelux countries regret the persistent divergences on the way forward of the IGN process. We firmly believe that text-based negotiations are a prerequisite to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council and to end the impasse in the IGN process. Your elements paper shows that there is very broad convergence on the principles of the reform, we should therefore be able to move to text-based negotiations.
4. We are pleased to see that the updated Elements Paper reflects, in the list of convergences, the need to implement the provisions of the UN Charter in full and that a majority of Member States mentioned the full and consistent application of Article 27 (3). The updated paper also highlights the veto initiative and accurately states that a significant, growing number of Member States support limitations to the scope and use of the veto.

In conclusion, Mr. Co-Chairs, we thank you for your relentless efforts in preparing the groundwork for the elaboration of a contribution of the IGN for the Pact for the Future to be adopted by consensus at the Summit of the Future in September 2024. The “unformals” held in the past months have been thought provoking and offered an excellent basis for our further discussions. We look forward to participating in the upcoming Open House discussion and IGN sessions on the contribution of the IGN to the Summit of the Future. You can count on the Benelux countries as constructive voices and partners in support of a pragmatic and forward-looking approach. As stated in the Elements Paper, the overall objective of the reform should be to ensure an inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic, and accountable functioning of the Security Council.

I thank you.