

## **Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council reform**

**New York, 7 March 2024**

### **Statement by Belgium on behalf of the Benelux countries (Belgium --the Kingdom of the Netherlands --Luxembourg)**

#### **G4-model**

Excellencies, Co-Chairs,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Benelux countries, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Luxembourg and my own country, Belgium.

At the outset, the Benelux countries wish to reiterate their full support to Ambassador Albanai and Ambassador Marschik, Co-Chairs of the IGN. We believe that the Co-Chairs' initiative to hold structured dialogues on individual reform models is bringing new energy to the IGN process and is helping us to reinforce and build convergence.

We thank the distinguished Ambassador of India, H.E. Mrs. Ruchira Kamboj for her insightful presentation of the G-4 model and for engaging in this dialogue. We appreciate that the G-4 model provides detailed proposals on all five key issues of the IGN.

The Benelux countries, like the G-4 group, support an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent membership categories. We favour a limited expansion, with the exact number to emerge from discussions between Member States on the key issues of 'categories of membership' and 'regional representation'. We agree that any enlarged Security Council should be more representative of today's world and in particular reflect the legitimate aspirations of the African Group. In addition, we support an increased representation of developing countries and small- and medium-sized Member States, including Small Island Developing States in the Security Council.

The Benelux countries fully agree with the G-4 that text-based negotiations are a prerequisite to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council. In our view, it is essential to commence negotiations on the basis of a single consolidated text with attributions in order to deliver concrete outcomes.

We believe that the overall objective of the reform should be to make the Security Council more representative, democratic, transparent, accountable and effective. The use of the veto has often prevented the Security Council from effectively fulfilling its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Benelux countries therefore firmly believe that special consideration should be given to address ways to limit the use of the veto. We also believe that the potential adverse impact of additional veto powers on the functioning of a future expanded Security Council must be thoroughly considered and discussed.

#### **We would appreciate if the G-4 could elaborate on the following four questions:**

- **First, on the question of the veto:** In light of your assertion that new permanent members would as a principle have the same responsibilities and obligations as the current permanent members, how do you think your model could

contribute to enhance the accountability and effectiveness of the Council? Does your model allow for measures to limit veto use for all permanent members in an enlarged Council?

- **Second, on the proposed review.** Your model states that the new members shall not exercise the veto-right until a decision has been taken during a review to be held 15 years after coming into force of the reform. Could you please elaborate on the envisaged review and the elements it would entail?
- **Third, on the role of non-permanent members in the enlarged Council.** The Benelux countries believe that inclusive and transparent decision-making processes should be key aspects of any reformed Security Council. In our view, the guiding principle should be that an enlarged Council should not make it more difficult for non-permanent members to actively contribute to the work of the Council. All elected members should have the possibility to chair subsidiary bodies and to serve as penholder or co-penholder of files during their term on the Council. We also believe that the Security Council should be invited to consider taking measures to ensure that non-permanent members of the enlarged Security Council hold the Presidency of the Council at least once during their tenure. How would your reform model ensure a meaningful and active role for non-permanent members?
- **Fourth, on the IGN-process,** in your letter to the IGN Co-Chairs of 28 December 2023, you mention that the G-4 is open to revising its model. What are your suggestions to foster convergence between reform models proposed by States and Groups and on which key issues do you see a possibility to display flexibility?

Co-Chairs, I would like to conclude by reiterating that the Benelux countries will continue to engage positively in the IGN-process and remain committed to help move the reform of the Security Council forward.

Thank you.