

Statement on behalf of the Benelux countries (Belgium – Kingdom of the Netherlands – Luxembourg)

IGN UN Security Council Reform (Contribution to the Summit of the Future)

New York, 20 May 2024

Dear Co-Chairs,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Benelux countries, Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

At the outset, we would like to reiterate our appreciation to you, Co-Chairs, for your relentless efforts toward meaningful reform of the UN Security Council and for gathering us today to discuss the IGN contribution to the Summit of the Future. You can count on our cooperation and full commitment to help ensure that you can convey a substantial contribution on Security Council Reform from the IGN to the co-facilitators of the Summit of the Future process.

The Benelux countries welcome the revised draft of the IGN Summit of the Future input circulated in your letter of May 14 and the three specific points of action mentioned therein. We appreciate that this draft is adapted to the structure and format of the rev1 of the Pact for the Future. We also thank you for having taken into consideration the initial feedback of Member States and for your transparent and dedicated engagement throughout this process.

We are pleased to share the following additional comments:

1. We believe that the contribution of the IGN to the Summit of the Future should be action oriented and ambitious. It should focus on actionable deliverables and go beyond aspirational language and reaffirmations. The contribution should be concise, and the language should be accessible and appropriate for world leaders. We consider your proposed draft a strong basis and a step in the right direction to achieve this goal. We look forward to further streamlining the text.
2. We see many positive elements in the three main actions listed in your revised draft:
 - **Action I.** We concur that the Pact should call for **an early reform of the Security Council to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic, and accountable**. We agree with most of the parameters identified in your revised draft, in particular the assertion that an enlarged Security Council should be more representative of today's world and should also 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. On the point which refers to the expansion with two-year term non-permanent members we underline the importance of it not being limited to this expansion, as the Benelux countries believe that an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories should be part of a comprehensive Security Council reform. We fully agree that the question of the veto is a key element of Security Council reform. We are among the many countries supporting limitations to the scope and use of the veto, we therefore firmly believe that the IGN input for the Summit of the Future should address measures to limit the veto, including in the case of mass atrocities.

- **Action II.** We agree that the IGN input for the Summit of the Future should reflect **the need to accelerate our efforts to reform the Security Council in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16.8**. However, we believe that the language on the way forward of the IGN process should be strengthened and more forward looking. In our view, the Pact of the Future should reflect that a vast majority of Members States calls for a single consolidated document with attributions and for the start of text-based negotiations as a prerequisite to achieve meaningful progress in the IGN-process. We also believe that a concrete timeframe for the commencement of text-based negotiations should be reflected in the Pact.
- **Action III.** We agree with the need to **strengthen the response of the UN system for the maintenance of international peace and security** and for incremental improvements in the working methods of Security Council. We strongly support the proposed action to fully implement and adhere to all the provisions of the UN Charter, including article 27.3. Your proposal to adopt a GA resolution clarifying the interpretation of the term “party to a dispute” is one worthwhile exploring and would merit a further discussion, alongside examining other avenues of strengthening adherence to article 27.3. We fully support your proposed language on committing to not vote against a credible draft resolution on timely and decisive action to end the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. We also favour the call to strengthen the cooperation between the Security Council and the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies including the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the Economic and Social Council. In addition, we support the inclusion of the need to fully implement GA resolutions 377A(V) (“Uniting for Peace”) and 76/262 (the “Veto Initiative”).

In conclusion, the Benelux countries commend you for an excellent draft and look forward to engaging further in the discussions on the IGN contribution to the Summit of the Future. You can count on our support to help deliver an action oriented and ambitious outcome.

I thank you.