

## Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council reform

New York, 15 February 2024

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Olivier Maes  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg**

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

### **The L-69 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, allow me to express our gratitude to Ambassador Albanai and Ambassador Marschik, Co-Chairs of the IGN, for convening this meeting. The Co-Chairs have succeeded to bring new energy to the IGN-process, last month's first round of structured dialogues on reform models gave us new perspectives and we look forward to another fruitful and rich discussion today. We also remain hopeful that this new approach will contribute to foster convergences and will enable the start of **text-based negotiations** which in our view is a prerequisite to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

We welcome the detailed presentation by the distinguished Ambassador of **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on behalf of the L-69 Group**. We appreciate that the L-69 model provides detailed proposals on all five key issues of the IGN.

We note that the L-69 group proposes an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories, resulting in an enlarged Security Council of 27 seats. We further note that the L-69 has outlined specific proposals on the regional representation and the allocation of the additional seats.

As stated during last month's IGN session, the Benelux countries are also in favour of an expansion - albeit limited- in both the permanent and non-permanent membership categories with the exact number to emerge from discussions between Member States on the key issues of 'categories of membership' and 'regional representation'. The Benelux countries believe that the reform of the Security Council is needed to make it more representative, democratic, transparent, accountable and effective. We agree with the L-69 group 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, the Benelux countries, like the L-69 group, support an increased representation of developing countries and small- and medium-sized Member States, including Small Island Developing States in the Security Council.

**We would like to seek clarifications on the following three points:**

- First, the **use of the veto** has often prevented the Security Council from effectively assuming its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Benelux countries 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. The L69 model proposes a total of 11 veto powers and states that all new members of the permanent category must enjoy all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right to veto. How can the addition of six new veto powers be beneficial to the, accountability and effectiveness of the Council? How do you reconcile your suggestion of additional veto powers with your view that the veto should be abolished?
- Second, the L-69 model proposes changing the **working methods** of the Security Council and to abolish closed meetings. Would there be special circumstances under which closed sessions could still be held?
- Third, could you share more information on the envisaged **review**? When would it take place and what elements would be included in the review? Would it also include the question of the veto?

I thank you.