

**Statement on behalf of the Benelux countries**

**(Belgium – Kingdom of the Netherlands – Luxembourg)**

**IGN UN Security Council Reform (IGN contribution to the Summit of the Future- rev3)**

**New York, 20 June 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 convey our appreciation to you, Co-Chairs, for convening this meeting on the IGN contribution to the Summit of the Future. A lot of progress has been made over the past months, including during the “un-formal discussions/ Taxel talks”. We believe that we are on the right track thanks to your able leadership.

The Benelux countries welcome the newly revised draft of the IGN input for the Summit of the Future. We appreciate that the text is more concise and better structured. We look forward to further streamlining the text and to make it even more action oriented.

We are pleased to share the following comments on the proposed actions:

**Action 1 :**

- We welcome that the title is in line with the other actions of the Summit of the Future and that it begins with “We will reform the UN Security Council”. However, in the first paragraph, we would like to reinsert the rev1 reference “building on our appeal for Security Council Reform of 2005”. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome, we expressed our support for an early reform of the Security Council and we should accelerate our efforts to deliver on this commitment.
- We fully support the more prominent placing of “redressing the historical injustice against Africa as a priority” in the rev3.
- In subparagraph 1 (c), on the categories of membership, we would have preferred a reference to an expansion in both the two-year non-permanent seats and the permanent seats. However, given the diverging views of Member States, we could support the compromise language of the rev2 i.e. that the “the reform will include, but not be limited to, an expansion of 2-year term non-permanent seats as part of a comprehensive Security Council reform.” We believe the current phrasing in the rev3 is too narrowly focused on an expansion of 2-year term non-permanent seats and should state more explicitly that the reform will not be limited to only this category.
- In subparagraph 1(d), on the size of the enlarged Security Council, we welcome the insertion of the convergence on “ensuring a balance between the representativeness and effectiveness of an enlarged Council”.
- We regret that subparagraph 1(f) on the question of the veto has been watered down. We would like to plea for not further weakening the text given that a growing number of Member States support limitations to the scope and use of the veto.

**Action 2 :** We welcome the Co-Chairs’ efforts to streamline the paragraphs under this action.

- We appreciate that the phrasing “while relying on the efficient and effective provision of resources from the UN System to the IGN process” is less prescriptive than the specific proposals outlined in earlier versions of the text.
- We are supportive of subparagraph 2(a) encouraging the submission of further models and the revision of already presented models by States and Groups. However, we would have preferred to retain the request to the IGN Co-Chairs to work towards developing a consolidated model.
- Under action 2, we would like to insert a reference to the need to start text-based negotiations within a fixed timeframe. We consider this a prerequisite to achieve meaningful progress in the IGN process.

**Action 3:**

- The Benelux countries strongly support sub paragraph 3 (a) on the agreement “to fully implement and adhere to all provisions of the United Nations Charter as they relate to the decision-making process, including Art.27 (3) of the UN Charter.” We firmly believe this specific action is essential to ensure a more effective and accountable UN Security Council.
- We fully agree with sub paragraph 3 (b) on supporting credible, timely and decisive action by the Security Council to prevent or end the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. However, to that end, we would like to reinsert the rev1 reference to the commitment to not vote against a credible draft resolution before the Security Council.
- We welcome subparagraph 3 (c) on actively reinforcing the ongoing efforts of the Security Council to review and enhance its working methods, and in particular the new reference to penholding and co-penholding arrangements. We further welcome that in this subparagraph a reference is made to the Uniting for Peace mechanism and to the Veto Initiative.
- We are also fully supportive of sub paragraph 3(d) on enhancing the Council’s accountability to the membership and increasing the transparency of its work.

In conclusion, Co-Chairs, we thank you for your relentless efforts to bring about meaningful reform of the UN Security Council. You can count on the Benelux countries, as we work together to come to an agreement on an action-oriented IGN-contribution to the Summit of the Future.

I thank you.