

Statement on behalf of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Netherlands and the Grand
Duchy of Luxembourg

by

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Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium

***Intergovernmental Negotiations: Meeting on the issues of process and the question of
regional representation in the Security Council***

NEW YORK, 25-26 January 2020

Distinguished colleagues,

Dear co-chairs,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and my own country, the Kingdom of Belgium.

In September 2020, our Heads of States adopted by consensus the Declaration on the commemoration on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. On this occasion, they committed in front of the world and I quote “to instill new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council”. Our task is now to translate this solemn commitment into action, by moving forward and achieving tangible results.

Co-chairs,

In your letter of 8 December, you have invited Member States to clarify their positions on the cluster of “Regional Representation” and to share their views on how a renewed momentum can be given to the IGN process.

In this regard, we would like to convey the following points:

First, as the positions of member states on Regional Representation are well known, allow me to briefly summarize our views. A reformed and enlarged Security council should **reflect the diversity of the world as it is today**. At the

same time, as the primary warden of international peace and security, the UN **Security Council should remain fit for purpose** and be able to act quickly when peace is at stake.

Secondly, the **rules of procedure of the General Assembly should be applied** to the IGN process, in order to ensure the necessary transparency and institutional memory. In particular, our discussions should be accessible via webcast and official records of our meetings should be available to the general public. If enhanced transparency is to be one of the goals of the IGN process, it should also be one of its founding principles.

Thirdly, we consider that any result oriented **negotiation should be based on a text**. We therefore support the idea that the Paper on the Revised Elements of Commonality and Issues for Further Consideration should be updated after each meeting, by introducing attributions of Member States' position. There is much more that unites us, than divides us. Putting those elements of commonality on paper, will help craft a consolidated single document for text based negotiation.

In conclusion, let me assure you, co-chairs, of our continued support in order to ensure that the UN Security Council will have the necessary legitimacy and effectiveness to address the security challenges of the 21th century. We call on all Member States to show the necessary flexibility in order to reconcile these two equally important objectives.

I thank you.