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GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Permanent Mission to
the United Nations

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

by

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***Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase
in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council:
Informal meeting***

NEW YORK, Monday 13 February 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.

Let me begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Nusseibeh and Ambassador Wronecka, on your appointment as co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform in this historic 75th anniversary year of the United Nations. We are confident that you will ably steer this important process and stand ready to support you.

The task at hand is clear: we must finally deliver on our commitment of making the Security Council more representative, transparent and effective, and as a result, more legitimate and accountable. In fact, decisive action is imperative not only for the credibility of this process, but also for the credibility of this Organization and its membership. We must bear in mind Article 24 § 1 of the UN Charter, that clearly states that the UN Security Council carries out its duties on behalf of all members states and through them, “we, the people”.

Co-chairs,

In your letter of 3 February, you have invited Member States to share views and provide suggestions on ways in which the Intergovernmental Negotiations can be taken forward, building on the progress achieved so far.

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

First, business as usual is no longer an option. The **IGN negotiations should be more open and transparent**. We need official records of our discussions and our meetings should be available through webcast. This would not only ensure institutional memory, but also enable the participation of civil society. We cannot expect to make progress towards a more transparent and more inclusive Security Council, if the Intergovernmental Negotiations process itself continues to lack transparency and inclusiveness.

Secondly, it is time to re-energize the IGN process and to make decisive strides towards real **negotiations on the basis of a text**. We need **more focused and results-oriented negotiations on each cluster of Security Council reform**. It is high time to go beyond a mere informal exchange and repetition of well-known positions. Starting text based negotiations with adequate attributions, will enable us to focus on the areas of communality and to move forward towards a compromise on the different positions.

Thirdly, notwithstanding the need for structural reform that would make the Council more broadly representative, we believe that we should not shy away from **smaller, more pragmatic changes** where agreement can be found more easily, e.g. in the area of the working methods.

In conclusion, we call for a renewed focus on areas of convergence and for a more action oriented approach.

Let me assure you, co-chairs, of our continued support in order to ensure that all regions of the world are fairly represented in the principal organ for the maintenance of international peace and security, and that it remains fit for purpose to address the security challenges of the 21th century.

I thank you.