

Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in New York

14 May 2024

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as **Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations** on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (**IGN**) during the 78th session of the General Assembly.

First, we would like to thank all delegations for their active participation in the unformals / "Taxel Talks" held on Thursday, 2 May 2024 at the Permanent Mission of Kuwait. We have listened carefully to and taken note of the feedback received during this meeting, bilaterally and through written submissions of some delegations.

In particular, delegations raised the point that the language contained in the IGN input to the Pact for the Future should be more concise and adapted to the purposes of a high-level document. Some delegations mentioned that the language should be "leader-like". Others stressed the need for clear, operative and ambitious results. In this vein, the Co-Chairs have the honour of presenting to delegations a revised draft of the IGN input to the Pact for the Future, which is more concise than the first draft and is adapted to the structure and format that the Co-Facilitators for the Summit of the Future are envisaging for their Rev1 of the SotF Draft.

The next IGN meeting scheduled for 20 and 21 May, from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 3.00 to 6.00 p.m. at the Trusteeship Council Chamber will serve as an opportunity for delegations to submit their comments and proposals on the attached revised draft of the Summit of the Future input. Please note that each Action / paragraph (Action 1, Action 2 and Action 3) will be discussed separately, one after the other. Delegations will therefore have the opportunity to submit comments or feedback on each Action separately. Once the discussion on one Action / paragraph is concluded, we will move on to the next Action. The discussion of each of the three Actions in the open meeting with webcast will be followed, if time permits,

by a closed interactive dialogue without webcast on the SotF input as a whole. Delegations are invited to inscribe on the speakers list via e-deleGATE and indicate in the comments section which paragraph / Action they plan to speak on.

In addition, the Co-Chairs have the honour to announce the following additional meetings of the IGN this year that will be focused entirely on the IGN SotF input:

- Another Taxel Talk / "un-formal" on 12 June 2024 at 1.15-2.45 p.m. at the Permanent Mission of Kuwait at the Ambassadorial / Chargé d'affaires level in a 1+1 format, meaning that Permanent Representatives or Chargés d'affaires attending the meeting can be accompanied by an expert. We kindly ask that you RSVP by email to ayataqi4@gmail.com and lisbeth.strohmeier@bmeia.gv.at no later than Monday, 10 June 2024.
- Another IGN meeting on 20 and 21 June 2024 in the General Assembly Hall and another IGN meeting (back-up) on 26 June 2024 in Conference Room 3.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Tareq Albanai
Ambassador

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Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations

Alexander Marschik

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Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Austria to the United Nations

To: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations, New York

Enclosure: SotF Input Rev1

IGN Input SotF – Draft

Action 1: We commit to an early reform of the Security Council to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable

- 1. Building on our appeal for Security Council Reform of 2005 and in response to the growing urgency to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations' abilities to maintain international peace and security as set out in the UN Charter, we agree on the following convergences identified in the Intergovernmental Negotiations process as parameters for reform:
 - The Security Council will be enlarged in order to be more representative of the current membership and reflective of the realities of the contemporary world and increase representation of developing countries and small- and medium-sized states, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and others.
 - The enlargement will redress the historical injustice against Africa as a priority and, while treating Africa as a special case, serve to improve the representation of the underrepresented and unrepresented regions and groups,
 - The reform will include, but not be limited to, an expansion of 2-year term non-permanent members as part of a comprehensive Security Council reform.
 - The enlarged Security Council will consist of a total number of 21 to 27 seats.
 - The working methods will be addressed with a view to increasing the transparency, effectiveness, functionality, and accountability of an enlarged Council.
 - The question of the veto will be a key element of Security Council reform and since a significant, growing number of Member States support limitations to the scope and use of the veto, this issue will be addressed in the context of the reform.
 - As part of a comprehensive reform, the inclusion of a review clause will be considered to
 ensure that the Security Council continues over time to deliver on its mandate and remains fit
 for purpose.

Action 2: We commit to accelerating our efforts in the framework of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform

- 2. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 16.8, we commit to strengthening our efforts for the reform of the Security Council, through the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council (IGN) in accordance with decision 62/557 of the General Assembly and support the Member States driven nature of the reform. We welcome the recent progress achieved in the IGN, including through more transparency and inclusivity and by enhancing its institutional memory, particularly by the webcasting of IGN sessions, introducing a repository with a dedicated website and holding a structured dialogue on specific models of Security Council reform, which helped increase convergences among Member States. We will take the following actions to build on this recent progress:
 - Request the IGN Co-Chairs to work towards elaborating a consolidated model based on the models presented by Member States as a basis for further discussions;
 - Provide the President of the General Assembly with the necessary resources to support the efficient and effective IGN process of Security Council reform;
 - Request the Secretary General to support the Co-Chairs and facilitate the reform process by providing the necessary expertise, especially through the Office of Legal Affairs, the Security Council Affairs Division and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) as appropriate and as requested by the IGN Co-Chairs.

Action 3: We will strengthen the response of the United Nations system for the maintenance of international peace and security

- 3. Until the reform of the Security Council enters into force and in order to ensure an effective response from the United Nations system for the maintenance of international peace and security, we commit to pursuing incremental improvements in the working methods of the Security Council and strengthening the General Assembly, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers, and competencies as enshrined in the Charter, including in respect to matters related to international peace and security. We will take the following actions:
 - Actively reinforce the efforts of the Security Council to continuously review and enhance its
 working methods as part of its regular activities, with a view to ensuring their effective and
 consistent implementation, including of Note 507.
 - Fully implement and adhere to all provisions of the United Nations Charter as they relate to the decision-making process in the UN Security Council, including Art. 27 (3) of the UN Charter and adopt a General Assembly resolution clarifying the interpretation of the term "party to a dispute" in Art. 27 (3) of the UN Charter in order to ensure the full implementation of this provision.
 - Consider committing to not vote against a credible draft resolution before the Security Council
 on timely and decisive action to end the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or
 war crimes, or to prevent such crimes and to committing to not prevent the Security Council
 from taking action with the aim of preventing or bringing an end to situations involving the
 commission of mass atrocities by the use of the veto.
 - Strengthen the cooperation and communication between the Security Council and the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the Economic and Social Council, including by continuing to fully implement and make use of General Assembly Resolutions 377A(V) ("Uniting for Peace") and 76/262 ("Veto Initiative").
 - Improve the participation in and access to the work of the Security Council and its subsidiary organs for all members of the General Assembly, to enhance the Council's accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work.