



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 July 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 11 July 2016 from H.E. Ms. Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform (IGN), circulating elements of convergence on two of the five key issues of Security Council reform, namely “the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly”, and “size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council”.

I understand that these elements of convergence have emerged from the positions and proposals of Member States on those two key issues presented in the very positive and substantive IGN meetings this year and reflected in the text and its annex circulated by the President of the General Assembly in his letter dated 31 July 2015.

I wish to thank Member States for heeding my call to engage constructively in the IGN to continue moving the reform process forward and for extending their full support and cooperation, and also want to thank Ambassador Lucas for the effective and efficient manner in which she has conducted the IGN throughout this 70th session of the General Assembly.

I am confident that the elements of convergence can help to inform the future work of the IGN and to maintain the momentum towards an early comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

As in previous years, a draft roll-over decision will be circulated shortly for the consideration of Member States and the adoption by the General Assembly in due course.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To All Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations
New York



New York, 11 July 2016

Excellency,

I wish to express my gratitude to all Member States for their constructive engagement throughout the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform (IGN) this session. We set out to build a consultative, inclusive and substance-based approach covering all five key issues outlined in General Assembly Decision 62/557 to help move the reform process forward. With your focused, substantive interventions as well as your active and constructive participation in the six IGN meetings held during this session, we have, I believe, achieved this goal.

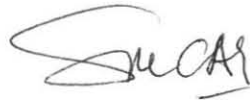
I am also grateful for the willingness of Member States to seek convergences in their positions and proposals; the attached elements of convergence on two of the five key issues of Security Council reform, namely “the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly”, and “size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council” are a concrete outcome of this process, based on the engagement of Member States.

These elements of convergence have clearly emerged from the positions and proposals of Member States on those two key issues presented in the IGN meetings this year and reflected in the text and its annex circulated by the President of the General Assembly in his letter dated 31 July 2015. They have been further refined on the basis of the substantive comments provided by Member States in our last two IGN meetings, on 1 and 22 June 2016.

I am confident that the elements attached accurately reflect, in a succinct and consolidated manner, current broad areas of convergence on the two key issues of “the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly”, and “size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council”, while clearly recognizing the interlinkages with the three key issues of “categories of membership”, “regional representation” and “the question of the veto”. These elements can help to inform the future work of the IGN and to focus the discussions on those three key issues going forward.

Continuing our work with the same constructive spirit shown this session will ensure that we continue to make progress in the IGN towards fulfilling the mandate given to us by our Heads of State and Government, to ensure an early comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvie Lucas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sylvie Lucas
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations
on Security Council Reform

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the
United Nations
New York

Elements of convergence on two of the five key issues of Security Council reform, namely “the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly”, and “size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council”

The following elements of convergence have emerged from the positions and proposals of Member States presented in the informal meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform (IGN) held in the seventieth session of the General Assembly and reflected in the text and its annex circulated by the President of the General Assembly in his letter dated 31 July 2015, on two of the five key issues outlined in General Assembly Decision 62/557, namely “the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly” and “size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council”.

These elements can help to inform the future work of the IGN and to focus further the discussions on the three key issues of “categories of membership”, “regional representation” and “the question of the veto”, with the aim of achieving a comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

Relationship between the Council and the General Assembly

- The relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly should be mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers and competencies as enshrined in the Charter. In this regard, it is important to:
 - Ensure increased cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the Security Council and of the General Assembly and also with the Secretariat of the United Nations, in particular the Secretary-General,
 - Continue the practice of regular meetings between the President of the Security Council and the President of the General Assembly,

- Strengthen the cooperation and communication between the Security Council and the General Assembly, in particular through the submission by the Security Council of annual reports of a more analytical nature and of special reports to the General Assembly, in full implementation of the relevant provisions of the Charter,
- 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, in particular through:
 - Holding open sessions, open briefings and open debates,
 - Holding informal interactive dialogues and Arria-formula meetings,
 - Further enhancing consultations between the Security Council and troop- and police-contributing countries throughout all phases of Council-mandated peacekeeping operations,
 - Further strengthening cooperation with regional and subregional organisations and arrangements.

Size of an enlarged Council and working methods of the Council

Size of an enlarged Council

- An enlarged Council should consist of a total of members in the mid-20s, within an overall range of 21-27 seats, with the exact number to emerge from the discussions of Member States on the key issues of “categories of membership” and “regional representation”, and with the total size ensuring a balance between the representativeness and effectiveness of an enlarged Council.

(This would entail amendments to Article 23 (1) and 23 (2) of the Charter of the United Nations.)

Working methods of the Council

- Majority required for decision-making: the number of affirmative votes required should be in line with the current practice¹, with the exact number of votes required to emerge from the discussions of Member States on the key issues of “categories of membership”, “regional representation” and “the question of the veto”.

(This would entail amendments to Article 27 (2), 27 (3) and to Article 109 (1) of the Charter of the United Nations.)

- While recognising the ongoing efforts of the Council towards keeping its working methods under consideration in its regular work, with a view to ensuring their effective and consistent implementation, the Security Council should be invited to consider the following measures in light of the increase in its membership:
 - Adapting its working methods to ensure a transparent, efficient, effective and accountable functioning of the Council,
 - Adapting the working methods of its subsidiary organs,
 - Ensuring the full participation of all members of the Security Council in its work, including the holding of the Presidency of the enlarged Council by non-permanent members at least once during their tenure,
 - Undertaking a revision of the Council’s provisional rules of procedure to reflect these measures and further considering the formal adoption of its rules of procedure.

¹ *Examples:*

- *If an enlarged Council consists of 21 members, 12 votes would be required*
- *If an enlarged Council consists of 22 members, 12 votes would be required*
- *If an enlarged Council consists of 23 members, 13 votes would be required*
- *If an enlarged Council consists of 24 members, 13 votes would be required*
- *If an enlarged Council consists of 25 members, 14 votes would be required*
- *If an enlarged Council consists of 26 members, 14 votes would be required*
- *If an enlarged Council consists of 27 members, 15 votes would be required*