



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 June 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 14 June 2016 from H.E. Ms. Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform (IGN) informing Member States of the upcoming meeting of the IGN on Wednesday 22 June 2016 at 3.00 p.m. in Conference Room 4.

I take this opportunity to encourage the active support and participation of Member States in the proceedings of this meeting.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft'.

Mogens Lykketoft

To All Permanent Representatives  
to the United Nations  
New York



New York, 14 June 2016

Excellency,

Following our initial discussion on 1 June on the elements of convergence on the two key issues of the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly, and the size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council, and as announced at the closing of that meeting, we will hold a further session of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform (IGN) on 22 June 2016 at 3pm in Conference Room 4.

Now that delegations have had more time to study the content of the elements paper circulated with my letter dated 17 May (and again attached herewith), and in light of the discussions on 1 June, including on the purpose of the paper and the process in general, our meeting on 22 June will offer Member States another opportunity to comment on the substance of the elements paper so as to ensure that broad areas of convergence that emerged from the positions and proposals of Member States on these two key issues are accurately reflected.

While the two key issues of the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly, and the size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council will undoubtedly need to be revisited, given also their interlinkages with the other three key issues outlined in General Assembly Decision 62/557, and while we continue to seek a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, we should not shy away from reflecting elements of convergence on these two key issues that have emerged. Reflecting them on paper will help to inform our future work in the IGN and to focus our discussions further on the key issue areas in which more work needs to be done.

I look forward to our substantive discussions at the meeting next week. As on 1 June, there will be no formal list of speakers.

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

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 key issues of Security Council reform:  
the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly, and the 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 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 the 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”:

**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.

## 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.)*

### Working methods of the Council

- Majority required for decision-making: Decisions of an enlarged Council should be made by an affirmative vote of approximately 60% of its members<sup>1</sup>, in line with the existing ratio, 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.)*

---

<sup>1</sup> Examples:

- If an enlarged Council consists of 21 members, 13 votes (61.9%) would be required
- If an enlarged Council consists of 22 members, 13 votes (59.09%) would be required
- If an enlarged Council consists of 23 members, 14 votes (60.86%) would be required
- If an enlarged Council consists of 24 members, 14 votes (58.33%) would be required
- If an enlarged Council consists of 25 members, 15 votes (60%) would be required
- If an enlarged Council consists of 26 members, 16 votes (61.54%) would be required
- If an enlarged Council consists of 27 members, 16 votes (59.25%) would be required

*In each case, the number of votes coming closest to 60% has been identified.*

- 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:
  - Adapting its working methods to ensure a transparent, efficient, effective and accountable functioning of the Council in light of the increase in its membership,
  - Adapting the working methods of its subsidiary organs in light of the increase in its membership,
  - 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, in light of the increase in its membership, to reflect these measures and further considering the formal adoption of its rules of procedure.