



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17 May 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 17 May 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 1 June 2016.

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

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

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

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



New York, 17 May 2016

Excellency,

I very much welcome the constructive spirit with which Member States have engaged in our meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform (IGN) this session covering all five key issues set out in General Assembly Decision 62/557.

As indicated over the last months, and set out at the end of the meeting on 2 May, I have been reviewing how best to follow up on the substantive convergences that have emerged from our meetings 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.

To that end, I have been studying carefully the statements made by Member States on 3 and 22 February and the positions and proposals of Member States reflected in the text and its annex circulated by the President of the General Assembly in his letter dated 31 July 2015 on these issues.

The attached elements paper attempts to reflect the main elements of convergence that emerged from our discussions on these issues and will help us to build on the informal meetings held during the session, as well as on the positions and proposals of Member States reflected in the above-mentioned text and its annex, as mandated by the General Assembly.

We will hold a meeting of the IGN on 1 June 2016 at 10am in Conference Room 2, to have a substantive discussion on the elements paper. There will be no formal list of speakers.

While this elements paper covers solely 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, we remain mindful of the comprehensive nature of the reform of the Security Council, encompassing all five key issues set out in General Assembly Decision 62/557.

In order to move the reform process forward, I encourage Member States to engage further in genuine dialogue with one another and to undertake the hard work needed to bridge diverging positions on all key issues of Security Council reform, including the more difficult key issues of categories of membership, regional representation and the question of the veto.

I look forward to your continued constructive participation in our discussions on 1 June. As always, in the lead up to our meeting, my door remains open to all.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvie Lucas', with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

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.)*

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<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.