

*K. Nagaraj Naidu*



संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी प्रतिनिधि  
न्यूयॉर्क

AMBASSADOR AND DEPUTY PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

August 31, 2020

*Excellency,*

I have the honour to address you on behalf of **the G4 – Brazil, Germany, Japan, and India** – on the subject of the draft decision regarding the roll-over of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and matters related to the Security Council, which was circulated today.

2. We convey our appreciation for your leadership as President of the General Assembly during this trying period caused by COVID-19. We also appreciate your engagement with the different groups to find a way to reflect and capture the progress in the two IGN meetings held earlier in the year.

3. As conveyed to you during our earlier meetings and in our last letter to you dated 12 August 2020, and also earlier to the IGN co-Chairs on this matter, we believe that as the only formal record of the proceedings of the IGN in this critical year of the UN's 75th anniversary, the PGA's roll-over decision must clearly capture the progress made in the two IGN meetings that were held earlier this year.

4. One of the areas in which clear progress was made this year in IGN was the rising chorus of support from members states for the Common African Position as stipulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration, as well as for the urgent need for transparency and application of the General Assembly's rules of procedure to the intergovernmental negotiations

**H.E. Dr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande**  
President of the General Assembly  
United Nations  
New York

5. The above has, in fact, been reinforced not in one but multiple forums, and from multiple groups.

The G4 came forward to unambiguously back the Common African Position at the Ministerial level (G4 Foreign Ministers' joint statement, September 2019: "...expressed their support for adequately reflecting the African Common Position, as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration."), and again in its statement at the 74th UNGA plenary debate on this agenda item.

The L.69 reiterated its support for the Common African Position in its statement to the 74th UNGA plenary debate (November 2019: "...ensuring a proper reflection of the Common African Position, as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.")

The African Group itself continued to make its voice heard, calling for support for Common African Position both in the GA Plenary debate and during both IGN meetings this year, where it was joined by G4, L.69 and others.

Let us also recall that, for the first time, the Non-Aligned Movement, comprising 120 member states, expressed support at the highest level for the Common African Position (18th NAM Summit Outcome Document, October 2019: "The Heads of State and Government supported the African common position as reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.").

6. The growing support expressed for the Common African Position in the two meetings of the IGN earlier this year should be captured in the body of the roll-over decision.

7. Further, we do not believe that a reference to the letter dated 29 July 2020 of the two Co-Chairs by itself adequately reflects the discussions in the IGN in the roll-over decision. The co-Chairs' letter refers to the growing support "to redress the historical injustice against Africa and to ensure better African representation in a reformed Security Council in line with the Common African Position". This does not fully capture the Common African Position per se. While we are fully and unequivocally in support of greater African representation in UNSC and will continue to be vocal in our support for Africa, the fact is that the said letter does not fully reflect the growing support to Common African Position, and therefore does not adequately capture the strong support to expansion of both

categories of Security Council. Therefore, from a substantive perspective, the growing support to the Common African Position and other important developments have not been reflected in the Co-Chair's letters to the PGA.

8. From the above, it is clear that the roll-over decision does not meet the requirement of clearly capturing progress made in the two IGN meetings that were held earlier this year, including the numerous calls for a more open and transparent process, with enhanced working methods. This is the least we had expected in the text.

9. This brings one to a much broader issue. In the last decade or more of IGN Meetings (since 2009), there has been practically no progress. UNGA rules of procedure allegedly should not apply, due to the supposed 'informal nature' of the discussions. In 11 years, the situation has not changed. There has been no serious attempt to capture the discussions in a single consolidated text for negotiations, which should be the essential task for any facilitator of any UN negotiations.

10. In effect, after more than a decade towards text-based negotiations, the IGN process has become a convenient smokescreen to hide behind for those who do not wish to see any reform in the Security Council. Consequently, there is a need to ensure that the IGN process is not held hostage, procedurally and substantially, by those who do not wish to bring about reform in the Security Council. If this happens, and there are indications that this is already happening, those who demand reform will be forced to look for other ways to finally make progress, including potentially outside the IGN process.


11. For the reasons mentioned above, we feel that the current draft roll-over text is falling short of capturing the progress in the two IGN meetings held in this critical year of the UN's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With our abiding commitment to a reformed and strengthened UN, we will continue to voice our strong support for tangible action towards an expanded and reformed Security Council that reflects today's world and realities.

12. We will work towards realizing these goals, and highly expect that we can continue the discussions held in 74<sup>th</sup> session as soon as possible in 75<sup>th</sup> session, without losing time during the initial months.

13. We request you, Excellency, to kindly circulate this letter to all member states as official explanation of position the G4 on the roll-over decision.

14. We thank Your Excellency once again for your leadership of this process and your efforts in finding an acceptable roll-over text.

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

  
(K. Nagaraj Naidu)  
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. 21/08/20