9 February 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, a letter from H.E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations, and H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar, co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on the Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and matters related to the Security Council, regarding the focus of the forthcoming meetings of the IGN.

The letter also conveys the dates for the second, third and fourth meeting of the IGN, which would be held on 16-17 February, 16-17 March and 19-20 April 2021, respectively.

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

Volkan BOZKIR

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

We have the honor of addressing you in our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform (IGN). At the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of the equitable representation on and the increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to Security Council, held on 25-26 January 2020, Member States provided valuable and constructive feedback on the IGN process, including on ways to advance it during this seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. We are deeply grateful to Member States for the high-level participation, commitment, goodwill and spirit of compromise.

We also wish to express our profound gratitude to the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır, for his presence, guidance and for helping to create the necessary conditions for the IGN negotiations. Allow us to remember some of the President’s words: “In my view, the most appropriate platform to pursue this reform is within the framework of the IGN. However, this process will be put at risk if we fail to make real progress. Accordingly, I ask all delegations to utilize the opportunity, that this IGN session provides to engage constructively. We must give this process a chance”.

In the aftermath of the first IGN plenary session, we’ve held several and inclusive meetings, in person and virtually, with Member States and major groupings, where we shared ideas towards meaningful progress of the Council reform. We heard you. We have taken the interests and expectations of all parties into consideration. Thus, the proposed agenda and timeline for the next IGN meetings are the result of careful consideration reflecting the current middle ground. Taking into account that at the first IGN the cluster of “regional representation” was discussed, the remaining four clusters identified on the General Assembly decision 62/557 will be addressed in the second and third IGN rounds. The fourth IGN meeting will be devoted to a discussion on the status of IGN documents.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York
We are therefore pleased to confirm that the second meeting of the IGN on Security Council Reform will be held on 16-17 February 2021 in the General Assembly Hall and that we intend to hold it as an in-person meeting, fully in line with the COVID-19 mitigation measures regarding the limitations on the presence of delegates in the GA Hall at a given time. The Co-Chairs propose that during this meeting Member States engage in more thorough discussions of two clusters: "categories of membership" and "the question of veto". The Co-Chairs propose that the first day of the informal meeting is dedicated to statements and an interactive discussion is held on the second day.

We are also pleased to confirm that the third round of the IGN will be held on 16-17 March 2021. During this meeting the Co-Chairs propose that the two remaining clusters are discussed, that is "size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council" and "the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly". The first day should be dedicated to statements and an interactive discussion should follow on the second day.

The fourth informal meeting of the IGN, scheduled to take place 19-20 April 2021, will be dedicated to a discussion on the status of IGN documents.

We look forward to continuing our substantive discussions at the second IGN meeting and wish to reiterate that the Co-Chairs remain available for consultations throughout the negotiations.

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

Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar

Joanna Wronecka
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland