



Permanent Mission of the  
State of Kuwait to the United Nations  
New York

 Permanent Mission  
of Austria to the  
United Nations in New York

2 June 2023

Excellency,  
Mr. President,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as **Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations** on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (IGN) during the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

At the outset, we would like to express our deep gratitude for the trust in having appointed us as Co-Chairs of the IGN during the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly and the support you have extended to us throughout this process. Without your personal commitment and engagement, the process would not have been able to move forward as it did.

***Progress achieved during this session***

We would also like to express our warm appreciation for the support that has been extended to us during the IGN process this session from Member States. Over the course of the 77<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Member States participated in the IGN-process with a sincere determination to reform the UN Security Council, a readiness to engage with one another in an open and constructive manner, including on proposals that do not reflect their national positions, and an honest commitment to building convergences of positions. More than 90 Member States delivered statements, some on behalf of Groups of States, in the five formal informal meetings, five interactive dialogues and six “unformal” meetings between January and May 2023.

We have tried, to the best of our ability, to take on an innovative approach and to instill a new dynamic in this process in a manner that is in line with General Assembly Decision 62/557, whilst fully understanding and taking into consideration the growing sense of urgency regarding Security Council Reform. As such, we would like to recall the five innovative practices in the IGN process during this session:

- For the first time, IGN meetings have been **webcast** publicly (the first segment of the meetings). This step was long overdue and its introduction on 9 March 2023 and the subsequent webcasts have been very well-received by Member States. Its continuation will make the working methods of the IGN process more efficient, transparent and inclusive. From now on, reference can be made to positions previously explained, delegates that missed a statement can revert to the recordings, and positions are now publicly attributable.
- The launch of the specific **website** for the IGN process on 5 April 2023 was another important step. The website serves as a repository of the recordings of the webcasts, as well as of the letters, decisions and other documents related to the IGN process as well as links to the statements of Member States. Continuing to upload and populate the repository with relevant IGN documents will further facilitate the work of Member States, particularly smaller delegations, and serve as a tool for deepening our discussions and understanding of positions.
- Much discussion has revolved during this session, as well as previous sessions, on the issue of the **working methods** of the current Security Council and a future expanded Council. As such, and to move this discussion forward in a more practical manner, the Co-Chairs have recommended in their letter to the Chair of the Security Council Informal Working Group (**IWG**) on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions dated 27 April 2023 to convene annual meetings between the IWG Chair and the IGN Co-Chairs to discuss ways and means whereby the two processes can best complement each other for the common goal of enhancing the working methods of the Security Council as soon as possible.
- An **Open-House discussion on Security Council reform** (“Taxel Talks”) with representatives from think tanks, academia, civil society and Member States was convened on 2 May 2023. This event was held with the aim of supporting the IGN process by providing a platform for an informal interactive discussion to generate innovative ideas, identify new approaches to bridge the gaps between positions and help move the reform process forward. The Co-Chairs also welcome the holding of another open think tank event on 1 June 2023 by a group of Member States to further contribute to the discussions.
- The **informal-informals** (“**un-formals**”) was a practice that was continued from the last session. During this session, the three sets of “unformal conversations” (six meetings) that were convened outside the United Nations set out to complement the IGN process by providing a platform for Member States to speak freely and in an

informal setting on a set of broad themes regarding the reform process. We are grateful for the active and collegial participation during those meetings which enabled us to address highly controversial political matters in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

### ***Revised Co-Chairs Elements Paper***

After conclusion of the fourth IGN Meeting held on 3-4 April 2023, the Co-Chairs circulated to Member States a letter dated 26 April 2023 containing the “Revised Co-Chairs’ Elements Paper on Convergences and Divergences on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters”. At the fifth IGN meeting held on 4-5 May 2023, Member States and Groups of States had the opportunity to express comments on the aforementioned Paper. Furthermore, the Co-Chairs also allowed for written comments on the Paper by Member States and Groups of States to be submitted to them by 22 May 2023. Having carefully considered the comments, we are pleased to transmit the final version of the Revised Co-Chairs’ Elements Paper (attached herewith). The Co-Chairs emphasize that this Paper reflects their personal understanding of the current state of the IGN discussions on the five clusters and their interlinkages, as well as other issues raised by delegations, including on procedural matters. It is our belief that the Co-Chairs’ Elements Paper for the 77<sup>th</sup> session will serve as a useful basis for taking the IGN process forward in the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. While significant divergences remain on the key issues of categories of membership and the veto, overall there has been a positive development with **more convergences and fewer divergences** reflected in the Co-Chair's Elements Paper, and several new elements or clarifications added to existing convergences and divergences. Nevertheless, it is clear that to overcome the remaining divergences, further in-depth discussions are necessary and long-held positions will have to be recalibrated.

### ***Way Forward***

In view of the strong sense of urgency that was expressed during the High-Level Debate at the beginning of the 77<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly and at all meetings of this IGN session to come to an early reform of the Security Council and the tangible momentum of the process this year, the Co-Chairs recommend that the work from this session be rolled over to the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. In view of the positive reactions and support by Member States, the Co-Chairs believe it would be useful to continue the five innovative practices that have been implemented during this session in future sessions.

In order to ensure that the IGN process moves forward towards elements and solutions that can garner the widest possible political acceptance during the 78<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Co-Chairs also recommend, based on the discussions held with Member States during the interactive dialogue on 5 May and the “un-formals” on 24 and 25 May, that the next round of the IGN process during the 78<sup>th</sup> session includes the following three elements:

- **Negotiations to reinforce and build convergences:** With a view to further increasing the understanding of positions and fostering convergences among IGN participants, all issues of the five clusters mentioned in paragraph (e) (ii) of UNGA Decision 62/557 should be addressed in a comprehensive and concentrated manner, better illuminating the interlinkages and connections among them.
- **Structured Dialogue on models proposed by States and Groups:** As mentioned in paragraphs d) and e) of UNGA Decision 62/557, the IGN works “*based on proposals by Member States*”. In order to enhance the understanding of details of the proposed models on Security Council reform submitted by individual Member States, regional groups and other groupings of Member States, the Co-Chairs should conduct a structured dialogue on individual proposals as they have been presented or submitted to the Co-Chairs and documented on the repository website. The Co-Chairs should lead discussions examining the individual models in depth enabling a better understanding of the different concepts, their impacts and consequences. This could assist States in converging around a conceptual approach that enjoys widest possible acceptance for the reform of the Security Council, and could allow Member States and Groups of States that have put forth specific models to reassess and adjust their proposals based on the reactions and comments of others. Member States and Groups of States are encouraged to submit their proposals to the Co-Chairs for circulation and publication on the repository.
- **Contribution for the Summit of the Future:** While the process of the IGN is distinct and separate from the OCA process, it is clear that the current parallel work strands on the future of the UN need to be coherent and mutually reinforcing. Member States engaged in the IGN during the 78th Session of the General Assembly need to be certain that the IGN negotiations will be conducive to and reflected in any Security Council Reform related outcome of the Summit for the Future in September 2024. In this regard, and to avoid any duplications, discussions should be held at the IGN to ensure that the Co-Chairs can convey a substantial contribution on Security Council Reform from the IGN to the coordinators of the outcome of the Summit.

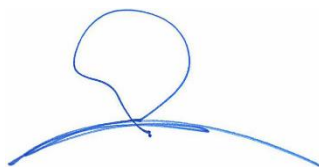
Mr. President,

Permit us to assure you once again that it has been a distinct honour to have been appointed to facilitate the IGN process during the 77<sup>th</sup> session. We take this opportunity to once more express our deep appreciation to you for the trust and confidence you have placed in us throughout the process during this session. We would also like to express to all Member States and Groups of States our profound gratitude for the support that they have extended to us. The progress achieved during this session would not have been possible without their active engagement, constructive approach, and commitment to moving this reform process forward. We are also grateful to the outside academics, think-tankers and experts who advised us and to those that shared their insights at the Open House. Finally, we would not have been able to do this work without the reliable support from Judit Cziko and Peter Stone of the PGA Office, from Svetlana Emelina-Sarte of DGACM and, in particular, our advisers Raphael Ruppacher at the Austrian Mission and Fahad Mohammad Hajji at the Kuwaiti Mission. They deserve our highest appreciation and gratitude.

Over the past months we have come to understand that Security Council reform is truly a team effort and we are grateful to have been part of this team this year.

Finally, we would be grateful if this letter and its attachments could be circulated to all Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations in New York.

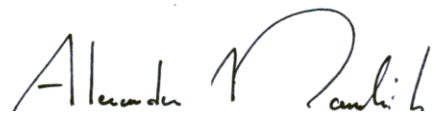
Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.



**Tareq Albanai**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the  
State of Kuwait to the United Nations



**Alexander Marschik**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Austria to the United Nations

**To:**  
**H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi**  
**President of the UN General Assembly**  
**United Nations Headquarters**  
**New York**

*Attached: The Co-Chair's letter of 3 March 2023 recommending webcasting and the establishment of a website, the Co-Chair's letter of 5 April 2023 regarding the launch of the website, the Co-Chair's letter of 27 April 2023 recommending convening an annual meeting between the IWG Chair and IGN Co-Chairs, the revised Co-Chair's Elements Paper.*