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

Permanent Mission
of Austria to the
United Nations in New York

21 November 2023

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

With reference to the letter dated 10 October 2023 from the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, we have the honour of addressing 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 matters related to the Council (**IGN**) during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

First of all, we would like to express our **sincere gratitude to the PGA** for the trust and confidence he has placed in us in leading this crucial process for UN reform, particularly in the year that the United Nations is working towards the Summit of the Future. We are looking forward to working with all delegations in the spirit of trust, mutual understanding and transparency that has guided us during the 77th session.

Secondly, we would like to recall the **letter** **that we sent on 2 June 2023** at the end of the negotiations held in the framework of the IGN during the 77th session. In this letter, we referred to the progress achieved during the 77th session, including the launching of the IGN website, the introduction of the webcast for some of the IGN sessions, the Open-House Discussion on Security Council Reform, the exchange with the IWG Chair as well as the continuation of the "un-formals". In view of the positive reactions and support by Member States, the Co-Chairs recommended that it would be useful to continue these innovative practices during future sessions.

In addition, in order to ensure that the IGN process moves forward towards elements and solutions that can garner the **widest possible political acceptance** during the 78th session of the General Assembly, the Co-Chairs also recommended, 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 78th session include the following **three elements**: (1) negotiations to reinforce and build convergence, (2) Structured Dialogue on models proposed by States and Groups, (3) a contribution by the IGN to the Summit of the Future, in order to avoid duplications between different ongoing processes.

Negotiations to reinforce and build convergences

In this regard, the Co-Chairs propose that the IGN convene its first meeting on **13 and 14 December 2023, from 10.00 a.m. – 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Trusteeship Council Chamber.** The meeting will be held as a debate with webcast followed by an interactive dialogue without webcast as per the established practice. This meeting should serve as a platform to continue the negotiations on the five clusters mentioned in paragraph (e) (ii) of UNGA Decision 62/557. 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 Decision 62/5577 would this time be addressed in a comprehensive and concentrated manner during this meeting, better illuminating the interlinkages and connections among them. With a view to the fact that institutional memory and the transparency of the process has been increased with the introduction of the webcast and the dedicated website, the Co-Chairs suggest that delegations focus on new elements in their positions regarding Security Council reform, rather than restating their positions that have already been put forward and are part of the repository. We also have the honour to recall the Co-Chairs Elements Paper on convergences and divergences that was distributed at the end of the 78th session.

Structured Dialogue on models proposed by States and Groups

As mentioned in paragraphs d) and e) of GA 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 will conduct a **structured dialogue on individual proposals** as they have been presented or submitted to the Co-Chairs and documented on the repository website. This dialogue will be conducted in further plenary meetings of the IGN which will be scheduled starting in January 2024 on the following dates: 22 and 23 January 2024 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, 15 and 16 February 2024 in Conference Room 4, 7 and 8 March 2024 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, 18 and 19 March 2024 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber (all will be held as debates with webcast followed by an interactive dialogue without webcast as per the established practice). So far, two models

have been received by the Co-Chairs and posted on the repository: one model submitted by Mexico and one model submitted by Liechtenstein. Other Member States and Groups of States are encouraged to submit their proposals to the Co-Chairs for circulation and publication on the repository at an early stage.

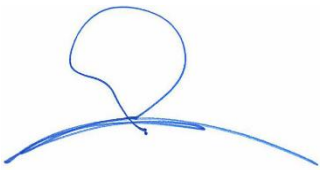
Contribution for the Summit of the Future

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 of the Future in September 2024. In addition, GA decision 77/568 of 1 September 2023 on the Scope of the Summit of the Future sets out in its paragraph (e) that "*the preparatory process of the Summit shall avoid overlaps and duplications with existing intergovernmental processes*". In this regard, discussions will 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 co-facilitators of the Summit of the Future process. The discussions on the contribution of the IGN to the Summit of the Future will be held first in informal informal meetings ("un-formals") to be convened on 12 February, 21 March and 2 May 2024 at the Permanent Mission of Kuwait. This contribution by the IGN to the Summit of the Future will also be discussed at a meeting of the IGN on 20 and 21 May 2024 (debate with webcast followed by an interactive dialogue without webcast as per the established practice).

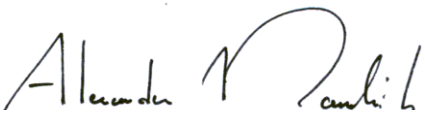
"Back to School"

In order to start our discussions for Security Council Reform during this year, the Co-Chairs would also like to invite delegations to a first informal informal meeting ("un-formal") to take stock of the progress achieved and discuss the work of the IGN during the 78th session on **1 December 2023 at 1.15-2.45 p.m.** at the Permanent Mission of Kuwait 321 E 44th St, New York, NY 10017. In accordance with the practice of last year, the Co-Chairs have the honour to extend the invitation to these un-formal conversations at the **Ambassadorial / Chargé d'affaires level in a 1+1 format**, meaning that Permanent Representatives or Chargés d'affaires attending the meeting can be accompanied by an expert. We kindly ask that you RSVP by email to **fahadalajmi.kuwaitmission@gmail.com** and **raphael.ruppacher@bmeia.gv.at** no later than **Thursday, 30 November 2023, 1 p.m.**

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