

Informal Meeting of the General Assembly on the Question of Equitable Representation and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters

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Statement by

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Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation would like to join previous speakers in expressing our sincere appreciation for the work that you have conducted. The document that you have presented to us is in my delegation's view a faithful reflection of the positions expressed by Member States in the previous rounds of exchanges. As you are indeed aware, and as the document which you have described as "the first revision of the universally requested negotiation text" many divergences continue to exist within the declared positions, and therefore further consideration of the different proposals tabled, is inevitable. My delegation however feels that this document has succeeded in capturing the essence of all these positions collectively, and therefore could be an important starting point to mark progress in our deliberations. My Delegation therefore welcomes this text, bearing in mind that this process is driven by Member States, a fundamental prerequisite for our negotiations.

Malta reiterates the inter-connectedness of the five key issues which are inextricably linked and cannot be considered in isolation. Any consideration of any of these issues must ensure a coherent and cohesive progression on the other key issues. It is our strong belief that any clustering of the key issues should coincide with the one reflected in the General Assembly Decision 62/557 of 15 September 2008

Throughout the exercise, Malta has projected in an objective and transparent manner the views and aspirations of a small State as a Member of the United Nations. Small States cannot continue to be marginalized or overlooked and we welcome that the positions expressed by small States have been duly reflected. In this context, Malta has been consistent and persistent in expressing its resolute position that small States, which comprise nearly one-fourth of the U.N. Membership, must be given due and important consideration during our discussion on a reformed Security Council. My delegation therefore augurs and encourages you to continue to give particular attention to small Member States so that their voices and interests are properly safeguarded during the Intergovernmental Negotiations. In this regard, Malta wishes to reiterate that the principle of sovereign equality, of UN Member States, large and small, must be the principal guiding criteria in the search for an agreement of the UN Security Council Reform.

It is the understanding of my Delegation that the document that has been presented is an "evolving text" which is open to further contributions by Member States. This is necessary for the conduct of our discussions in an all-inclusive and comprehensive manner. This "open text" will therefore enable Member States to further pursue our efforts to reach a compromise solution that would enjoy unanimous support by the wider U.N. membership. As the Columbia-Italy proposal states "The preservation of the democratic principle lies at the heart of the legitimacy of any reform of the Security Council."

In conclusion, Malta looks forward to engage constructively and in good faith. We again commit ourselves to the earliest reform of the UNSC in order to render it more representative, efficient, transparent and democratic, and henceforth enhancing its credibility and legitimacy.

Thank you.