

Informal Meeting of the Plenary on the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters

Regional Representation

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Statement by

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Mr. Chairman,

Malta would like first of all to reiterate the inter-connectedness of the five key-issues identified in Decision 62/557. These five-key issues are inextricably linked and must be considered as forming part of an all-inclusive package. Any consideration of any of these issues must ensure a coherent and cohesive progression on the other key issues.

It is to be noted from the proposals under consideration that each region is promoting an increase in the seats in the region of which fall under their constituency. Each region is describing the reason why it should be so – fair and equitable, adequate, enhanced, legitimate, increased and enhanced, current insufficient, and under-representation.

The suggestions and proposals on the table clearly indicate that there is direct link between regional representation and categories of an enlarged Council. The fact that the proposals submitted under this key issue of 'Regional Representation' in their majority, if not all, are also proposing the number of seats to be allocated to each regional group and even in some cases the number of seats to be allocated in the categories, whether permanent or non-permanent or longer-term seats, clearly shows that all proponents believe and agree that there is a direct and real link of the five key issues. In fact, size, categories, equitable geographical distribution are the running themes of this key issue. What we are all saying is that we cannot agree on one issue without agreeing on the others! The veto and working methods as well as the relationship between the UNSC and UNGA must also be agreed to if we are to have a valid and effective enlarged Security Council.

The issue of regional representation is specifically linked to the issue of size of an enlarged Council. It is to be recalled that since the last enlargement of the Security Council in 1965, 75 countries have become UN Members with most of them small States. This dramatic increase, in particular of small States, requires that the Security Council become more reflective of this situation and ensure that all the 192 Member States can really claim and declare ownership of the Security Council.

We also all recognize the fact that small States have increased in all regional groups since the large enlargement, and therefore in any regional distribution to be agreed upon not only must be equitable but also all Members which compose the current regional grouping must take this development into account. A number of proposals but especially those of China, Norway, Pakistan, and Denmark, propose that small States be given the opportunity to participate in the

work of the Security Council. We welcome these proposals and hope that the legitimate claims of small States in regional representations are upheld and as stated given due cognizance by larger States. As a small State we welcome this morning's statement by the Ambassador of Sierra Leone as Coordinator of the C-10 for and on behalf of the African Group where he said that his Group saw "much merit in ensuring the representation of small including small island developing States and medium sized States cut across regions, on the Council."

Today's discussion on regional representation therefore cannot be detached from the other four key issues.

Our exchanges so far have clearly indicated that the issue of regional representation is closely linked to that of under-representation. We have heard from many delegations that their respective geographical or political groupings are under-represented in the current composition and structure of the Security Council. Malta wishes to once again endorse and support the proposal submitted by Italy and Colombia, as presented in paragraph 3.4. In view of my Delegation, this proposal deals appropriately with these concerns and accommodates the interests and concerns of all States and indeed of all regional groups, based on the principle of equitable geographical representation. The Italy-Colombia proposal is fair and appropriate and should be given serious and further favourable consideration.

My Delegation in this regard also notes with interest the proposals put forward by the African Group, the OIC and the League of Arab States. In particular, the African position stems from a well defined regional consensus and is a position taken by the African Group to address the Group's under-representation. This is why, we express our understanding and strong respect for the African common position and we stand ready to engage actively in further discussions to correct this under-representation.

Before concluding my intervention, my delegation requests your guidance as to how these intergovernmental negotiations are to proceed, in particular when the discussions of our fifth round of negotiations come to an end. Whilst my delegation wishes to convey its support and cooperation for a successful conclusion of this fifth round of negotiations, at the same time we entrust that you will conduct the exercise of a second revised version of the document with the utmost continued transparency and fairness as you have done so far. Besides being vigilant to any attempts to accelerate the decision-making process to the detriment of the sovereign equality of States, you will ensure that the necessary time for all delegations be given to review the first draft of the second revised version of the document. At this delicate juncture of our discussions, it would be prudent to move forward cautiously and with responsibility.

Thank you.