

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

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United Nations, New York

Statement by

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of Malta to the United Nations**

Mr. President,

My Delegation wishes to express its appreciation for your initiative to convene this informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly to continue our discussions on the intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council. In your letter dated 18 October 2010, you have requested in particular to hear the views of Member States on how to move the process forward, and I would therefore like to present a number of points in an attempt to address your request.

Malta welcomes the smooth transition from the 64th Session to the 65th Session of the intergovernmental negotiations in the General Assembly, including the transmission of the Second Negotiating Text which is a correct reflection of the positions expressed by Member States throughout these negotiations. In this regard, I would like to express our satisfaction at the reappointment of H.E. Zahir Tanin as Facilitator of our negotiations.

We continue to strongly believe that that any agreements reached in the intergovernmental negotiations must form part of a whole package which would thus build a sound and long-term arrangement. I would therefore like to reiterate my Delegation's premise and understanding that all five key issues identified in Decision 62/557 are inextricably linked and must be considered as forming part of one package. Any consideration of any one of these issues must ensure a coherent and cohesive progression on the other key issues. It is therefore the understanding of my delegation that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

As in all negotiations, our discussions have to be conducted with a spirit of compromise. In this regard, my Delegation would like to stress the flexibility that has been shown by the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) Group which is the only Group that has moved forward from its original position through the Colombia-Italy proposal of 20 April 2009 of a new negotiating platform during these intergovernmental negotiations. Indeed, we hope that our Groups and countries would be able to show the same spirit of flexibility and to come forward with positions that can bridge the differing views. My Delegation believes that any process should continue to be conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner and which would lead towards a solution that can garner the widest possible acceptance of Member States.

Malta wishes to reiterate its strong support to the UfC Platform which provides for regular non-permanent seats, including for small and medium sized States, as well as longer-term seats. This represents an important step forward and a major compromise from the original 2005 position of the UfC. In the view of my Delegation, this proposal deals appropriately and takes into account all concerns and accommodates the interests and concerns of all States, if not also, of all regional groups, based on the principle of equitable geographical representation. We believe that this proposal is fair and appropriate and should be given serious and further favourable consideration.

In your letter of 18 October 2010, you made an important statement, namely that, you were struck by the overwhelming number of calls to move decisively forward on this critical issue. Mr. President, my delegation can say that Malta, along with the other Members of the UfC, can and should be counted as forming part of this overwhelming number.

Here it is relevant to point out that, President Treki and Ambassador Tanin, had made frequent calls for Groups of countries and delegations to submit proposals that could contribute towards compromise solutions. Mr. President, the UfC have responded enthusiastically with an innovative and credible proposal contained in document A/64/CRP.1 dated 21 January 2010 first presented by Colombia and Italy in April 2009. The UfC, and I am sure the participants in the Intergovernmental Negotiations, are still awaiting other possible compromise proposals and in this regard for other delegations to move from their original positions. We can then say that the Intergovernmental Negotiations are truly on track.

Your continuous leadership and guidance on how we intend to proceed with the negotiations is crucial and most welcome. Whilst acknowledging the uphill task that lays ahead of you, my Delegation wishes to convey its support and cooperation for a successful continuation of our negotiations. I am sure that your experience will further our negotiations in a transparent and open manner perhaps through a road-map of our programme of work for the next twelve months, and that you will allow sufficient time for delegations to prepare themselves accordingly.

Whilst fully concurring with the idea to move forward with our discussions, my Delegation wishes to underline the complexity of the process which we, as Member States, are undertaking and leading. The General Assembly is the only legitimate forum to decide the reform of the Security Council and, in this context, we remain committed to finding a comprehensive negotiated solution. Progress in one cluster will inevitably affect progress in the other. It is therefore necessary to see the whole and comprehensive reform package on all the five key issues as identified in Decision 62/557 and which would reach universal consensus.

My delegation would like again to commit itself 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.