

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 related to the Council

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Statement by

H.E. Mr. Saviour F. Borg
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Malta to the United Nations

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation would like to thank you for convening this first exchange of the sixth round of Intergovernmental Negotiations.

In this regard, we welcome your statement that “this exchange will revolve around all chapters of the negotiation text.” Indeed, Mr. Chairman, my Delegation continues to strongly believe that any agreements reached in these 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 attempts to de-link the five key issues will be opposed by my Delegation.

Notwithstanding the concrete suggestions on how to rationalize the text offered by Member States in the fifth round, Malta is still of the view that these same suggestions do not yet provide an valid response to the genuine and doable UfC Platform which takes into account the inextricable link of all the five key issues of the negotiations. Unfortunately, what has been offered is organizational transposition of language and not substantive compromise texts! On the other hand the UfC Platform represents a step forward and a major compromise on substantive issues contained in the original 2005 position of the UfC. My delegation is therefore is still waiting for a similar genuine and doable proposal from other Member States. We hope that other Groups and countries would be able to show the same spirit of flexibility as shown by the UfC and to come forward with positions that can bridge the divergent positions which still separate us.

It is to be recalled that the UfC Platform provides for regular non-permanent seats, including for small and medium sized States, as well as longer-term seats. It also includes a provision for a non-permanent seat to be allocated to small States with a population below one million. This is the only proposal on the table so far which would fulfill the aspirations of over forty small States, irrespective of their geographic location and whatever their level of development, by specifically proposing one seat to be allocated for small States in an enlarged UN Security Council.

While we have no problem to having a ‘leaner’ text as you have described it, at the same time my delegation feels that any leaner text must in no way diminish or marginalize the substantive nature of the important proposals contained in the UfC Platform. Therefore until a compromise package is reached, the contents of the UfC Platform should continue to feature in any revised text which you intend to distribute in the future.

The guiding light of our negotiations must continue to be our common endeavour to have a Council that is more representative and more accountable. For a number of reasons my Delegation, therefore, continues to object to the expansion in the permanent category and the use of the veto. My Delegation still holds the view that the addition of new permanent members would perpetuate the use of veto powers and would make the Council less democratic, less representative, less transparent, less effective and less accountable. Malta also disagrees with the premature claims by a number of delegations that the expansion in both categories enjoys the support of a so-called majority” of the membership. This process which we are undertaking in these Intergovernmental Negotiations must ensure that the engagement and inclusiveness of the wider UN membership is encouraged so that ownership of decision and action being taken by a few would have the support of all the 192 countries.

My Delegation wishes to endorse fully your reiteration that the process of our discussions and proposals on a reformed Security Council is that this process continues to be led and driven by Member-States. It therefore came as a surprise to us that you make reference in your letter of 24 November 2010 to the add-on paper, which as Member States would recall did not enjoy the support of the Membership. Indeed, the add-on paper did not form part of the negotiation text that was transmitted from the 64th Session to the 65th Session of the General Assembly. Malta firmly believes that such a paper should be applied only with the consent of the Member State, or States, whose language is affected.

My Delegation supports the view that we could start working on the less contentious parts of the text in which a certain degree of commonality prevails among the various positions on the table, without prejudice to the inter-linkages of the five key issues. In doing so, we should maintain the principle that any consideration of any one of these issues must ensure a coherent and cohesive progression on the other key issues. The understanding of my delegation is that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

Malta shares your hope and that of other Member States that we should continue building on the substantial progress achieved so far. My Delegation also agrees with your comments that “this structure will allow this open text to continue to evolve”. And more importantly, that such an involvement should be “fair, balanced, comprehensive and membership-driven.”

Our exchanges should therefore continue to be open, transparent and inclusive, thus leading to a solution that can garner the widest possible acceptance of Member States.

Thank you.