



IGN Negotiations – UNGA 78th Session, 13 December 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Adam Kuymizakis

Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Malta welcomes this first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Security Council reform for the 78th Session of the General Assembly. As the General Assembly prepares for the Summit of the Future in September 2024, you both can count on my delegation's support to take this crucial process forward.

Malta subscribes to the statement delivered by Italy on behalf of the United for Consensus Group (UfC), and would like to add the following in a national capacity.

As we embark in a constructive and committed manner in this new session, and build on the previous session, Malta reiterates that the IGN remains the sole legitimate negotiating setting in which to advance the reform of the Security Council.

The strength in this process is undoubtedly the inclusive and transparent process, which takes into account the voices of all Member States.



Advancing comprehensive reform should be our collective objective and an urgent one too; one that seeks a more representative, democratic, transparent, accountable and effective Security Council.

We believe the only way to achieve this is an enlargement to the elected (non-permanent) category only, giving priority to underrepresented regions. This will ensure an equitable geographic representation. Alongside the expansion of the number of elected seats, the proposal for a creation of non-permanent seats whose terms would be longer than the current two years would also go a long way in addressing the issue of representation. The expansion to new elected members from less represented regions going hand in hand with the principle of **regional representation**. Our aim should be to strive for the legitimate aspirations of all Member States and regions.

Addressing the use of the veto must be at the heart of this process. The credibility of the Council is at stake - less democratic and less effective as we have recently seen. Further extending the veto to more States would only further obstruct and undermine the Council's responsibility of maintenance of intentional peace and security. Malta supports the initiatives to limit the use of veto.

As regards the size of the Council, discussions to date demonstrated that a Council with up to mid-twenty membership is a relevant convergence among MS and negotiating groups and Malta agrees with this.



Reforming the Security Council should also include measures aimed at innovating its working methods, including reforming the decision-making mechanisms, and making them more flexible, inclusive and transparent. At the same time, we also need to fully implement the mechanisms already at the disposal of the Council such as Article 27 (3) - which states that a party to a dispute in the Council (including both permanent and elected members) shall abstain from voting in decisions under Chapter VI Article 52 (3).

In conclusion, I reiterate that Malta will work towards reaching a convergence on the main issues of reform. Never before have Member States and the UN System been under so much scrutiny by the public. Only by working together to reach a compromise can we demonstrate that the United Nations is as relevant today as it was before and will remain at the heart of the multilateral system.

Thank you.