



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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Statement

By

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On behalf of the L69 Group

For

Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform

December 13, 2023

United Nations

New York

Thank you for giving me the floor. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the L.69, a diverse, pro-reform group of cross-regional developing countries, united by a common desire for reform of the Security Council that safeguards its credibility, representativeness, transparency, democracy and effectiveness.

We begin by recalling the letter dated 21 November 23, in which the Co-Chairs outlined the process for this session of the IGN, which includes a structured dialogue on the models proposed by States and Groups, and efforts to ensure that our work in the IGN is both conducive to, and reflected in, any Security Council Reform-related outcome of the 2024 Summit of the Future. The L.69 has repeatedly expressed its concern that the framework within which these negotiations have taken place has not been facilitatory to progress; therefore, we welcome this constructive and innovative approach. To this end, we encourage Member States and Groups to be open and flexible in their engagement to avoid impeding or obstructing any potential progress that could be made during this session. Accordingly, during the discussion on the various models, we trust that Delegations and Groups would not merely reiterate their well-known positions, as such repetitive rhetoric will only serve to constrain our discourse. It is instead crucial that Member States be prepared to elucidate the rationales for their various positions on each cluster. This is the only way to allow for a deeper understanding and greater engagement on the models that could foster a more enriching experience and possibly lead to a reconciliation of divergences on substantive issues and allow for a more fruitful negotiation process.

Once again, this session of the IGN is unfolding against the backdrop of existing and rapidly evolving conflicts that have wide-reaching consequences and have further exposed the Council's

defects. The result of this is heightened public skepticism regarding the relevance and utility of the United Nations, more specifically the Security Council. At the core of the Council's ineffectiveness and inability to discharge its mandate is its structural deficiency, which fails to reflect of today's geopolitical landscape and is insufficiently representative of the current membership of the United Nations. Consequently, it is impossible for the Council's deliberations to benefit from a geographically diverse range of contributions. Currently, the majority of the Council's outcomes are skewed in favour of the Global North, reflecting their ambitions, experiences and objectives. This systemic imbalance comes at the expense of the Global South, which remains wholly underrepresented and significantly marginalized. Today, there is no legitimate justification for that. Any argument against an expansion of both categories is baseless and stands on shaky ground, lacking fairness and justice. An inclusive, democratic, representative and decolonized Security Council is a precondition for global peace and security. The extent to which we can safeguard these characteristics will have a direct impact on the extent to which the Security Council could shoulder its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, on behalf of the membership of the United Nations. Our inaction determines the capacity of our world to contend with a host of complex and rapidly evolving and emerging threats and challenges.

Co-Chairs, Excellencies,

Today's meeting focuses on the five clusters, which have been acknowledged by Member States and Groups as being inextricably interlinked. We therefore welcome this comprehensive discussion on them. Although the Co-Chairs have urged delegations to focus on the new aspects of their positions, due to the delay in commencing negotiations on substance, the positions of

Groups and delegations on the 5 clusters have undergone little to no deviation over the years. The lack of an opportunity to compromise and exchange in a give and take make repetition unavoidable. As such, the L.69's position is clear. First and foremost, in order to meet the exigencies of the 21st century, the Security Council must be expanded in both categories of membership. This expansion is the only way to do away with a relic of the past and ensure that the Council is appropriately inclusive and representative, including of Small Island Developing States. Moreover, this is the only way to fully operationalize and safeguard the concepts of "equitable geographic distribution" and "regional representation". We also continue to unwaveringly support the Common African Position, as espoused in the Sirte Declaration and Ezulwini Consensus, and echo that, while we advocate for the abolition of the veto, we also recognize that, in the spirit of what is fair, just and equitable, extending the veto to new permanent members is non-negotiable.

Before concluding, we reiterate our support to the Co-Chairs and express our hope that the Co-Chairs, in conjunction with Members States, would endeavour towards preserving the spirit of the mandate of our work as set out within General Assembly Decision 62/557. In this vein, it is our expectation that the IGN can orient itself during this session to the preparation of a consolidated document, with attribution and actionable language, that can serve as the basis for our negotiations. As with any process within the United Nations, this is the tried and tested way in which we have successfully adopted outcomes, in spite of deep political divides and geopolitical discord. The L.69 will continue to work constructively with all Groups and delegations, as well as with the Co-Chairs, to find compromise solutions that garner the widest possible political acceptance, the threshold clearly established in Decision 62/557.

I thank you.