

**78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**First meeting of 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  
(13 December 2023)**

**Opening intervention on behalf of the G4 by Ambassador Sérgio  
França Danese, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN**

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Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies,  
colleagues,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the G4 –  
India, Germany, Japan, and my own country, Brazil.

I welcome the presence of the President of the  
General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Denis Francis, at today's  
inaugural IGN meeting of the 78th session of the  
General Assembly.

The G4 expresses its support to the way the Co-  
Chairs proposed to organize this IGN cycle,  
especially the structured dialogue on the models  
presented by individual States and groups of States.  
Such a discussion, based on written proposals, will  
deepen our understanding of each other's positions  
and hopefully help to find convergences.

We must also capitalize on the momentum created by the record number of leaders who recognized the need for reform of the Security Council at the last General Debate. Moreover, key events, such as the upcoming Summit of the Future and the UN's 80th anniversary, provide us with a unique opportunity to achieve tangible results.

It is high time to move to text-based discussions, as we have said time and again. This is the only way to initiate a real negotiating process capable of bringing together divergent positions. As the Security Council is called upon to respond to increasingly complex and challenging global issues, it is our collective responsibility to avoid another wasted year of fruitless deliberations. Failure to do so would call into question the continued relevance and credibility of the IGN process.

Dear Co-Chairs,

In your letter of 21 November 2023, you invited Member States to share their views on the five

clusters of the IGN process and suggested that delegations focus on new elements in their positions, rather than restating those that are now registered in the repository.

The G4 commends you for this suggestion. As all five clusters are interlinked, we do see merit in discussing them in an integrated format, while avoiding repetition of known positions. The G4 also encourages more interactive debates, in order to test members' positions and flexibilities.

Turning to substance, the model to be adopted for the expansion of the Security Council remains the central issue for the reform. It is clear that the overwhelming majority of the membership is in favour of expanding the Council in both categories of membership. This model has been supported by, among others, the African Group, the Arab Group, CARICOM, the L69, the G4, the Nordic countries, the Benelux countries, four of the five permanent members, as well as many other members. The 2015 Framework Document also shows that more than 120

Member States support the expansion of the Council in both categories.

The current composition of the Security Council, with its glaring underrepresentation of key regions, such as Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, is detrimental to its legitimacy and effectiveness. The Council's inability to address critical conflicts and maintain international peace and security underscores the urgent need for its reform. Any reform that does not address the lack of representation, particularly in the permanent category, would only exacerbate the current imbalances in the Council's composition and render it ill-equipped to address today's international challenges.

Equitable geographical representation, in particular the inclusion of regions such as Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in the permanent category, is essential for a legitimate and effective Council. In this vein, the G4 reaffirms its strong support to the Common African Position.

On the optimal size of an enlarged Security Council, the G4 welcomes that most countries support a total number of members in the mid-20s. In particular, the G4 proposes an expansion that brings the total number of seats to 25 or 26 members. Concerning the non-permanent members, we stress that due consideration should be given especially to the small and medium-states as well as to the Small Island Development States.

The G4's position on the veto is well known and is set out in the 2015 Framework Document. The frequent deadlock in Council decision-making due to the excessive use of the veto on issues of paramount importance for international peace and security has continuously undermined the credibility of the body. The G4 welcomes initiatives to limit the use of the veto in certain circumstances, such as those mentioned in the "Political Declaration on the Suspension of the Veto in Cases of Mass Atrocity" initiated by France and Mexico.

Co-Chairs,

The G4's views on all five clusters of Security Council reform are detailed in the 2015 Framework Document, which provides a sound model for reform. We join the majority of Member States in calling for a reformed Security Council that is more representative of the UN membership, with members elected through a Charter-based democratic process. Under the model we advocate, any Member State is welcome to be a candidate for a new permanent seat on a reformed Council, to be elected in a General Assembly election, on the basis of its own merit and capacity to assume this responsibility.

We look forward to our interactive session tomorrow, to have a deeper exchange of views on these issues.

I thank you.