



**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**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**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

**New York, 13 December 2023**

*Distinguished Co-Chairs,*

I would like to thank Ambassador Albanai and Ambassador Marschik for setting the scene for the IGN process during the 78<sup>th</sup> session and for convening today's meeting. We commend the well-conceived program that has been put forth, recognizing its potential to catalyze much-needed progress. The realization of this opportunity lies in the hands of Member States.

We recognize and applaud the progress made in enhancing the transparency of the IGN process through the webcast and repository. We would like to emphasize, however, the urgent necessity for concrete aligning positions on the reform. Given the ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine, the conflict in Gaza, and escalating global tensions, reforming the UN Security Council is among the most imperative tasks facing us today. This becomes even more pivotal in the lead-up to the Summit for the Future.

*Co-Chairs,*

In response to your suggestion to concentrate on new elements fostering a deeper understanding of positions, I shall be concise, focusing on key points.

We need a reform which will make the Council more flexible and representative. We confirm our openness for discussion on the number as well as the distribution of seats in the enlarged Council so that the shape of the Council mirrors the contemporary world. Crucially, the reform we seek should minimize the need for future revisions. The current IGN process shows how difficult and complex the process of reforming the Council is. Saying so, let me underline that the way to achieve this is to increase the number of non-permanent members being subject to the election process, hence a democratic procedure allowing to strengthen the Council's ability to adapt as the world's geopolitics changes. We should not aim to cement the Council in a refreshed way, we should make it more democratic and adaptable.

We commend the positive contributions of the E10 countries, underscoring the need to enlarge the Council with non-permanent members to capture diverse global perspectives. This involvement is a strong argument for the need to enlarge the membership with non-permanent members. Considerations on potential longer terms should not be confined to specific regional groups, as valuable input and ambitions are distributed across the globe.

*Co-Chairs,*

We frequently draw upon historical arguments, and I'm confident that our libraries are brimming with history books. Why not leverage this wealth of knowledge? Reflecting on the League of Nations, we recall that, in practice, each member state held veto power. The UN Charter represented progress by conferring veto power solely upon the five states permanently seated in the Council. Aligning with this historical trajectory, we propose continued restrictions on the veto power rather than its expansion. History also teaches us, that so called "temporary solutions" tend to be long-lasting or event persistent. We support limiting the use of veto and introducing additional mechanisms to ensure the Security Council can promptly take necessary action.

*Co-Chairs,*

We see a pressing need to steer our work towards developing of a single consolidated text, building upon the work done so far and clearly outlining the most updated areas of convergence. Adding this element to the process will make the discussion on the reform more structured and will allow for easier tracking of the progress.

To conclude: persistent deadlocks erode international confidence in the Security Council's effectiveness and legitimacy. A more representative, efficient, and inclusive Council is paramount. We need the Council to be democratic and adaptable. We can achieve that through an increase in elected members and a limitation on veto power. Let's translate these widely supported solutions into a text and make a much-needed progress. As the current situation in the world shows, we are already quite late. The time for reforming the Council is now.

*Thank you.*