



# PHILIPPINES

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## STATEMENT

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council

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Deputy Permanent Representative

13 December 2023

Mr. President,

The Philippines reiterates its support for this process and to the co-facilitators as we continue to engage on Security Council reform, which is a fundamental pillar in strengthening multilateralism.

In the last round of the IGN process, we welcomed the introduction of webcasting and the beginning of a digital repository for the IGN process, which contributed to strengthening transparency in this endeavor.

For the steps toward more progress in the IGN, the Philippines would like to reiterate the following:

**First**, the enlargement of the Security Council with due regard to equitable and balanced geographical distribution is long overdue.

The current Security Council has been in its present form since 1966.

An expanded and more representative Security Council should be realized to make it more responsive to the rapidly evolving global security architecture and 21<sup>st</sup> century geopolitical realities.

**Second**, a new Security Council structure with a balanced increase in non-permanent members, potentially 27, reflecting the needs of underrepresented regions, should be explored. This approach ensures inclusivity while maintaining the Council's effectiveness in decision-making. The Philippines is open to participating in discussions concerning the composition of permanent members on the Security Council.

The new Security Council should address existing deficiencies in equitable representation of regions not adequately represented in the Security Council, including Africa, Latin America, and the Asia-Pacific. The increase in membership should allow for fair and equitable representation of all regional groups.

The new Security Council should not just improve representation, but should be able to act swiftly and decisively, with the highest standards of accountability, coherence, transparency and fidelity to the trust accorded to it by the greater UN membership.

**Third**, the veto power, in its current form, often hinders the Council's ability to act swiftly on critical issues. The Security Council's difficulties in handling crises such as Myanmar in 2021, Russia-Ukraine in 2022, and this year, Israel-Hamas, reflect a more polarized world and the conflicting interests of its permanent members. This highlights the urgent need for reforms, especially in the veto process, to better address global conflicts.

The veto should not paralyze the Security Council in dealing with issues concerning peace and war. No Member State should be granted the special privilege to exercise the veto power as this is in direct contravention of the principle of sovereign equality of all UN Member States as enshrined in the Charter.

We reiterate our support to the ACT Code of Conduct and the French-Mexican initiative that spell out exceptions to the use of the veto power.

**Fourth**, as part of improving the working methods of the Security Council, the Security Council should aim at more participation by non-members in the Security Council's decision-making process. There should be more transparency and accountability of the Security Council to non-members.

**Fifth**, we note that there has been a long-standing proposal to move towards text-based negotiations. The Philippines notes that having one document to look at will help bring a sense of movement and progress after years and years of discussions over the same clusters of reform topics.

What may be considered as an option at this point is adopting a time-guided, flexible, building block approach to negotiations. This could include informal dialogues and thematic debates, progressing to non-binding brainstorming sessions, and eventually to more formal methods as consensus builds, ensuring a dynamic and responsive intergovernmental process.

In the spirit of advancing discussions on Security Council reform, we recognize the differing perspectives regarding attribution and record-keeping in our deliberations. We propose that the records of these discussions, while not attributing specific statements to individual states or groups, should be sufficiently detailed to reflect the breadth and depth of the conversations, ensuring that all perspectives are represented and acknowledged. This method aims to foster an environment of trust and mutual respect, crucial for meaningful progress in our negotiations.

Mr. President,

The Philippines remains committed to the ongoing dialogue for Security Council reform, and we recognize the need for more concrete and actionable measures to break the longstanding impasse. Facilitating these steps will help us move forward.

Thank you, Mr. President.