



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS**

**AT**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON SECURITY  
COUNCIL REFORM**

**NEW YORK, DECEMBER 13-14, 2023**

## **Co-Chairs**

We join other delegations to congratulate you on your reappointment as Co-Chairs of the IGN process, we count on your leadership and look forward to a more robust and positive engagement. It is important to leverage on the successes of the previous session and continue to build on and to consolidate on the gains to move the process forward. My delegation aligns itself in support of the statement by the Distinguished Representative of Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group and the Distinguished Representative of Saint Vincent and Grenadines for the group of L. 69.

## **Co-Chairs**

2. It is apparent that in the context of the prevailing global geopolitical security situation, we need to urgently conclude this process. The current geopolitical tension, the tragic war in Ukraine and the unfolding situation in the Middle East call for a more transformed and transparent multilateral system. The world has become more divided; it is our collective responsibility to bring hope to the wounded world. We must muster the desired political will and courage that can lead to the achievement of a transformed system that is based on sovereign equality, adherence to the principles of democratization and inclusiveness.

3. Nigeria remains fully committed to the efforts to ensure a comprehensive reform of the United Nations system, that will contribute to upholding its principles, objectives, and ideals. Nigeria reiterates its adherence to the Common African Position on the reform of the Security Council. The key elements of the Common African Position on the clusters as outlined in Decision 62/557 on the reform of the Security Council should continue to be the basis for our discussions. We thank the Co-Chairs for the further revised version of the Elements paper. However, more clarity is required on areas of divergence and convergence.

### **Co-Chairs**

4. Africa has proposed an expansion on both the permanent and non-permanent seats to 26 memberships: comprising six new permanent veto-wielding seats and five new non-permanent seats. This includes two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership and the right of veto and two additional non-permanent seats for Africa. More recently the veto has become a weapon for interest, that is why Africa believes that the veto be abolished, but if it remains, it should be extended to all the new members in the permanent category.

5. There should be the right to fair and equitable geographical representation in the Security Council. Africa is the only region not represented at the Council. It is therefore imperative to correct the imbalances and historical injustices the region continues to suffer, in addition to the inability of the Security Council to respond adequately to the geo-political realities and the continuing security challenges of the continent. The Council is deprived of the valuable contributions to be made by a geographically diverse range of voices. An expanded structure is necessary to ensure the full participation of the region in the decisions of the Council, as well as to instill much needed values, restore confidence, enhance the legitimacy of the work of the Security Council and contribute to peace and security.

### **Co-Chairs**

6. In conclusion I submit that the African view is that a restructured, representative, and responsible multilateral system as set out in Article 24(1) of the Charter reflecting the current membership of the United Nations is necessary. The current configuration of the Council has underrepresented and marginalised Africa and the South for too long. In addition, it is important that the Council adapt working methods that ensure transparent, efficient, and accountable

functioning of the system in a manner that protects the  
Common interest of us all.

I thank you.