



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

MALDIVES

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**Statement by
Maldives
at the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on the Question of equitable
representation on the increase in the membership of the Security Council and
matters related to the Security Council:**

Negotiations to reinforce and build convergence

13-14 December 2023

Thank you, Distinguished Co-Chairs,

1. My delegation wishes to thank the Permanent Representatives of State of Kuwait and the Republic of Austria for the convening this meeting, in their capacities as the Co-Chairs of the IGN. I also wish to affirm the full commitment and support of the Maldives to the comprehensive work undertaken by the Co-Chairs to ensure the efficacy and effectiveness of the Security Council.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

2. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the letter of 21 November 2023, outlining the proposed process for the IGN meetings of the 78th Session of the General Assembly, with the intention to understand the interlinkages and connections among the five clusters of IGN negotiations.
3. This is the 16th year of the IGN process; it is crucial reminder that we have come a long way. Over the years, the positions of the Maldives have become well established on each of the clusters and are now part of the repository established by the Co-Chairs. Allow me to highlight the key aspects of our positions.

i. The Maldives supports for the expansion of Security Council Membership in both permanent and non-permanent seats. A key aspect of the Council reform must be to address the concepts of equitable geographical distribution and concerns of those regions that are underrepresented in the Security Council.



- ii. *Second, we welcome the wider support expressed at the IGN deliberations for the continuous representation of Small Island Developing States and small states in an expanded Security Council. A dedicated seat for SIDS at the Security Council, we believe, is a step forward in the right direction of reform. We also welcome broader support from Member States for redressing the historical injustice against Africa as a priority.*
- iii. *Third, as a member of the ACT, Maldives strongly advocates limiting the exercise of veto power to matters involving mass atrocities and the peace and security of the international community.*
- iv. *Fourth we must ensure that newly elected members of the Council adhere to the UN's principles and work towards maintaining peace and security as constituted in the United Nations Charter. It is also our view that any decision at the United Nations, including the reform of UNSC, must be based on equitable representation, transparency and accountability. Therefore, as long as veto rights exist, the Maldives believes that new permanent members should as a principle have the same rights and obligations as current permanent members regarding the exercise of veto power and this is why we must move beyond the status quo.*

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

4. The Maldives appreciates the decision to webcast the IGN meetings as well as the establishment of a specific website to act as a document bank. We believe that this would further promote the transparency of the process. We also support the substantial use of guiding questions and 'unformal meetings', allowing space for substantial discussions that would go beyond repetitive prepared statements.
5. We also support the proposal to conduct a structured dialogue in additional plenary meetings of the IGN to discuss models by individual Member States, regional groups, and other groupings of Member States. We believe this approach would add value to the process, shaping dialogue that would not only multiply but produce holistic input for areas of convergence.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

6. The Security Council has been entrusted with the mandate of upholding global peace and security in line with the UN Charter. However, in recent times the Council's performance has garnered scrutiny and raised questions on its credibility. We continue to observe the Council in paralysis; unable to act and fulfill its responsibilities in a meaningful manner, most notably during the ongoing



Israeli aggression against innocent Palestinians. There is a lack of consensus among the Council to call for a humanitarian ceasefire in the face of blatant violations of humanitarian law and the undeniable sufferings of innocent civilians in Gaza. This itself underscores the urgent need to reform the Council, without doubt. Consequently, we bring attention to the need for a change in the status quo, given the veto power erodes public confidence in the United Nations, impedes the cessation of atrocities, while provoking doubts on the value of multilateralism itself.

7. Given the current 'inaction' in the Security Council, we believe that the Council's reform has become a crucial aspect of any broader discussion on the reform of the United Nations. As a result, we support the proposal that the IGN negotiations be reflected in the outcome of the Summit of the Future.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Moving forward, it is also critical to focus on real progress in IGN negotiations.

8. My delegation echoes the repeated calls by many other delegations to ensure the current negotiations move towards a single consolidated text. As the IGN progresses, our view is to incorporate the positions of the Member States and Groups in this negotiating text with attributions.
9. However, we acknowledge the presence of alternative views on this matter. The challenge lies in advancing the process. To initiate this, the Maldives proposes that the outcome document of IGN's 78th Session reflect the Member States' understanding of Convergence and Divergence. In essence, after articulating our positions and engaging in extensive discussions, the document should not merely reflect the Co-Chairs' viewpoints. We believe the adoption of this approach will enhance ownership, transparency, and accountability – principles that must continue to guide the work of the IGN.



Distinguished Co-Chairs,

10. The Maldives stands firm in its belief that every member, irrespective of size, plays a crucial role in global peace and development. In this context, we stand ready to make our contributions as we delve into discussions focusing individual clusters in the coming year.

11. To conclude, the Maldives believes that the Security Council should reflect the realities of today's world. Reform is necessary to ensure that the Security Council can effectively address both traditional and non-traditional security threats. We are hopeful that the progress we make would enable us to move from mere rhetoric to concrete actions and practical solutions. We are hopeful to witness the transformation of the Security Council to an institution that truly represents all regions and diverse perspectives.

I thank you.