



THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY
Minister Counsellor Nguyen Hoang Nguyen, Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations
at the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiations
on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of
the Security Council and related matters

26-27 December 2023

Co-Chairs,

Viet Nam wishes to join other delegations in congratulating you for your re-appointment to lead the IGN during the Seventy-eighth session. We are confident that under your able leadership and hard work, the IGN will carry the momentum gained from your successful chairmanship last year into the new Session.

Co-Chairs,

What we have witnessed over the past 10 weeks in the Middle East and at the UN, more than ever, underscores the urgent need to reform the Security Council. In order for the Council to be more effective in discharging its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, it needs to be transformed to better adapt and ensure its relevance with today's realities. It also needs to be made more representative, accountable and responsive.

To that end, my delegation supports the Co-Chair's decision to include and focus on the 3 key elements as indicated in their letter of November 21st. We believe that is a well thought out attempt to make the process this year more result-oriented, especially as the upcoming Summit of the Future has been considered by many as a good opportunity to instill new life to the Security Council reform process.

Co-Chairs,

On today's main topic, we find it sensible and appropriate for IGN meetings to address the 5 inter-connected clusters in a comprehensive manner.

In this regard, aware of the urge not to over-repeat our positions, my delegation would still like to highlight the following points:

First, Viet Nam maintains its consistent view that the expansion of the Security Council needs to apply to both categories of membership in a manner that ensures equitable representation, especially for the developing countries.

The increase in the membership of the Council for each region should correspond to their respective proportion in the membership of the United Nations. As currently the most under-represented regions, Africa and the Asia-Pacific should be given more seats in the reformed Council.

Second, we renew our longstanding call for the Council to conduct more public meetings. Closed consultations should be kept to a minimum and as exceptions.

Coordination between the Council and other principal organs of the UN, particularly the General Assembly, must be further strengthened, including through more regular consultations and reports, especially on matters that concern the majority of the wider UN membership.

Last but not least, drawing from the recent events, the use of the veto should be restrained and limited to only measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to assure the Co-Chair of Viet Nam's full support and commitment to engaging constructively in this very important process.

I thank you./.