



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**STATEMENT**

BY

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COMMITTEE OF TEN – ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

**FIRST MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE  
“QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED  
TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL” ON THE FIVE CLUSTERS MENTIONED IN  
PARAGRAPH (E) (II) OF UNGA DECISION 62/557**

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**Co-Chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Union Member States.
2. Given the current geopolitical realities, violence and war continue to spread in regions across the world, while the United Nations seems paralyzed to take action due largely to the divisions in the Security Council. It is indeed useful to discuss how renewed momentum can be given to the IGN process and to instill life in the discussions of the reform of the Security Council.
3. As we are committed to instill life in the IGN discussions, we need to focus, with pragmatism, on what can be achieved during this session, especially against the backdrop of the ongoing conflicts and the persistent divergence in the different views and positions of Member States and interest groups on models of reform, as well as differences on procedural matters.

4. In view of the foregoing, we note with appreciation the overwhelming support the Common African Position (CAP) has garnered in the IGN process as well as the persistent call to correct the historical injustice done to Africa. Addressing the non-representation of Africa in the permanent category and under-representation in the non-permanent category of the UN Security Council should be treated as a priority and special case in the reform process.
5. Accordingly, on rectifying the historical injustice done to Africa, we propose that any submission by the IGN to the Summit of the Future process, in the Pact of the future on UN Security Council Reform, should include the following: First, the urgent need to rectify the historical injustice done to Africa. Second, that in the reform process, addressing non-representation and underrepresentation of Africa in permanent and non-permanent categories of the UNSC respectively, should be treated as a special case and priority.

**Co-Chairs,**

6. In terms of our positions in the clusters, Africa demands a reform that will ensure its legitimate right to fair and

equitable geographical representation in an enlarged Security Council. In connection with the cluster on **categories of membership**, Africa calls for an enlargement of the Security Council in both the Permanent and Non-permanent categories, with Africa allocated no less than two Permanent seats with all the rights, prerogatives, and privileges of current members, and two additional non-permanent seats. This remains a matter of common justice and as a means of correcting the existing imbalance of the Council's composition. In this regard, we continue to reject any notion of longer-term seats or intermediate and intermediary models, as they do not seek to address the concerns and demands of the Common African Position.

7. On the question of the **Veto**, we recognize that a number of Member States and interest groups continue to criticize the existence of the Veto, while others oppose outright any extension of the Veto. Africa demands for the abolition of the Veto. However, so long as the Veto continues to exist, it should be extended to new Permanent Members, with all the prerogatives and privileges of Permanent membership, as a matter of common justice. This demand is grounded on ensuring equitable representation on the Security

Council and to have an equal say in decision-making on issues of international peace and security, in particular, matters that affect the African region which make up more than half of the issues on the agenda of the Security Council.

8. On **regional representation**, Africa is the largest region in terms of size, population, and membership of the UN, and given the increasing role and contribution of the African Union to the maintenance of international peace and security, we strongly believe in a reform process that will ensure Africa's legitimate right to a fair and equitable geographical representation in the Security Council. This defines our position on regional representation, which is closely interlinked to our demand for expansion in both the current Permanent and Non-permanent categories of the Security Council, and the need to extend the veto, if retained.
9. With regards to the **Working Methods and size of the Security Council**, Africa's position which was endorsed by the African Union Assembly is reflected in our submission in 2009 to the then Chair of the IGN, as well as into the Framework document of July 2015. The African position

proposes especially in an enlarged structure, an accessible, accountable, transparent, democratic, representative and a more effective Security Council, which gives legitimacy to its decisions and better reflect the current geopolitical realities of the United Nations.

10. Regarding the size of the reformed Council, we have advocated for no less than 26 seats.

11. Furthermore, Africa's position on the cluster on the **Relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly** aims at ensuring that the General Assembly remains the chief deliberative, policy making and representative body of the United Nations. This is also in line with the spirit of the 2005 World Summit outcome document which inter-alia identifies as a priority, the need to ensure that the General Assembly is a truly universal "parliament of nations". We, therefore, believe also, that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly can help ensure that this "Chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations" is more focused, efficient, and relevant.

12. With this conspectus of our positions on the clusters, we note the clear linkages between and among the five clusters particularly on regional representation and the size of an enlarged Security Council. We must also be aware of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations when we are discussing these interlinkages. In view of this, we would like to reiterate, that the IGN should be driven by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the broad principles outlined in paragraphs 152 – 154 of the World Summit Outcome Document of 2005. These principles include equity, democracy, geographical representation, transparency, efficiency, legitimacy, and accountability.

13. In closing, **Co-Chairs**, permit me to reiterate our profound gratitude to Member States and Interest groups for their continual support for the Common African Position. The African Group looks forward to an increase in pace for more frank discussions, with all Member States in an open, transparent, inclusive membership-driven process with a view to achieving progress that will lead to the ultimate realization of making the Security Council more broadly representative, democratic, effective, and transparent in

order to enhance the legitimacy of its decisions. We therefore encourage all Member States and Interest groups to participate in a constructive and transparent manner fully and actively during this session.

14. As we hope to make progress in the reform agenda this year, let me end my remarks by reaffirming that we are ready to work with you, Co-chairs, and Member States and Interest groups to correct the historical injustice done to Africa and to further reform the Security Council to better reflect the geo-political realities of our present world.

15. I Thank you.