



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**
*Permanent Mission of Denmark
to the UN in New York*



27 December 2021

Excellency,

We wish to refer to the letter dated 15 November 2021 by the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Abdulla Shahid, in which he informed Member States of his decision to appoint us as Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform (IGN). We would like to express our appreciation to the President of the General Assembly as well as to the membership for the trust and confidence placed in us to facilitate this important process.

In our capacity as Co-Chairs, we would like to inform you that upon assuming our responsibilities as Co-Chairs of this important task we have conducted a number of informal meetings with interested Members States and Groups of States. We are pleased to inform you that we are ready to convene the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on 8 February 2022 in the General Assembly Hall. It is our intention to hold the meeting in person, fully in line with the COVID-19 mitigation measures regarding the limitations on the presence of delegates in the GA Hall at a given time.

In oral decision 75/569 of 22 June 2021 Member States decided to continue the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform by *“building on the informal meetings held during its seventy-fifth session, as reflected in the letter dated 12 May 2021 from the Co-Chairs, and on the document entitled Co-Chairs’ Elements Paper on Convergences and Divergences on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters, circulated on 29 April 2021, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, reflected in the text and its annex circulated on 31 July 2015, to help to inform its future work.”* Furthermore, in the *Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations* our Heads of State and Government, reiterated a call for reforms of three principal organs of the United Nations and committed to instill new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council.

Recognizing that there is general agreement among the UN membership on the need for and importance of Security Council reform and in order to ensure the continuity of our work, building on the progress achieved so far, and in line with General Assembly decision 62/557, the Co-Chairs invite the membership during our upcoming first meeting to reflect and share their views on how they see the IGN process, including with regard to its current format and procedural matters; on how a renewed momentum can be given to the IGN, also in view of the United Nations Secretary-General’s *Our Common Agenda* report, in which the Secretary-General takes note of the renewed urgency to continuing the intergovernmental negotiations; and in light of the UN75 Political Declaration.

In addition, during the upcoming meeting, we also propose to start our deliberations on substance. Therefore, with a starting point in the Co-Chairs' Elements Paper of 2021, we invite delegations to clarify their positions on the cluster of "Regional Representation", and reflect on the interlinkages with the remaining clusters.

As the session progresses, it is our intention to provide Member States with further updates to the paper in order to provide the best basis for the IGN during the 76th session.

In the first meeting, we encourage delegations to focus their interventions particularly on, but not limited to, the following aspects: i) questions pertaining to cross-regional representation in an enlarged Security Council, especially for small states, Small Island Developing States and Arab States; ii) African representation in a reformed Security Council in line with the Common African Position as reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus; iii) further clarification on the concepts of "equitable geographical distribution" and "regional representation."

Leading up to the meeting, we urge Member States and Groups of States to engage among themselves towards further narrowing differences. We will dedicate the first part to statements from delegations based on the formal list of speakers. After this, we will facilitate an interactive discussion and exchange of views, where we invite delegations to react to each other's interventions.

We also wish to note that further information, including a timeline of the upcoming meetings with dates, will be shared with delegations following the first meeting.

We would like to reaffirm our availability for consultations throughout the process ahead of us in order to ensure its transparency, inclusivity and member-driven nature. We look forward to the active participation and constructive engagement of all delegations both in the forthcoming meeting and during the entire session of the intergovernmental negotiations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Martin Bille Hermann
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the
United Nations



Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the State of
Qatar to the United Nations

Attached: Co'Chairs' Elements Paper on Convergences and Divergences on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters