



Permanent Mission of the  
State of Kuwait to the United Nations  
New York

 Permanent Mission  
of Austria to the  
United Nations in New York

1 May 2024

Excellencies,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as **Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations** on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (**IGN**) during the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

As announced in our letter circulated 29 April 2024, the **fourth informal discussion on the contribution** for the Summit of the Future will be held on **Thursday, 2 May 2024** at the Permanent Mission of Kuwait, 321 E 44th St, New York, NY 10017 from 1.15 -2.45p.m. Please find attached a draft text of the IGN contribution to the Pact for the Future prepared by the IGN Co-Chairs. As mentioned in our letter yesterday, this meeting will provide an opportunity for a first informal discussion and to brainstorm on the proposals put forward by the Co-Chairs.

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

**Tareq Albanai**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the  
State of Kuwait to the United Nations

**Alexander Marschik**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Austria to the United Nations

**To: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations, New York**

## IGN Input SotF –Draft

1. Recalling our appeal for Security Council Reform of 2005 and in response to the growing urgency to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations' abilities to maintain international peace and security as set out in the UN Charter, we declare our commitment to an early reform of the Security Council with the objective of making it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions.
2. We commit to accelerating Security Council reform, in line with SDG 16.8, through 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 Council (IGN) in accordance with decision 62/557 of the General Assembly and support the Member States driven nature of the Security Council reform. We welcome the recent progress achieved in the framework of the IGN, including through more transparency and inclusivity and by enhancing its institutional memory, particularly by the webcasting of parts of the IGN sessions and introducing a repository of the IGN with a dedicated website. We also welcome the structured dialogue on specific models which helped create a more concrete exchange of ideas, enhance the understanding of different positions, and increase convergences among Member States.
3. We acknowledge the convergences identified within the IGN as the foundation for reform, including inter alia that:
  - a. the reform should aim at making the Security Council more inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable;
  - b. the Security Council needs to be enlarged in order to be more representative of the current membership and reflective of the realities of the contemporary world and the enlargement should serve to improve the representation of the underrepresented and unrepresented regions and groups, redress the historical injustice against Africa and increase representation of developing countries and small- and medium-sized states, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and others;
  - c. the reform should include an expansion of the category of 2-year term non-permanent members as part of a comprehensive Security Council reform;
  - d. an enlarged Security Council should consist of a total number of members in the mid-20s, within an overall range of 21-27 seats, with the exact number to emerge from the discussion of Member States on the key issues of "categories of membership" and "regional representation", and with the total size ensuring a balance between the representativeness and effectiveness of an enlarged Council;
  - e. working methods will need to be addressed as a result of expansion, with a view to increasing the transparency, effectiveness, functionality, and accountability of an enlarged Council;
  - f. the question of the veto is a key element of Security Council reform and a significant, growing number of Member States support limitations to the scope and use of the veto;
  - g. as part of a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, the inclusion of a review clause could be considered so as to ensure that the Security Council continues over time to deliver on its mandate and remains fit for purpose.

4. We urge the Security Council to pursue incremental improvements of its working methods, including through the following:
  - a. Committing to actively reinforcing the efforts of the Security Council to continuously review and enhance its working methods as part of its regular activities, with a view to ensuring their effective and consistent implementation, including of Note 507, with a view to increasing the frequency and improving the conduct of Security Council missions, enhancing the opportunities of non-members of the Council to participate in and contribute to the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular concerned States, ensuring the comprehensive involvement of all members of the Security Council in its work, particularly encouraging more significant contributions from elected members such as serving as penholders, fully making use of the different meeting formats available and further intensifying cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations, amongst other issues;
  - b. Fully implementing and adhering to all provisions of the United Nations Charter as they relate to the decision-making process in the UN Security Council, including Art. 27 (3) of the UN Charter;
  - c. Committing to not vote against a credible draft resolution before the Security Council on timely and decisive action to end the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, or to prevent such crimes and in addition for Permanent Members committing to not prevent the Security Council from taking action with the aim of preventing or bringing an end to situations involving the commission of mass atrocities by the use of the veto;
  - d. Strengthening the cooperation and communication between the Security Council and the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission;
  - e. Improving the participation in and access to the work of the Security Council and its subsidiary organs for all members of the General Assembly, to enhance the Council's accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work.
  
5. Resolutely determined to move forward the efforts for achieving a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, we:
  - a. Request the President of the General Assembly to appoint Co-Chairs for the Intergovernmental Negotiations in order to immediately continue negotiations on the 5 clusters based on the convergences identified above and elaborate a consolidated model based on the models presented during the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly and previous sessions as a basis for further discussions;
  - b. call on Member States to provide the President of the General Assembly with the necessary resources to support the process of Security Council reform and in this regard consider the establishment of a dedicated unit in the Office of the President of the General Assembly for the Security Council reform process;
  - c. request the Secretary General to ensure the provision of the necessary expertise, especially through the Office of Legal Affairs, the Security Council Affairs Division and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) as appropriate and as requested by the Co-Chairs and OPGA.
  
6. Until the reform of the Security Council enters into force and in order to ensure an effective response from the United Nations system for the maintenance of international peace and security, we commit to strengthening the General Assembly, fully cognizant that the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly are mutually reinforcing

and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers, and competencies as enshrined in the Charter, including in respect to matters related to international peace and security. Specifically, we encourage the General Assembly to:

- a. Fully implement General Assembly Resolutions 377A(V) (“Uniting for Peace”) and 76/262 (“Veto Initiative”) including by adopting substantive resolutions in the General Assembly during the meetings held under these mechanisms whenever the Security Council fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security;
- b. Adopt a resolution clarifying the interpretation of the term “party to a dispute” in Art. 27 (3) of the UN Charter in order to ensure the full implementation of this provision;
- c. Examine the establishment of a mechanism that ensures automatic consequences in the case of grave violations of the UN Charter.