



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE UNITED NATION**

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

**at the plenary meeting of the 76th session of the General Assembly on agenda item 123
“Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security
Council and other matters related to the Security Council”**

16 November 2021

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this important debate. We welcome the appointment of the Permanent Representatives of the State of Qatar and Denmark as Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Security Council reform and look forward to working with them during the session.

The reform of the Security Council is in the interest of Member States, the United Nations system and the international community as a whole. This interest arises from serious threats and challenges facing the world and the functions of the Security Council, on which Member States conferred primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on their behalf, as provided for by the Charter of the United Nations.

The common view is that the Security Council needs to be reformed in order to reflect the current realities and to be more representative, democratic, transparent, accountable and effective.

The IGN is the most appropriate platform for negotiations aimed, in line with General Assembly decision 62/557, at a Security Council reform with the widest possible political acceptance by Member States.

All five key issues are strongly interlinked and the negotiations are reasonably based on the principle “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”, while a large variety of opinions on the Security Council’s reform persists, particularly in relation to the categories of membership, the question of the veto and regional representation.

Despite differences and disagreements on the substance, Member States could advance on a number of issues, focusing on the areas of convergence, including in particular in regard to the increased representation of developing countries, Africa, Small Island Developing States and Small States, as well as to strengthening the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly and to improving the working methods of the Council.

A balanced expansion of the membership of the Security Council, while maintaining the effective and operational functioning of the Council, could help enhance its authority and ensure its greater legitimacy, provided that such expansion is based on a fair and equitable geographical distribution.

In that context, the enlargement of a category of membership that is accepted by all Member States or even the creation of longer-term non-permanent seats with the possibility of immediate re-election, as part of a comprehensive Security Council reform and without prejudice to the negotiations on the remaining substantial issues on the categories of membership and other clusters, might contribute to moving the process forward.

The issue of veto is one of the key elements of the Security Council reform, and we take note of the various options discussed by Member States. More in-depth analysis is needed to explore, first and foremost, whether and how the veto poses an impediment to the effective functioning of the Security Council, particularly as far as serious breaches of the Charter of the United Nations and international law are concerned.

Furthermore, close cooperation and coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations, in compliance with their respective mandates, is critical to enable the Organization to effectively address the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges.

The reform of the Security Council should be decided by the general membership, through open, inclusive and transparent intergovernmental negotiations, and should take into account the positions and concerns of all Member States.

We look forward to further progress in the course of negotiations, based on the work already done and the gains achieved, in good faith and a spirit of flexibility, constructiveness and mutual respect.

Thank you.