



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

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yashar Aliyev
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations**

**at the second informal meeting of the plenary on the Intergovernmental Negotiations on
the Security Council reform**

16 February 2021

At the outset, I would like to thank the Co-Chairs, the Permanent Representatives of Poland and the State of Qatar, for convening this second informal meeting of the plenary on the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Security Council reform to discuss two clusters, namely, “categories of membership” and “the question of veto”.

We are grateful to the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, for his presence and guidance at the first meeting, held on 25-26 January 2021.

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 nowadays 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.

Despite known differences and disagreements on the substance, Member States could advance on a number of issues during the negotiations, as reflected in the Revised Elements of Commonality, including in particular in regard to the increased representation of developing countries, Africa, Small Island Developing States and Small States.

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

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.

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.

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 help move the process forward, address more efficiently the issues requiring further consideration and pave the way for a reform with the widest possible political acceptance.

As to the issue of veto, it is a key element of 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.

In conclusion, the reform of the Security Council should be decided by the general membership, through inclusive and transparent intergovernmental negotiations, and should address the positions and concerns of all Member States. We look forward to more productive discussion to achieve the long-awaited progress.