

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MANJEEV SINGH PURI, Cd'A AND ACTING  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON  
AGENDA ITEM: 123: 'QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND  
INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER  
MATTERS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL' AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY, ON NOVEMBER 7, 2013

Congratulations to you on your Presidency and you have the fullest support of my delegation in assisting you in all your endeavours in this session of the GA.

We also welcome the reappointment of Ambassador Zahir Tanin as Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations, which is a most positive development and brings the much needed institutional continuity to this debate.

But before I delve into the substance of my remarks, allow me to first align myself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative Japan on behalf of the G4, as well as with the distinguished Permanent Representative of St. Kitts and Nevis, on behalf of the Group of L.69.

I would also like to lend my fullest support to the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Guyana, on behalf of the CARICOM.

Mr. President, having closely followed this debate over reforms of the Security Council over the last four years in New York, as well from nearly a decade before that, I would like to submit a few '*myth busters*' to set the record straight on some of the key issues that have been raised recently.

**First**, we have been engaged in nine rounds of Intergovernmental Negotiations since 2009, with having to conduct negotiations in the air, literally! It would be the only instance of its kind perhaps, when negotiations in a multilateral setting have been conducted so far without any text, which goes against the very logic of multilateral diplomacy, and should have started off in the first instance, on the basis of a text.

So, anyone who says that we cannot move to text based negotiations, to me is a nay sayer to any forward movement. For if we dont negotiate on the basis of a text, then on what basis do we conduct negotiations?

The Chair of the IGN having presided over eight rounds spread over five years, having heard loud and clear, views of all interest groups and each member state, came to this very conclusion in his letter of 25 July 2012 and recommended that he, like in all other UN processes, be authorised to produce, what he called a Concise Working Document to enable the process to move towards real give and take negotiations. This was also a plea that had the largest support from the floor of the last meeting of the IGN conducted on 27 June earlier this year.

However, we subsequently learnt that a select handful group of nay sayers, protested to the PGA against the role of the Chair and his recommendations, inspite of these recommendations being recognised in the rollover decision on this subject by the GA

Subsequently, to tide over this concern, when the President of the General Assembly formed an Advisory Group to himself, to assist him in providing an input to become the basis for the IGN, the same group of naysayers are now questioning the authority of the PGA to do so! It is indeed an outright absurdity, you simply can't have your cake and eat it too!

Mr. President, it is our delegation's firm belief that having been unanimously elected by this very august assembly, you have the full authority to choose who you want as advisors, what and how to be advised and what to make of that advice.

We welcome your initiative and hope that input of the Advisory Group, would help us move forward on the basis of the PGA's text.

I also would like to solicit the understanding of all member states to not necessarily see 'text based negotiations' as inimical to diluting any position of any Group, or as being the final word, for as and when that input is presented by the PGA to the IGN, each and every member state will have the full authority to propose additions, deletions or amendments, and build upon the PGA's initiative. But to not let even an input emerge and cast aspersions on the role of the PGA does not reflect well on all of us.

**A second** myth that I would like to touch upon today is the often called need for 'complete consensus' by the same set of naysayers as being the ONLY way forward.

Mr. President, on a matter as complex and pressing as UNSC reforms, as and when it happens, we all know that it will have to be eventually tested from the floor of the General Assembly through a vote. That is what the UN Charter prescribes.

We also agree and acknowledge that we are not there yet, but to insist that no forward movement can take place till we have 'complete consensus' is only tantamount to delaying any kind of progress.

Time and again, repeated articulations from all the major stakeholders have proved from the floor of the IGN, as well as the General Assembly, that an overwhelming majority supports expansion in both categories of membership.

This is also an observation made by the Chair of the IGN, having heard statements from member states over the last five years. We therefore hope that the Advisory Group would factor this in their input under consideration.

**The third** misplaced myth, that I would like to touch upon, is the perceived apprehension that through this process of the IGN, some countries would make it to the expanded setting, while others would not.

Mr. President, we are presently in a process that does not decide or indicate, which countries would be members of the expanded setting. We are only attempting to negotiate through the IGN, the broad parameters of what the expanded UNSC would like, and provide workable options on each of the five key issues identified in GA Decision 62/557.

We have a mandate from our Heads of State in 2005 through the Millenium Summit, which we need to fulfill. If we let the small yet vocal minority of 'counter aspirants to the aspirants' even scuttle this process forward, then we are failing in our obligation to deliver on that commitment.

Which brings me to my final submission Mr. President.

The exercise of UNSC reforms cannot be seen to be going on till the cows come home. Recent developments around the world have increasingly put to question not just the representativeness but also the credibility of the UN Security Council is at stake. And the clarion call for change is only growing louder by the day.

All these are important tidings which cannot be ignored in our collective quest to achieve UNSC reforms. We need to have a results based time line and the year **2015**, which will be the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations, as well as 10 years following the 2005 World Summit when all our Heads of States/Governments mandated us to achieve early reforms of the Security Council, will be an important occassion **to deliver 'concrete outcomes'** on this most pressing subject.

We hope that we can **collectively** work together in a constructive and forward looking manner, not just on the process but as well as on the substance, in the interim, so as to deliver on this long due mandate.

Your initiative and personal commitment is most appreciated and in your success lies our collective endeavor.

**I thank you Mr. President.**

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