

Joint G4 Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Asoke K Mukerji, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations *at the First meeting of the 10th Round of Intergovernmental Negotiations of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly on the Question of Equitable Representation and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Related Matters on 12 December 2013*

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the G4 countries; namely Brazil, Germany, India and Japan.

We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your reappointment as Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations, and under your dynamic leadership, we look forward to achieving tangible progress in this round of the IGN.

Mr. President,

We are meeting today, following a very fruitful exchange of views in the General Assembly on 7-8 November.

It is therefore important that this round of the IGN does not ignore three very important pointers from the General Assembly debate.

First and foremost, was the strong call by the collective membership to finally start genuine text based negotiations in this round of the IGN. Several delegations categorically stated that this was not just the 'next logical step' but the 'only' next step forward. This was also a recommendation that you had yourself as the Chair of the IGN made earlier in your letter of 25 July 2012.

The initiative taken by the President, Ambassador John Ashe, therefore comes as a welcome step in the right direction. The non paper that he has submitted in his letter of 10 December, is a well balanced, honest and sincere attempt to contribute to the process, by providing a set of very useful ideas, on each of the reform clusters, as was outlined in UNGA Decision 62/557.

We believe that it provides a very good way forward to conduct this round of the IGN, by building further upon it, through a truly membership driven process from the floor of the IGN. We would also like to compliment the distinguished members of the Advisory Group, as well as Ambassador Sinclair, who have together contributed to this outcome, in a professional and neutral manner.

The President of the General Assembly has given you a clear mandate. The ball, Mr. Chair is now in your court. We encourage you to heed his call and use the non paper as a guide for this year's programme of work. A thorough discussion on the ideas presented, organised around the five reform clusters, would provide us, the member states, the opportunity to clearly voice our preferences, and to indicate where room for convergence exists. Such a discussion would also help you Mr. Chairman, to arrive at, a sound assessment of where the mood of the house stands on the options presented under each cluster. This is not just the logical way forward but perhaps the only way forward in our common pursuit of early reforms.

Mr. President, our second point flows from the November GA meeting, which was the categorical affirmation by nearly 2/3rds of the 90 odd speakers that took the floor, calling for support in expansion in both categories of membership. The overwhelming support in favour of expansion in both categories has already been established on each of occasions that we have debated the subject both within the GA, as well as the IGN.

The third key outcome from the GA discussion, was the clear call of a time line to deliver concrete outcomes on this long standing debate. As the United Nations approaches its 70th Anniversary Session of the General Assembly in the year 2015, it is important to finally deliver the only unfulfilled mandate from Para- 153 of the 2005 Outcome Document, i.e. achieve early reforms of the Security Council.

Mr. President, this is not an artificial timeline, if we only recall that the mandate under which we are discussing this subject was agreed to by us unanimously on the 60th anniversary of the UN. It was not an open ended mandate and it was not a contentious mandate. It was a clear call for 'early reforms". The world has changed rapidly since 2005, and the Security Council has been called upon to address complicated issues of international peace and security without in any way benefiting from early reforms to make it more representative and effective. It is in this context, Mr Chairman, that we need to work towards the next significant milestone in our organization, which is the 70th anniversary summit of 2015.

It is in this spirit that the G4 countries have reached out to all regional groups. We aim to find a path that will reflect the dominant call by Member States for a reform of the Security Council leading to an expansion in both categories of membership, permanent and non-permanent. In so doing, we have, together with our partners, pursued a constructive approach, calling for action - not only words, and for progress - not the status quo. We are encouraged by the broad and cross regional support that our efforts continue to enjoy.

Mr. President,

Against this background, it is even more important that this round of the IGN takes us a step forward by providing for a regular set of meetings, focussed on specific ideas

contained in the PGA's non paper and aimed at achieving clear deliverables, which would help us in arriving at a consolidated 'membership driven' text. We also hope that you would be able to arrive at an assessment by the end of this round, on where the overwhelming body of opinion among member states lies on each of the options in each cluster and reflect the same in your concluding assessment.

From our side, as exhorted by the PGA in his letter of 2 December, the G4 countries are ready 'in a spirit of flexibility and accommodation' to arrive at a common ground on the issue of Security Council reform. We also encourage others to show the same spirit of 'flexibility and accommodation' that is required to engage in a text based negotiation process that deserves to be called so in content and not in name only.

The G4 stands ready and committed to playing its part in this process.

I thank you Mr. President.

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