

Statement by Ambassador Asoke K. Mukerji, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations following adoption of Decision on UNSC Reforms at the United Nations General Assembly on September 14, 2015

Mr. President, thank you for giving me the floor.

I align my statement with the L.69 and G4 statements made today.

Allow me to begin by complimenting you on behalf of India, and also on behalf of a large number of like minded developing countries who have looked up to you with hope, admiration and respect. You have fully deserved all three!

What you have delivered today, Mr. President, to all 193 Member States of the United Nations, is truly historic and path-breaking on several counts. It becomes especially memorable taking into account the stiff challenges and pressures that were brought upon you and your office to step back from this issue, which has been on the agenda of the UNGA for nearly 23 years.

There are some key outstanding facets of this decision that the entire membership has adopted by consensus today and I would like highlight three of these:

It is not a technical decision, nor is it a rollover but highly substantive. This is the first time in the history of the Inter-Governmental Negotiation (IGN) process that a decision on UNSC reform has been adopted through an official formal L Document of the UNGA. This is a most positive and unique development, as so far, over the last 7 years we have only been making statements in the air, or at each other, with easily deniable or disputable summaries, or at times compilation text(s), to register our endeavours. The adoption of such a substantive decision on UNSC Reforms through A/69/L.92 changes the dynamics of the IGN completely.

Second, this decision sets the IGN process formally on an irreversible text-based negotiations path, which had been your priority from the first day of your Presidency. The twin objectives of saving our work done in the 69th UNGA and carrying it meaningfully forward have therefore both been achieved.

Third, perhaps the most important aspect of this decision is your text and its annexure of 31st July, 2015 which we have agreed will be the guiding basis for our deliberations in the 70th General Assembly session. I would like to quote from your letter of 31st July, 2015 which has been recognized

in the decision, in which you had stated that the text attached to your letter, and I quote “represents a sound basis upon which Member States can engage in text-based negotiations through the next phase of IGN”.
Unquote

Mr. President, this is as clear and explicit as any mandate could ever be. We now know that with the adoption of this truly historic decision, we can meet in the 70th Session of the UNGA under the leadership of our Chair, the Permanent Representative of Jamaica, Ambassador Courtenay Rattray and build upon the significant work undertaken by him in the 69th Session.

My delegation was among the first to seek to conclude this process by the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, when we set this target in our statement in the IGN on 16 April 2013. It is our hope that with the adoption of this Decision, we will now move purposefully towards concluding our negotiations during the 70th Session, so that we fulfil the unanimous mandate given by our leaders in the World Summit of 2005 for “early reform” of the Security Council to make it, and I quote “more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions.” Unquote

This Decision will catalyze the reform that all, and I emphasize all, our leaders agreed to ten years ago. The need for a supportive international peace and security environment is urgent, as our leaders meet in this Hall a few days from now to adopt Agenda 2030. If the Security Council continues to be ineffective, the lives of millions of people and the uninterrupted flow of trade, investment and technology, all of which depend on a stable and predictable global political environment will be jeopardized.

Due to this broader context, you deserve our sincere thanks, Mr. President.