



Permanent Mission
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JOINT G₄ STATEMENT BY BRAZIL, GERMANY, INDIA AND JAPAN

Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin
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At the Informal Meeting of the General Assembly
on the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform
Monday, 2 May 2016

Madam Chairperson,

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

Thank you for convening today's IGN meeting on the key issues of '**Categories of Membership**' and '**Regional Representation**'.

Madam Chairperson, it is unfortunate that we have been discussing this crucial matter of Security Council Reform for more than two decades without any concrete outcome.

The world has undergone a sea change while we are engaged in the same discussions which started in 1993. While we were busy in our debates, around 1.7 billion people were added to 'we the peoples'- in whose name the Charter was adopted and the UN membership increased from 184 to 193.

During this period, major shifts in the geo-political and economic order have gained further momentum thereby rendering the structure and composition of the Council out of date in terms of the present day realities.

In a nut shell, change is the only constant everywhere else over these two decades and therefore the Security Council has become less and less representative and more and more out of date with current realities thus eroding its legitimacy and effectiveness.

Madam Chairperson,

As in last three IGN meetings, the G4 has reviewed its and other delegations' positions in the text and annex circulated by the letter of the President of the 69th General Assembly dated 31 July 2015 and identified areas of convergence and also delineated the points of divergence which could be incorporated in a consolidated text.

Madam Chairperson,

Both key issues being discussed today are interlinked; however, for sake of clarity let me start with the issue of categories of membership.

It is evident from the positions submitted in the text that an overwhelming majority of Member-States support expansion in both categories. It is clear from the paragraphs a.1.1. (ii), (iii) & (iv) of the text circulated by the letter of the former PGA that beside two largest groups, i.e., Africa comprising 54 Members, L.69 representing 42 Members, CARICOM, G4 and another 23 Member- States including two permanent members France and UK support expansion in both categories. In total 113 Member States out of 122 Member- States who have submitted their positions in the text support expansion in both categories. More than 90% of the written submissions are for expansion in both categories.

If we also include Member States whose positions are reflected in the annex of the framework text, then in total 129 Member-States out of total 152 Member- States who either submitted their positions in the framework text or sent letters which were annexed and circulated by the President of the 69th General Assembly with his letter of 31 July 2015 support expansion in both categories. In other words, **around 85 % of total submissions included either in the text or annex are for expansion in both categories.**

We would therefore request you Madam Chairperson to consolidate paragraph **a.1.1** except its sub part (i) along with paragraph **a.1.2.** and **a.1.3** related to expansion in both categories and list the names of all Member- States supporting it. We see proposed additions varying from 5 to 6 in the permanent category. It would be useful to include this also against the name of respective Member- States in the list.

Madam Chairperson,

We have heard some oft-repeated arguments that expansion in the permanent category would be 'undemocratic'. Let me explain why, in our view, expansion in both categories particularly in the permanent category is essential to reform the Security Council and make it democratic, legitimate, representative, responsive and effective. Assuming that, we all acknowledge the fact that the present structure of the Security Council is not reflective of contemporary realities and not fit for purpose, there is urgent need to reform it.

We do believe that the problem lies in the imbalance of influence within the Security Council between the permanent and non-permanent members. Expanding only in the non-permanent

category is not going to solve the problem. It will actually widen the difference between permanent and non-permanent members even more, tilting further the scales in favour of a dispensation that was valid in the special situation in 1945 but is no longer now. This is why a balanced enlargement in both categories is necessarily the only way to ensure an equilibrium that reflects the current situation.

The decision-making in the Council must be more participative and democratic. Expansion in both categories is the only way to ensure an equitable distribution of influence in an enduring way. A larger permanent membership will ensure enhanced representation and say in the decision making from the regions and members which are currently not represented or under represented compared to their role and input so far. This would increase the legitimacy and effectiveness and responsiveness of the Council by ensuring that the decisions taken reflect the interest of the broad membership and thus will be better implemented.

On the election process for additional permanent seats, the G-4 is of the view that election of new permanent members will obviously be by a vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly through a secret ballot as per the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. This position mentioned in the paragraph **a.1.8** is shared by L.69 and 14 other Member- States. In our view there is scope of merging the 5 paragraphs from **a.1.6** to **a. 1.9** and **a.1.14** into one consolidated paragraph without losing their substance.

Our Group's position is in line with Article 108 of the Charter which stipulates Charter amendment by a vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly. Rule 83 of the GA Rules of Procedure provides that decisions of the General Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. These decisions include: recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council.

It is also pertinent to recall, in this context that General Assembly's Resolution A/RES/53/30 of 23 November 1998, which was unanimously adopted by all of us, established a 2/3rd majority of the membership, as the threshold for arriving at substantive decisions on Security Council Reforms.

However, we also note that there are some different views on the election process as mentioned in the paragraphs **a.1.10** to **a.1.12**. We see room for further streamlining these divergent views without losing their main content into a fewer number of consolidated paragraphs.

Our group stands ready to discuss the criteria applied to the elections and the voting process of the elections in text-based negotiations.

On expansion in non-permanent category, we see significant convergence among the positions submitted by Member- States in paragraphs from **a.2.1** to **a.2.11**. We note that no Member State opposes the idea of adding non-permanent members through the currently

followed procedure. In our view, these paragraphs could be consolidated in a fewer number of paragraphs.

Madam Chairperson,

Now, I will come to the key issue of the **"Regional Representation"**.

The UN had 51 founding members. 70 years later, its membership has increased more than 3 times to 193 today. The Security Council as the crucial and deciding forum of the UN needs to reflect these changes. It is untenable that whole continents are not represented or under-represented in the permanent category of the Security Council today. The Security Council is also not representative of the geo-political and economic realities 70 years after its inception. New major powers have emerged and the voice of all regions needs to be heard in international security policy. It is important that the Security Council reflect contemporary realities and include adequate representation from all regions of the world.

We note that the majority of Member- States have called in their submissions for equitable geographical representation and need for addressing the non-representation and under-representation of some regions in the permanent and non-permanent category.

The G-4 would like to reiterate its support for appropriate representation of Africa in the Council in the both categories and support the African position as stated in the paragraph **b.5**.

We see significant convergence among positions stated in the paragraphs **b.1** to **b.14**. The number and length of these submissions could be significantly reduced without losing any of their content.

We also note that most of the positions on the text support more representation of developing and small States. There is significant convergence among positions submitted in the paragraphs **b.16, 18, 19, 20, 25** and **27** which could be consolidated together into a fewer number of paragraphs.

Madam Chairperson,

We are confident that under your able chairmanship, we would see tangible progress. The G-4 would like to reiterate its call for a consolidated and shortened text capable of serving as basis for negotiations - reflecting the convergences that have emerged so far and also clearly delineated divergent positions in all five key issues. We would also like you to reflect in the text that many of the proposals already enjoy overwhelming support of Member States.

You could count on our Group's full support in this endeavour.

I thank you, **Madam Chairperson**.