



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the United Nations
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JOINT G4 STATEMENT

Delivered by

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Informal Meeting of the General Assembly

on the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform

13 February 2020

Mr. President, Co-Chairs, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

I make this statement on behalf of the G4 - Brazil, Germany, Japan and my own country, India.

2. Let me begin by extending a warm welcome to both our Co-Chairs as they begin a new cycle of the IGN. This is an occasion for gender champions to revel in. We join in saluting the President of the General Assembly on this decision.

3. Ambassador Wronecka, we are certain that your recent rich experience of the workings of the Security Council will inform and energise the leadership of this process. As it is often said, no reform of the UN can be complete without reform of the Security Council. We wish you both success in your efforts to facilitate these essential reforms.

4. We note that your letter of 31 January invites delegations to share views on how this process can be taken **forward** in the 74th UNGA session, building on the progress achieved so far. We interpret this as a welcome indication from you that this session will focus on concrete action to finally move **ahead**.

Co-Chairs,

5. During your outreach with Member States and various groupings leading up to this meeting, you will have heard the rising sense of urgency and impatience with a process that is increasingly seen as impeding progress rather than enabling it. We hope you will direct your efforts to address these sentiments that also were clearly and strongly echoed in the General Assembly during the discussion on this issue in November 2019.

6. Our statements of principles have been made. Our approaches are well known. It is now time to focus on specifics, rather than on general concepts. Hence, I will focus on what do we expect as the outcome of this session, and our suggestions to get there.

7. **First**, we hope this session will result in a **single, inclusive and holistic document** as an outcome of our discussions, so that we can all engage in negotiations based on it from the start of the 75th session.

8. How do we arrive at this single document from the two documents that have been rolled over by the General Assembly's oral decision 73/554 of 25 June 2019?

9. We are open to hearing suggestions. Our submission, Co-Chairs, is to adopt a **technical** approach that builds on the past. We feel that the Revised Paper of 7 June 2019 as the most recent outcome of our discussions is a useful starting point.

10. We submit that you provide the opportunity to every member to indicate what they want to be addressed as an issue listed for further consideration in this paper. They can draw upon any proposal that has been listed in the Framework Document or its annex of 31 July 2015 or made by any member since, but not listed in the paper of 7 June 2019. Every such request for inclusion of a proposal can and must be **reflected and attributed** appropriately in the next iteration of this paper. Concretely, in the coming days, member states could submit to the Chairs specific amendments, adding whatever elements they feel are missing from the

paper of 7 June 2019 and seeking clarifications about the issues currently listed.

11. For example, to begin with, we believe that the vast majority of member states are in favour of expansion in both - permanent and non-permanent - categories of membership of the Security Council. Therefore, any new iteration of the 7 June 2019 paper must explicitly include the **Common African Position**, in a succinct manner, that is acceptable to Africa.

12. **The G4 supports the Common African Position** as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. In line with this support, we unequivocally welcome its inclusion in the next iteration of the 7 June 2019 paper. This will enable the very many who support it to articulate their support for the specific language. Those who may have issues with the specific summation of the Common African Position can express their views. However, they cannot be given a veto on it being included in the single, inclusive and holistic document, in the manner that Africa wants.

13. Our approach is that every stakeholder's proposal should be listed; none should be left behind.

14. All we are seeking is equal opportunities for everybody to present their proposals for inclusion in a single document. Such a document will provide clarity to where we stand, what are the options on the table, and who is proposing them.

15. **Second**, it is important that the first iteration of the **single, inclusive and holistic document** is **produced ahead of the next meeting in this cycle of the IGN**, to allow maximum time for discussions to refine it. Every subsequent meeting that we have this year should be structured around discussing revised iterations of the document.

16. **Third**, the format of the IGN should replicate processes that are followed in other mechanisms of the GA, with considerable success. The current format of the IGN has long outlived its sell by date. As is the case with other GA negotiation formats, the IGN must be transparent and traceable to enhance the possibility of building on successive discussions and avoiding mere repetition of statements. Many useful suggestions have been made to include practices that we are all familiar with.

17. For example,

- Some have suggested **greater transparency through web-cast** of proceedings. It is a simple step that can usher in transparency and accountability. We support this.
- Others have requested for **maintenance of records of proceedings** as useful in following the nuances of positions taken. We welcome this.
- Many have indicated that it is time to **adopt General Assembly rules of procedure to overcome differences**. We acknowledge that it is time to examine this.

18. **Fourth**, we need to utilise all the time available at this session. Hence, we support the requirement to keep the discussions going with the goal of steering them to the desired outcome.

19. **Fifth** and finally, we see the discussion in the IGN as intrinsically linked to the outcome to be decided in the General Assembly. These are a continuum. Progress here will inevitably determine the outcome we adopt in the General Assembly. Hence, let us all strive for such progress. Lack of progress not only **endangers the legitimacy and credibility of this mechanism** but the General Assembly itself. We seek credible progress. However, if this eludes us once more, we are **ready to review how we engage** on this very important issue.

Co-chairs and distinguished colleagues,

20. As the adage goes, ***“If you want something new, you have to stop doing something old”***. The mandate of the IGN is to **achieve reform, not to endlessly debate it**. As the stewards of this process, you, our co-Chairs, we hope will steer us in a manner that leads to the Security Council being fit for purpose, in what is left of the 21st century. In this milestone year of the UN’s 75th anniversary, you can count on our full support in this endeavour.

Thank you.