

**Informal meeting of the plenary on the Intergovernmental Negotiations on
the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership
of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council**

**Statement by Ambassador Brian Flynn
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations**

New York, 27 March 2018

Thank you co-chairs. And thank you for the '**Revised Elements of Commonality and Issues for Further Consideration**' paper, which we are still studying. As you note this builds on the work and progress achieved in previous sessions and documents.

Ireland has long favoured moving towards text-based negotiations, as the best way to make progress on the difficult and long-standing issue of Security Council reform.

While progress has been slow, the incremental steps we have taken in recent years, now reflected in the current paper, are welcome.

We need to continually remind ourselves of what we are trying to achieve, and why it is necessary and urgent.

The Security Council does not reflect the world as it is today, and its legitimacy in preserving international peace and security is necessarily weakened as a result. Membership of the Council needs to be expanded, in particular to correct the clear underrepresentation of the continent of Africa, and the inequality and injustice inherent in the current structure.

We need to ensure that all states, large and small, including Small Island Developing States, have the opportunity to play their part on the Council, and that those whose security is under threat, whether from conflict or from other factors, feel their voice can be heard and suitable action taken in response.

In addition to the future size and composition of the Council, we need to make sure it is as transparent, efficient, effective and accountable as possible.

That is why, Co-Chairs, Ireland welcomes the provisions in the current paper which address issues around working methods and relations with the General Assembly. The Council and the General Assembly should have a **mutually reinforcing and complementary relationship**, while respecting the prerogatives of both bodies.

The path to reform of the Council remains difficult. Apart from the challenges associated with reaching the widest possible agreement among the membership, there also lies ahead the issue of Charter amendment and ratification. To get there, we need a number of factors to coalesce, starting with an openness, on all sides, to discuss, to negotiate and to compromise. We then need to have something to negotiate. It is only by setting out areas of agreement, and also setting out areas where agreement has yet to be reached, that we can make progress.

I would therefore like to reiterate Ireland's strong support for the efforts of the Co-Chairs in this regard. We should, collectively, in a member-driven process, continue to refine and improve and advance the current paper so that we have a basis on which to go forward. The alternative is a process that will not make progress.

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