



Permanent Mission of the
State of Kuwait to the United Nations
New York

 Permanent Mission
of Austria to the
United Nations in New York

27 February 2024

Excellencies,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as **Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations** on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (**IGN**) during the 78th session of the General Assembly.

Kindly find attached a copy of a letter dated 27 February 2024 received by the Co-Chairs from the Permanent Mission of Italy, in its capacity as Coordinator of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) Group, submitting the UfC model for consideration by the IGN. Upon the request of the UfC, this model will be considered by the IGN during its meeting on **18 March 2024**.

The attached document will be **posted on the IGN website** which acts as a repository of the IGN process.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Tareq Albanai
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
State of Kuwait to the United Nations

Alexander Marschik
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Austria to the United Nations

To: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations, New York



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, in its capacity as Coordinator of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) Group (comprising also Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Malta, Mexico, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Spain and Türkiye), presents its compliments to the Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (IGN) of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly, and has the honor to attach the UfC model for reform of the United Nations Security Council.

Uniting for Consensus wishes to highlight that this model has taken into thorough consideration the views expressed by Member States during the IGN sessions throughout the years. In line with UNGA Decision 62/557, our objective is to bring about a comprehensive Security Council reform across the five thematic clusters. This document outlines the basic concepts and core elements of the Uniting for Consensus's proposal, while maintaining flexibility and openness on the details. UfC expects other groups and Member States to display similar flexibility to allow for substantial progress in the IGN. This document represents an updated version of the UfC's proposal and may evolve in the future in line with UfC's open and constructive approach to negotiations within the IGN, as the only legitimate platform to advance on the Security Council reform.

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations kindly requests on behalf of UfC that the document be published on the website of the IGN and is brought to the attention of the membership. Furthermore, it would like to request that the presentation by the UfC group on its model of reform of the Security Council be scheduled during the IGN meeting of the 18th of March, 2024.

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 27 February 2024

H.E. Ambassador Tareq Albanai
Permanent Representative of the
State of Kuwait to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Alexander Marschik
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Austria to the United Nations

Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations
on Security Council reform
The United Nations
New York





UNITING FOR CONSENSUS GROUP

A MODEL FOR SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM

This model has taken into thorough consideration the views expressed by Member States during the IGN sessions throughout the years. In line with UNGA Decision 62/557, our objective is to bring about a comprehensive Security Council reform across the five thematic clusters.

This document outlines the basic concepts and core elements of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC)'s proposal, while maintaining flexibility and openness on the details. UfC expects other groups and Member States to display similar flexibility to allow for substantial progress in the IGN.

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1. ELECTED SEATS AND REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

1.1. EXPANSION OF NON-PERMANENT CATEGORY

Uniting for Consensus (UfC) proposes an increase of seats in the Security Council, up to a maximum of 27 seats, only in the elected, non-permanent member category. The process of regular elections and rotation of members is essential to make the Security Council more representative of and accountable to the general membership of the United Nations. Representativeness and accountability are indispensable prerequisites in order to guarantee real effectiveness of a reformed Security Council.

UfC opposes the expansion of permanent membership, with or without veto. Adding new permanent members would go against the principle of sovereign equality, while reducing the rest of the membership's opportunity to serve on the Council; it would further hamper the Council's efficiency and its adaptability to ever-evolving international realities. Ideally, permanent membership and veto should be abolished.

Statistically the UfC model represents the best option for UN Member States to be elected Security Council members. Reform under this type of flexible system would be

able to more accurately reflect current and future global realities. Furthermore, the UfC proposal involves minor amendments to the Charter.

The criteria for election to the increased non-permanent seats shall remain the same as provided in Article 23 (1) of the UN Charter. The members shall be elected according to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly for the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council.

1.2. POSSIBILITY OF LONGER-TERM SEATS

UfC proposes, as a compromise solution, the possibility of longer-term non-permanent seats. This would grant Member States the opportunity to serve on the Security Council for a longer period, while preserving and fostering a fair system of rotation.

UfC remains open and flexible to negotiate the specific modalities for the enlarged non-permanent membership, including of longer-term (3 to 5-year term, to be decided in the negotiations) elected seats - such as the proportion of longer-term seats among the whole non-permanent membership, the length of a term, as well as the conditions for (immediate) re-election and the maximum duration of (continuous) service. However, in principle a member retiring from a two-year single term elected seat would not be eligible for immediate re-election to the long-term seat and vice versa. Member States would not be entitled to run for both types of seats simultaneously.

1.3. EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

The principle of 'equitable geographical distribution' enshrined in Article 23(1) of the Charter is the main guidance to the modalities for non-permanent membership.

UfC recognizes that the next expansion should serve to remedy the current geographical imbalance and the historical injustice done towards underrepresented regional groups such as Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The chart below indicates a hypothetical distribution of elected, non-permanent seats for each regional group, when applying the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in case of an enlargement to 27 members, including the current (5) permanent members. The exact size of the Council and number of seats to be assigned to each regional group should be defined in the negotiations.

One two-year rotating seat would be reserved to Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) and Small States. SIDS and Small States candidates would thus be able to run for either the seat reserved to the cross-regional grouping or for a seat within their regional group.

REGIONAL GROUPS (NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES ELIGIBLE FOR NON-PERMANENT SEATS)	<u>HYPOTHETICAL</u> NUMBER OF NON-PERMANENT SEATS IN CASE OF AN ENLARGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL TO 27 MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE CURRENT P5
AFRICA (54)	6
ASIA-PACIFIC (53)	6
GRULAC (33)	4
WEOG (26)	3
EEG (22)	2
SIDS + SMALL STATES	1

1.4. CROSS-REGIONAL GROUPINGS AND THE SIZE OF THE COUNCIL

UfC supports in-depth consideration of further special arrangements that can be made for cross-regional groups to ensure fair representation of all Member States.

These arrangements may be made either 1) within or 2) across the existing regional groups. In case of the latter, due consideration should be given to equity across the cross-regional and sub-regional groups, while striking the right balance between the representativeness and efficiency of the Council.

2. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

2.1 MAJORITY REQUIRED FOR SECURITY COUNCIL DECISIONS

In a Security Council enlarged as per this proposal, decisions shall continue to be made in line with the provisions of Article 27 of the UN Charter. The number of affirmative votes required for decision-making shall be increased to maintain approximately the same percentage of affirmative votes required in the current Security Council.

2.2 QUESTION OF THE VETO

With the idea of making the Security Council more efficient, democratic and fit for purpose, the Group advocates for the suppression of the veto, as we understand it is outdated and the root cause of many of today's challenges. Although the vast majority

of the UN membership agrees on abolishing the veto, its implementation might take time. This is why, in the immediate term, negotiations should address how to best limit the use of veto under circumstances such as, but not limited to, mass atrocities and war crimes. The Group is willing to consider how to best advance proposals to this end.

2.3 WORKING METHODS AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The working methods of the Security Council must be reviewed. Flexible, inclusive and transparent decision-making processes are key aspects of any reformed Security Council, as well as an enhanced relationship between the Council and the General Assembly.

Inclusive working methods of an enlarged Security Council, in particular, should entail the possibility for all elected members to chair the Council during their mandate.

The working methods of the Security Council, as well as its relationship with the General Assembly, can be improved through several measures, among which:

1. Formal adoption of the rules of procedure of the Security Council. To date, these rules are defined as provisional, opening the floor for interpretations and confusion.
2. Increased quality and enhanced analytical content of the Security Council's Annual Report to be presented during a special session of the General Assembly.
3. Continuing to increase the transparency of the work of subsidiary bodies, also by improving the quality, frequency and availability of their formal and informal reports and summary records.
4. Offering Member States more informal opportunities to interact with the subsidiary bodies.
5. Frequent, timely and more informative briefings for non-Council members on matters discussed in Security Council closed meetings and informal consultations, and in its subsidiary bodies.
6. More and better access to information through open briefings and interaction between the Council and all interested and involved parties, including regional and sub-regional organizations.
7. Timely availability to non-Council members of draft resolutions and presidential statements, as well as other Security Council documents (Elements to the Press and Notes by the President).
8. Developing a mechanism to ensure that the views and interests of Member States affected or involved in any matter on the agenda - including Troop and Police Contributing Countries and host Countries - are heard and taken into account in the work of the Council.