

**Informal meeting of the General Assembly 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 H.E. David Donoghue

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

New York, 2 May 2016

[Check against delivery]

Madam Chair,

Ireland is pleased to once more address these Intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform. We welcome the progress made under your careful stewardship, and look forward to you producing a document drawing together the many areas of broad agreement expressed thus far, and setting out proposals for taking matters forward towards eventual agreement and reform.

As we and others have stated many times, such a reform is long overdue. The longer we resist enlarging the Council to make it more representative of the world today, the more we risk undermining the credibility of the UN and its Security Council as the guarantor of international peace and security.

Madam Chair,

In relation to today's topic of "categories of membership", Ireland is not convinced by arguments for the creation of new permanent members of the Council. Democratic accountability is a watchword for almost every global institution. The Security Council should be no different. To create new permanent seats – which would not be subject to periodic election by the membership – would risk compounding many of the problems of the present dispensation.

At the same time, we fully recognise that there are countries which, due to their ability to contribute significantly to the maintenance of international peace and security, should be able to play a stronger role on the Council than allowed by the current arrangements. For this reason, although we are open to considering various models for expansion, we are positively disposed towards the creation of a new category of seats with an 8 year term. Ireland believes there should be 6 seats in this category, with 2 each from the African and Asia-Pacific group, and 1 each from WEOG and GRULAC.

We also believe an expansion of the current category of 2 year seats is warranted, including to ensure that smaller states can continue to serve regularly on the Council. These should increase by 5 to 15, with the African group taking 2 of the new seats, and the Eastern European group, the Asia-Pacific group and GRULAC taking 1 each.

It would be for further consideration whether seats in either of these categories would be eligible for immediate re-election.

The overall regional breakdown of seats under the model outlined above would result in 7 Council members from Africa, 6 members from WEOG, 6 from Asia Pacific, 4 from GRULAC, and 3 from Eastern Europe.

This would result in a Council of 26 seats, which would, in our view, be a good balance between representativeness and efficiency. As previously outlined, we continue to favour eventual abolition of the veto, and, as we would do not favour creating any new permanent members of the Council, the extension of the veto to any new member does not arise.

Madam Chair,

Ireland has always expressed its readiness to work with you and other members to consider all possible avenues towards Security Council reform, and have expressed our views both individually and in conjunction with other countries.

As a result of the meetings you have chaired, we have heard a full ventilation of the issues and the positions of all States. It has been evident for a long time that building consensus will require a compromise between the solutions favoured by some leading exponents of change. Ireland hopes that we can now move towards genuine text-based negotiations in such a spirit of compromise.

[end]