

Statement by H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent representative of Slovakia to the United Nations, at Plenary of the General Assembly on Agenda Item 122: “Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council” (7 November 2017)

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this plenary debate and inviting us to speak. My delegation appreciates the fact that you, Mr. President, made advancing Security Council reform one of the priorities for the Assembly’s seventy-second session and for your leadership on this issue.

International cooperation, understanding and genuine dialogue are ever more necessary to meet the contemporary global challenges. United Nations system that is fit for purpose is needed to support this cooperation. All Member States in principle seem to agree on the fundamental idea of reform of the United Nations in order to make the world body stronger and more responsive to the people it serves. UN Security Council reform is an essential part of the comprehensive reform of the United Nations and Slovakia, continues to be committed to finding a good outcome for the Council’s reform to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent.

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Kaha Innadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia, and Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates on their appointment as Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN). I would like to assure them of my delegation’s full support and cooperation in the forthcoming negotiations. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the former Co-chairs, Ambassador Jinga and Khiari for their dedication and hard work.

We welcome intensified efforts during previous UN General Assembly sessions to bridge proposals and identify ways to move the work forward. We should continue and accelerate the process of the IGN based on the result reached by the end of 69th, 70th and 71st UNGA sessions.

I should like to note, that my delegation joins other countries in calling for the start of text-based negotiations on Security Council reform, that would give the IGN a substantive meaning and take us to the next stage in this important process.

Mr. President,

The position of my delegation on a possible review of the membership of the Security Council is consistent and well documented. My country supports the expansion of both categories – permanent and non-permanent membership – and calls for an increase to no more than 25, respecting geographical balance. The new members of the Council should as a principle have the same responsibilities and obligations as the current members. I wish to underscore that the reformed Council should include one additional non-permanent seat for the Eastern European Group (EEG).

We welcome the developments in the direction of enhancing the Council's methods of work. We hope on issues like peacekeeping, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, peace enforcement further improvements can be achieved.

Similarly, we welcome positive movement towards improving Council's relationships with other UN organs such as the General Assembly, UN Secretariat, Peacebuilding Commission, as well as regional and sub-regional organizations, especially the African Union, the European Union and others. These efforts should continue as well.

Mr. President,

The five key reform issues of UN GA decision 62/557 remain the guiding principles of our work in the IGN. While divergent opinions remain about all five issues, we should again explore them in greater detail: 1. How best to address the wide political acceptance of the common African position in the IGN; 2. How best to reflect the changing global reality in the updated Security Council; 3. How to effectively translate the universal agreement on the expansion of the 2-year non-permanent members category into practice, given that more than 60 United Nations Member States have never been Members of the Security Council so far. 4. How we can all move together to the next stage of negotiations.

Mr. President,

In conclusion: My delegation looks forward to engaging in open, transparent, inclusive and results-oriented negotiations with a view to moving the process forward at the 72st Session of the General Assembly.

Thank you for your attention.