



S L O V A K I A

STATEMENT

by

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74th session of the United Nations General Assembly

**Question of equitable representation on and increase in the
membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the
Security Council [item 122]**

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(check against delivery)

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this plenary debate which addresses a topic of big interest for many delegations. We also thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership in advancing Security Council reform.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) at the 73rd session, Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh of the United Arab Emirates and Ambassador Christian Braun of Luxembourg for their dedication and hard work. We are also looking forward to working with the Co-Chairs of the IGN at the current session.

Mr. President,

International cooperation, understanding and genuine dialogue are needed more than ever to meet the contemporary global challenges. A United Nations system that is fit for purpose is, in turn, indispensable to support this cooperation. All Member States seem to agree in principle 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 representative, efficient and transparent.

Mr. President,

I wish to note that it has been 40 years, since the substantial reform of the UN Security Council was put on the agenda of the General Assembly. Considering this, my delegation joins other countries in calling for the start of text-based negotiations that would give the IGN a substantive meaning and accelerate the process. In this respect, the five key reform issues outlined in UN GA decision 62/557 remain the guiding principles of our work in the IGN.

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 of membership and calls for an increase to no more than 25, while 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.

A lot can be achieved by enhancing the transparency and efficiency of the Council's work. For this reason, we encourage the full implementation of Presidential note No. 507. We also welcome positive movement towards improving the Council's relationships with other UN organs such as the General Assembly, Secretariat or the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as its interaction and dialogue with regional and sub-regional organizations, especially the African Union, the European Union, the OSCE and others.

Mr. President,

My delegation looks forward to engaging in open, transparent, inclusive and results-oriented negotiations with a view to moving the process forward at the current session of the General Assembly.

I thank you.