

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the
United Nations
at the

**Informal meeting (closed) 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**

25 and 26 January 2021

First, I wish to congratulate H.E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka (Poland) and H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani (Qatar) for assuming the important role of co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN). You can be assured of the full support and co-operation of my delegation.

As we reflect on the work of the United Nations at the 75th anniversary of the Organisation, Security Council reform has to be an integral part of that reflection, to ensure that the Organisation is fit to address the challenges of the 21st century. All Member States seem to agree in principle with the fundamental idea of the need for UN reform in order to make the world body stronger and more responsive to the needs of the people it serves. For us, UN Security Council reform is an essential part of the comprehensive UN reform and Slovakia continues to be committed to finding a good outcome for the Council's reform to make it more representative, more efficient and more transparent. Our dedication to UN reform and delivery thereon would simply not be complete without the Security Council component included in it.

The way the negotiations are conducted may influence their dynamics and possibly also the outcomes.

My delegation believes that 40 years after the reform of the Security Council had been put on the agenda of the General Assembly, text-based negotiations have to start. Working on the basis of a single consolidated text, preferably with attributions and with the application of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, would give the IGN a substantive meaning and accelerate the process by providing a clear basis for negotiations. At the same time, and as stipulated by decision 62/557, the membership must aim to find *“a solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance.”* The reform, while much needed and long overdue also for the ensuring long-term credibility of the Security Council and the UN as such, cannot be forced on

the membership or its part and has to be achieved through a credible, transparent and inclusive process.

Regarding the substance, the five key reform issues outlined in decision 62/557 should remain our areas of focus.

Turning to the issue of regional representation, it is, in our view, inherently linked with the cluster *size of an enlarged Security Council* and, to some extent, also with the cluster *categories of membership*.

The position of Slovakia is consistent and well-documented. My country supports the expansion of both categories of membership and calls for an increase of membership to no more than 25. A Security Council with such an enlarged membership would also better ensure respecting geographical balance. My delegation fully supports the increase in the number of African countries represented on the Security Council and Africa's legitimate right in this regard. The reformed Council should also include one additional non-permanent seat for the Eastern European Group.

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. The time is now.

I thank you.