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Statement by

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**to the United Nations**

at the

**UN General Assembly**

**under the agenda item 125 on the**

**"Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council"**

New York, 17 November 2022

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this important annual debate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations during the 76th Session of the General Assembly: the Permanent Representatives of the State of Qatar and Denmark.

We welcome the appointment of the IGN Co-Chairs for this session: the Permanent Representatives of the Slovak Republic and of the State of Kuwait.

You have our full support.

Mr. President,

The world today is not the same as the world in 1945 when the United Nations was established nor 1963 when the membership of the Security Council was expanded for the first and only time thus far. With the changing world, it is also imperative that the institutions change with it.

We believe that the current processes within the UN, including the debate on reforming the Security Council show on the one hand the necessity and on the other the ability of this Organization to adapt to changes.

Therefore, it is imperative that we continue our efforts in the overall reform of the UN system and step up the efforts to achieve Security Council reform.

The events of this year have yet again and very clearly shown the world how urgent it is to reform the body that holds the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

For the Council to be able to carry out this crucial task more effectively – it needs to be more representative and reflective of the realities in the international community, as well as more accountable and transparent.

Mr. President,

Allow me to highlight some of the key points that are important for Slovenia in this process.

First: On the Process of the Intergovernmental Negotiations

We believe the IGN should strive to be as efficient, effective and results-oriented as possible.

We welcome the practice of continuous updating of the Co-Chairs' Elements Paper on Convergences and Divergences on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.

Slovenia's position has always been that in order to achieve tangible progress, negotiations should be text-based and accompanied by attribution of positions and proposals of Member States. We see the elements paper as an important contribution to this goal.

We also believe that the IGN process should be more open and transparent, and that this could be achieved by applying the rules of procedure of the General Assembly – meaning that we would have records on what is being discussed. In this regard, we appreciate this yearly debate in the General Assembly – which is on the record.

My second point is on the question of Representation

From the year of the last expansion of the membership in the Security Council the UN membership has grown by 80 member states. Making the Council more representative is therefore clearly at the core of our discussions.

We share the view that some groups are under-represented and this should urgently be addressed.

We therefore support the African group in its demands for more seats on the Council. There is clearly a historical injustice that needs to be redressed.

We also think other groups, such as small developing states, should be given more opportunities to serve on the Council. Because the number of members of the Group of Eastern European States has more than doubled in the last 30 years, we also call for an additional non-permanent seat for this group.

My third point is on the use of the veto

We believe that the holders of the right of veto should exercise this right responsibly and should refrain from misusing it for national interests and should also not shy away from taking positive action when it is urgently needed.

As a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group Slovenia advocates for the ACT Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. 124 countries have already subscribed to this important document and we encourage others to do so as well.

Slovenia also supports the French-Mexican initiative on the suspension of veto powers in cases of mass atrocity.

Slovenia co-sponsored the GA Resolution on the Veto Initiative as an important step towards more accountability.

My final point is on the categories of membership

The Charter provides for two categories of membership – permanent and non-permanent. We believe the way to reflect the current realities is the expansion of membership in both categories; but at the same time, we also welcome the discussion on other possible solutions.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by assuring you that Slovenia will engage constructively in the discussions and we hope yet again that this session will gain enough momentum to lead us towards tangible progress.

I thank you.

