



Economic and Social Council

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Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

Letter dated 12 December 2022 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zimbabwe and the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

We have the honour to refer to the upcoming plenary meeting of the Economic and Social Council, scheduled for 14 December 2022, in which action on draft resolution [E/2023/L.4](#) is expected.

In this context, and in our capacity as members of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations, we cannot overemphasize our proven and consistent support to multilateralism, as well as our principled opposition to unilateral actions of any kind, as we believe that such approaches go against the interests of the international community and its key pillars, especially against the very tenets enshrined in the founding Charter.

Consequently, we are of the view that adherence to the principles that are considered the cornerstone of multilateralism, upon which the United Nations is based, and which constitute the basis for modern-day international law, including values such as inclusiveness, equality of States in membership and meaningful participation in all international forums, and representation in all international bodies by all States that is equal, proportionate and based on the geographical distribution of representatives from all regions of the world, is of the utmost importance.

In this context, the arbitrary interpretation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as of the relevant rules of procedure of its main bodies, including those of the Economic and Social Council, not only falls short of upholding multilateralism but also runs the risk of undermining the system of international relations as a whole while setting a rather dangerous precedent.



If political power prevails over the rule of law, especially within the United Nations system, including by forbidding Member States from exercising their basic right of membership, the already weakened international system would not only be significantly compromised but would also disintegrate back into its initial condition as a result. We have a clear illustration in the League of Nations' failing, which is why such a scenario should concern each and every peace-loving nation.

We therefore believe that the lack of a reference to the termination of a member of the Economic and Social Council or a member of any of its functional commissions, after having been rightfully elected and backed by the endorsement of its relevant regional groups, was actually left out of the rules of procedure of the Council, which were written and agreed upon by Member States, in a deliberate manner. As a matter of fact, rule 140 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, under "Elections to Principal Organs", expressly only regards the "ceasing" of membership in a Council by elected States and foresees that other subsequent steps should be taken if a member so decides to terminate its membership in a given Council prior to the conclusion of the term for which it had been initially elected to serve.

The content of draft resolution [E/2023/L.4](#), entitled "Removal of the Islamic Republic of Iran from membership in the Commission on the Status of Women for the remainder of its 2022–2026 term", and the measures foreseen therein are rather inappropriate and demeaning, politicizing the work of the technical committees of the United Nations, notably the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, which deal mainly with development issues, on the exclusive basis of allegations that are neither approved by this body nor related to its mandate, and which are aimed at serving agendas of a dubious nature.

In addition, it is worth recalling that for Member States, the only criteria for membership in the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, according to section V of its resolution [557 C \(XVIII\)](#), on membership, is being "interested in serving thereon" and having "the widest possible expert knowledge and experience". Putting forward the draft resolution to be considered in the coming days will undoubtedly create an unwelcome precedent that will ultimately prevent other Member States with different cultures, customs and traditions, that are also interested in serving in the subsidiary bodies of the Council, from contributing to the activities of such commissions, contrary to the relevant rules of procedure, as well as to the mandate of the Council and its functional commissions, and also in contradiction with the very tenets of the Charter of the United Nations.

In light of all the foregoing, we respectfully urge you hereby to weigh the far-reaching implications of draft resolution [E/2023/L.4](#) and to keep in mind that a vote against said draft resolution would translate into a vote in favour of multilateralism, international legality, diversity and all that the United Nations represents, while avoiding the establishment of a dangerous precedent that could become the new trend for expelling sovereign and rightfully elected States from any given body of the international system, if ever they were perceived as inconvenient and a circumstantial majority could be secured for imposing such manoeuvres.

We respectfully request that the present letter be brought to the attention of the States members of the Economic and Social Council and be issued as a document of the Council, under agenda item 4.

(Signed) Mohamed Ennadir **Larbaoui**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
to the United Nations

(Signed) Maria de Jesus dos Reis **Ferreira**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola
to the United Nations

(Signed) Valentin **Rybakov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus
to the United Nations

(Signed) Diego **Pary Rodríguez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Sovann **Ke**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Zhang **Jun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

(Signed) Pedro Luis **Pedroso Cuesta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cuba
to the United Nations

(Signed) Song **Kim**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
to the United Nations

(Signed) Anatolio **Ndong Mba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
to the United Nations

(Signed) Sophia **Tesfamariam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the State of Eritrea
to the United Nations

(Signed) Amir Saeid **Jalil Iravani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations

(Signed) Anouparb **Vongnorkeo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
to the United Nations

(Signed) Jaime **Hermida Castillo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nicaragua
to the United Nations

(Signed) Vasily A. **Nebenzia**

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) Inga Rhonda **King**

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations

(Signed) Bassam **Sabbagh**

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations

(Signed) Samuel **Moncada**

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations

(Signed) Albert Ranganai **Chimbindi**

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe
to the United Nations

(Signed) Riyad H. **Mansour**

Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations
