



STATEMENT

Delivered by H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett, Permanent Representative of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana at the First Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on UN Security Council Reform during the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

December 13, 2023

Thank you, Co-Chairs,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Saint Lucia on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on behalf of the L69 Group.

My delegation welcomes the early convening of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform and the innovative approach outlined for this session. We welcome the effort to ensure a more structured dialogue on Security Council Reform and to deliberate on the various models proposed by States and Groups.

Guyana has always advocated for a more logical framework to translate our long-held positions into **decisions**, and hopes that with this new approach, we can achieve concrete progress on matters of substance.

In an era when multilateralism is waning and the most basic principles of international law and a rules-based international order are under threat, the Council's structural deficiencies must be addressed. For many of us in smaller states, Security Council reform has become an existential issue where our entire survival rests on the Council's ability to effectively carry out its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. We see the Council's current configuration as a relic of the past which neither reflects today's geopolitical realities nor the current membership of the United Nations. Moreover, the Council's current configuration often results in skewed outcomes that favour the interests and priorities of a few, to the detriment of the great majority.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Guyana's position on Security Council reform is clearly articulated in the Framework Document. We advocate for a more effective, democratic, inclusive, and representative Council as a foundational pillar for multilateralism and believe that expansion in both categories of membership is the best way of achieving this.

We also support the call for a rotating seat on the Council for SIDS and the Common African Position and look forward to engaging with delegations as we elaborate further on these proposals.

Guyana stands ready to work with you all and to discuss all avenues that could bring us closer to our stated objective of early and comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council. We are committed to ensuring that our work is both conducive to, and reflected in, any Security Council Reform-related outcome of the 2024 Summit of the Future.

I Thank You!