



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
To the United Nations, New York

STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR MICHAEL KIBOINO, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE
DURING THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF
EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND MATTERS RELATED
TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER 2023, AT 10:00AM
TRUSTEESHIP CHAMBER

Thank you, Co-Chairs,

1. I congratulate you on your re-appointment as Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations. I assure you of Kenya's continued support as we build upon the progress made during the 77th Session of the General Assembly.
2. Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered by the permanent representative of Sierra Leone on behalf of the Africa Group. I am making these additional remarks in my national capacity.
3. We thank you co-chairs for convening us to debate with a view to finding areas of convergence on the five clusters mentioned in paragraph (e) (ii) of GA Decision 62/557. Indeed, the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council is at the centre of the Security Council reform.
4. Equitable representation and inclusive participation are hallmarks of good governance in all contexts whether at national, regional, or multilateral levels. On this score, our

multilateral system is lagging as epitomized by the skewed configuration of the UN Security Council.

5. Consequently, the Security Council, which remains under the control of a few member states is increasingly divided, indecisive, and unable to effectively discharge its critical mandate. Its inability to address the ongoing conflicts around the world, including the worsening situation in the Middle East attests to this.

6. Change might discomfort the beneficiaries of the skewed status quo. But it is time to take bold, ambitious, and decisive actions to make the Security Council equitably representative – a Security Council that has the trust and confidence of all member states - a Security Council that delivers effectively on its mandate. Failure to take this action, we risk the Security Council becoming a liability to its primary mandate of maintenance of international peace and security.

7. **Co-Chairs**, Africa was not on the table when the UN Charter was promulgated. Nevertheless, African countries, at independence, joined the United Nations because of its promise of sovereign equality of states. And yet we stand at a crossroads marked by a continuing historical injustice of marginalization of Africa.

8. The time has come to correct this wrong and usher in an era where Africa is equitably represented in the Security Council as envisaged by the African Common Position, enshrined in the Ezulwini consensus and the Sirte Declaration. We thank the many member states that stand in solidarity with Africa on this. Africa's inclusion will not only correct a historical injustice. It will also infuse new perspectives vital for addressing contemporary global challenges.

9. We call for the abolition of the veto. But if it is to be retained, it should, as a matter of common justice and equity, be extended to new permanent members with all its prerogatives and privileges.

10. We must not overlook the interconnectedness of the five clusters. We need to recognize that each cluster impacts the others, demanding a comprehensive reform approach that upholds the ideals of equity, democracy, and geographical representation.

11. It is imperative to seek opportunities that would serve to unlock persisting political hesitancies. In this regard, the Summit of the Future can be leveraged as a once-in a time platform, to galvanize political support for an expeditious Security Council reform. Therefore, Kenya welcomes the decision by the Co-Chairs to host sessions starting in February to discuss the contribution by the IGN to the Summit of the Future.

12. I reiterate in conclusion that in the face of rapidly evolving international security realities, the Security Council reform is more urgently needed than ever before. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to shape a Security Council that mirrors the present geopolitical realities and capable of delivering effectively in the maintenance of international peace and security. I reaffirm my delegation's unwavering

commitment to working with all Member States in this regard.

I Thank you.