



Permanent Mission of the
State of Kuwait to the United Nations
New York

 Permanent Mission
of Austria to the
United Nations in New York

3 May 2023

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as **Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations** on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (**IGN**) during the 77th session of the General Assembly.

Kindly find attached a copy of a letter dated 2 May 2023 received by the Co-Chairs from the Permanent Mission of Mexico. Upon the request of the Permanent Mission of Mexico, the attached document will be **posted on the IGN website** which acts as a repository of the IGN process.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Tareq Albanai
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
State of Kuwait to the United Nations

Alexander Marschik
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Austria to the United Nations

To: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations, New York

MÉXICO

Misión Permanente de México
ante las Naciones Unidas



ONU-01516

New York, 2 May 2023.

Esteemed Co-Chairs,

I have the honor to address you in your capacity as Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (IGN) of the 77th UN General Assembly.

As you are aware, on 25 January 2023, Mexico circulated a proposal regarding the negotiations of the UN Security Council reform, now a document of the General Assembly under symbol A/77/717.

Mexico submitted the proposal aimed at providing elements for more substantial discussions within the Intergovernmental Negotiations that would eventually lead to a negotiating text. Therefore, I further officially request that document A/77/717 (attached) be included in the electronic repository created for the IGN.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Juan Ramón de la Fuente
Permanent Representative of Mexico

H.E. Amb. Tareq Albanai

Permanent Representative of the
State of Kuwait to the United Nations

H. E. Amb. Alexander Marschik

Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Austria to the United Nations



General Assembly

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Agenda item 125

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

Letter dated 25 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am pleased to attach herewith a document containing the proposal of Mexico regarding the negotiations on Security Council reform (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 125.

(Signed) Juan Ramón **De la Fuente**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico



Annex to the letter dated 25 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

A Mexican proposal for negotiations on the Security Council reform

New York, January 2023

While the reform of the Security Council has garnered varied degrees of attention throughout the past decades, the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly has, once again, placed this item at the top of the priorities of the United Nations and of the international community as a whole. Almost all Member States agree on the need for a reform of the Security Council to make it more representative, democratic, transparent, accountable and effective.

Any true attempt at making the reform possible must have a tangible point of departure that includes convergences and general common understandings on all aspects of such a reform, as the prerequisite to a formal negotiation.

Mexico, who has just ended its tenure as an elected member of the Security Council for the fifth time, has decided to share with Member States a draft proposal that could contribute to fostering such convergences and general common understandings, and could eventually form the basis for text-oriented negotiations.

The present proposal takes into consideration the views expressed by Member States at the inter-governmental negotiations sessions throughout the years. In line with General Assembly resolution [53/30](#) and decision 62/557, its objective is to bring about a Security Council reform with the widest political acceptance.

Mexico, as part of the Uniting for Consensus Group, promotes, above all, a substantial increase of elected members. Having more elected members is the best way to guarantee a wider representation of all States Members of the United Nations on the Security Council, and therefore make it more representative and accountable to the general membership of the United Nations. The process of periodic elections and rotation of members is irreplaceable to ensure an accountable and democratic Security Council.

The Uniting for Consensus Group proposal focuses on increasing elected seats, and the possibility of immediate re-election for some of these seats. This would allow all Member States the opportunity to serve at the Security Council more frequently and for longer periods, while promoting a fair system of rotation.

In its effort to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council based on consensus, Mexico submits the following draft proposal, aimed at providing elements for more substantial discussions within the inter-governmental negotiations that would eventually lead to a negotiating text.

1. Elected seats and regional distribution

An expansion of 10 new elected seats, in addition to the existing 10, resulting in a reformed Security Council of 25 members.

1.1 Longer-term elected seats

Among the 20 (elected members, 8 would be longer-term elected seats for a four-year period, with the possibility of one immediate re-election, thus offering the

possibility of serving for an uninterrupted period of eight years, provided that that Member State is re-elected by the General Assembly.

Those members who complete their tenure of an accumulated eight-year term, shall not be eligible for any other elected seat for a period of four years, after which that member would be eligible again for any elected seat. This formula is consistent with the modalities established by the General Assembly for elections to the Human Rights Council.

The eight longer-term elected seats shall be distributed among regional groups, as follows:

- Three for African Group
- Two for Asia-Pacific Group
- Two for Latin America and Caribbean Group
- One for Western Europe and Others Group

The expansion would remedy the current geographical imbalance. Africa must be the region with the highest number of elected seats in a reformed Security Council.

Among the five longer-term elected seats assigned to the African and Asia-Pacific Groups, one shall be always assigned to an Arab country.

The criteria for election to those seats shall remain the same as provided in Article 23 (1) of the Charter of the United Nations. The members shall be elected according to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly for election of members of the Security Council.

The longer-term elected seats would automatically open up the place for the two-year seats to Member States that have had fewer possibilities to serve in the Council, and would provide enhanced opportunities, especially for small island developing States and small States.

The expansion through longer-term seats takes into consideration the aspiration of some Member States to have a continuous and more frequent presence in the Security Council.

1.2 Elected seats with a two-year term

Increase the number of the current two-year elected members, from 10 to 12 seats, preserving the current geographical representation distribution.

Bearing in mind that Security Council reform should address the underrepresentation of some groups, the additional two seats should be distributed as follows:

- One seat to the Eastern European Group
- One rotating seat exclusively reserved for small island developing States and small States. Candidates who are small island developing States or small States would be able to run either under this criterion or for a seat within their regional group.

There would be no other change to the existing criteria for membership and the procedure for election to these seats.

A State ending its term as an elected member of a two-year term shall not be eligible for immediate re-election to any other elected seat.

1.3 Distribution of seats in the enlarged Security Council

	<i>Elected Seats</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Longer Term</i>	<i>Two-year Term</i>	
African Group	3	3	6
Asia-Pacific Group	2	2	4
Latin America and Caribbean Group	2	2	4
Western European and Others Group	1	2	3
Eastern European Group		2	2
Small island developing States and small States		1	1
	Permanent seats		5
	Total		25

Regional groups will continue to decide on arrangements for rotation of their members on the seats allotted to them. Those arrangements shall also encompass – as appropriate and if required – a fair subregional representation.

2. Decision-making process

2.1 Majority required for Security council decisions

In an enlarged Security Council, as in the present proposal, decisions shall continue to be made according to the proportion set out in Article 27 of the Charter. In this sense, the number of affirmative votes required for decision-making shall increase to 15 votes, to maintain the same percentage of affirmative votes required in the current Security Council.

2.2 Question of the veto

The decision-making process in the Security Council, as described in Article 27 (3) of the Charter, provides for the concurrence of the five affirmative votes of the permanent members as a requisite to substantive decisions.

Special consideration should be given to address ways to best limit the use of veto under circumstances such as mass atrocities and war crimes. Initiatives in this regard include the “Political statement on the suspension of the veto in case of mass atrocities” presented by France and Mexico and the “Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes”, by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group. Both initiatives enjoy a significant support from member States, but further discussion is needed to consider its adoption by the General Assembly.

2.3 Working methods and relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly

The working methods of the Security Council must be reviewed. Flexible, inclusive and transparent decision-making processes are key aspects of any reformed Security Council as well as an enhanced relationship between the Council and the General Assembly.

Inclusive working methods of an enlarged Security Council should entail the possibility for all elected members to chair subsidiary bodies and to serve as penholder or co-penholder of files during their mandate.

The working methods of the Security Council, as well as its relationship with the General Assembly, can be improved through several measures, such as:

1. Increasing the quality and enhancing the analytical content of the annual report of the Security Council that is presented to the General Assembly.
 2. Improving the transparency of the work of the subsidiary bodies, by enhancing the quality, frequency and availability of their formal and informal reports and summary records. This can also entail a better balance of briefings and consultations throughout.
 3. Offering more informal opportunities for States Members of the United Nations to interact with the subsidiary bodies.
 4. Frequent, timely and more informative briefings for non-Council members on matters discussed in Security Council informal consultations and its subsidiary bodies.
 5. Facilitating access to documents and other relevant information, through open briefings and interactions between the Security Council and all interested and involved parties, including regional and subregional organizations.
 6. Making available in a timely manner draft resolutions and presidential statements, as well as other Security Council documents (press statements, elements to the press and notes by the President), to non-Council members.
 7. Developing mechanisms to ensure that the views and interests of Member States affected or involved in any matter on the agenda of the Security Council are heard and taken into account in the work of the Council and in its products.
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