



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO

**Statement by Amb. Juan Sandoval, Deputy Permanent Representative, during the  
intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform**

New York, March 7, 2017

**OFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

**Co-Chairs,**

First of all, I would like to thank you for convening this second round of consultations. Mexico aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Italy on behalf of the “United for Consensus” (UfC) Group.

**Co-Chairs,**

In response to your invitation, I will reiterate Mexico's position on the three issues being considered today:

**1. Veto**

- During the Organization's more than 70 years of existence, we have witnessed that the veto does not defend the collective interest of the membership; but rather obstructs and distorts the common interest, and fosters division among the members of the Security Council. This has often prevented the Security Council from being efficient in fulfilling its primary mandate and responsibility to maintain international peace and security.
- The veto, established in the Charter as a prerogative for the permanent members of the Security Council, responded to the historic moment in which the UN was designed and created. The veto should not exist, let alone be granted to additional UN members. This has been Mexico's position since the Dumbarton Oaks project, and it will continue to be, since the veto undermines the credibility, unity, legitimacy and transparency of the Council in the eyes of the rest of the membership and the international community in general. The veto has led the United Nations to irrelevance.
- Mexico together with France promote that, on a voluntary basis, the five permanent members of the Security Council, desist from applying this prerogative conferred by the Charter in cases of heinous crimes. The Declaration calling for this restriction is supported by more than 100 countries. We invite countries that have not done so, to join this proposal. We also support the ACT's Code of Conduct, which is complementary to the French-Mexican initiative, since both seek the same objective: to improve the efficiency of the Security Council, particularly on mass atrocities. The reform must contemplate this subject.

## **2. Regional representation**

- The current geographical distribution of the members of the Council does not reflect the current international reality, since some regions are over-represented, others, such as Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, are clearly under-represented. We should guarantee that both countries which today have an increasingly active role in different political, economic and financial global forums, as well as those with less possibilities to participate, can aspire to be elected members of the Security Council.
- There is no doubt that the reform of the Security Council should contribute to making this body truly representative of the 193 member States of the Organization and to continue to do so in the coming decades, while at the same time ensuring its effectiveness. As such, the question of regional representation cannot be understood without addressing the veto, or the categories of membership.

## **3. Categories of Membership**

- It is unreasonable to reform the Security Council in order to grant new privileges to a few countries. Democracy must be a supreme value for the United Nations.
- Increasing the number of permanent members would not help to address the lack of representativeness of the Council. Moreover, increasing the permanent members goes against the historical evolution of our organization, which is increasingly democratic, inclusive, transparent and diverse. We want an increasingly democratic United Nations, not an organization that perpetuates unjustifiable privileges to only a few.
- Expanding the permanent members of the Security Council would only increase over-representation of certain regional groups and limit the number of seats available for the rest of the membership.
- We will not agree to increase the permanent membership category, as it does not correspond to the standards of the XXI century by granting unjustified privileges to a minority.
- Focusing on expanding the category of elected members (non-permanent), based on the principle of equitable geographical representation, with mandates broader than the current two years and with the possibility of immediate re-election, represents the most feasible option for advancing the reform process, but also, would generate greater balance for the Organization and its future.

### **Co-Chairs:**

The reform of the Security Council is not an end in itself, but a vehicle for improving the Organization. We believe that, under your guidance, we will continue to discuss the still very divergent positions on various aspects of the reform, with a view to examining the proposals that benefit the Organization, and abandoning those which would maintain the imbalance and inequality in which the UN has worked during its first 70 years of existence.

If countries legitimately wish to have a greater presence and a greater commitment to the Security Council, let us seriously consider the proposal of the United for Consensus (UfC), which recommends the creation of long-term and re-electable non-permanent seats. This formula ensures the accountability we need. Thank you.