



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

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

07 March 2017

**Intervention by
Mr. Zoltan Varga
Deputy Permanent Representative**

as delivered

Excellencies, Distinguished Co-Facilitators,

We are glad that today's debate is concentrating on those issues (categories of membership, regional representation and the question of veto) where the elements of convergences emerged have not yet been consolidated into a concrete text.

As regards the process itself, our long standing belief that we should move towards text-based negotiations as soon as possible, therefore we are grateful for the letter sent by the distinguished Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and Grenadines on behalf of the L69 calling for a collation of member states positions. In general we support all efforts aiming at finding practical solutions to avoid ritually repeating the same IGN process every year.

In our views convergences exist or can be found in all clusters, the main convergence is perhaps that enlargement is timely and warranted, and a fairer and more equitable representation is in the interest of all member states.

On Categories of membership

Hungary continues to support enlargement in both categories in order to better reflect the current geopolitical and social realities. Should it find consensus, Hungary does not exclude an *interim* solution, which could also be temporary in nature, until discussions on further enlargement in permanent membership come to a satisfactory conclusion.

Decisions on the enlargement in the permanent or other new proposed categories shall not jeopardize enlargement in the non-permanent category, which is uniformly supported by the international community.

Let me reiterate our position that enlargement will necessarily mandate an overhaul of the Security Council's working methods.

On regional representation

Hungary supports a simple and understandable enlargement model. As a guiding principle, that enlargement must continue to be based on the regional groups and must observe their equitable representation. This does not mean that other supplementary models cannot be entertained, such as seats for sub-regional and cross-regional groups, notably the Arab Group, small and medium sized countries, for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). We agree with the urgent need to address the issue of the under-representation of the developing countries, especially Africa and SIDS.

The final solution does not necessarily have to be one of the proposals, in the consolidated text, but rather, a combination of their elements. We see clear opportunities to narrow down differences and identify areas of consensus on these issues.

Hungary reiterates its call for a second non-permanent seat for the Eastern European Group. The membership of the EEG has grown from 10 countries in 1965 to the current 23 Member States. This request stands under any enlargement model.

Excellencies,

The question of veto remains perhaps the most difficult issue to tackle. Nevertheless, regarding the voluntary restraint on the use of veto we detect more convergence than divergence. This is the result of the growing support of Member States for the ACT Group's Code of Conduct as well as for the French-Mexican proposal. The practical implementation of these two proposals is not tied to the reform process. These are efforts that must be pursued by the Council on a daily

basis, and the Council does not have to wait until we agree on reform. Hungary strongly supports mandatory explanation of reasons for veto, at the time of veto, to be circulated as Security Council document. Hungary acknowledges the ultimate responsibility of the Security Council with regard to its activities and working methods. This is precisely why we suggests that the Security Council review its procedures on the use of veto and regularly inform the broader membership about the outcome of such deliberations. This undertaking will become unavoidable once we agree on Security Council reform.

I thank you for your attention.