



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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H.E. Ambassador PARK In-kook

Permanent Representative

Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Related Matters

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Mr. President,

1. Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to you for convening this session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG), Mr. President. Today, we have the opportunity to discuss the modalities of intergovernmental negotiations, which are fast approaching.
2. Having clear rules will ensure that negotiations are conducted in good faith and with mutual respect, as well as fairness and efficiency, ultimately leading us toward a solution acceptable to all. In this regard, discussing the modalities in the OEWG today is an imperative step towards the commencement of viable intergovernmental negotiations.

Mr. President,

3. Although the process leading up to the adoption of Decision 62/557 and the present has been contentious, my delegation believes we are on the right track. We applaud your leadership and that of Ambassador Tanin in steering us toward compromise in those difficult times. Now is the time for all Member States to once again muster the political will necessary to move the process forward.
4. The Republic of Korea, a member of the Uniting for Consensus group, has been and remains committed to demonstrating flexibility in the pursuit of our common goal.

Mr. President,

5. According to the schedule of work put forward by your office, we will have one last “wrap-up” session of the OEWG to discuss how the results of the consultations of the OEWG will be presented to the informal plenary of the General Assembly. Although we cannot prejudge the format of your presentation, we expect that it will likely take the form of a report with concrete recommendations, which will eventually be adopted as a decision of the GA.
6. In this vein, we wholeheartedly support the proposal put forward by Canada and Malta on the elements to be included in the decision of the General Assembly regarding the framework and modalities. This proposal is an extension of the proposal on the framework and modalities proposed by Spain and Argentina at the last session of the OEWG. It clearly lays down key points that can guide us in our common endeavour to make the Security Council more democratic, representative, inclusive, transparent, accountable, and effective.

Mr. President,

7. My delegation’s position has always been that negotiations must remain an open, inclusive, and transparent process carried out in the cordial spirit of objectivity and impartiality, and in full trust of the entire membership. We are also confident that a spirit of respect and cooperation will carry over from the OEWG to the informal plenary of the GA.

Mr. President,

8. With regard to the unequivocal claim of some delegations that the rules of procedure of the GA will apply to the informal plenary, my delegation would like to express regret that such a claim is reading the 62/557 out of context. Decision 62/557 designated the informal plenary as the venue of intergovernmental negotiations precisely because of the nature of the informal plenary which will allow negotiations to proceed in an open, informal and consultative setting. Hence, there is no question that rules which govern our negotiations will be based on the established general practice in the informal plenary of the General Assembly.
9. In addition, bearing in mind that all aspects of Security Council reform are open for negotiation, and noting the complexity of all relevant elements, a package deal approach is desirable. For this reason, it would not be feasible to seek agreement on one element without fully exploring its implication on other related issues.
10. We should also remind ourselves that no proposal that alienates or disillusiones a significant portion of the Membership will lead to viable or lasting reform. Views of all groups should be heard and