Mr. President,

I have the honour to take the floor today on behalf of a diverse group of 42 developing countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific who are united by a common cause – to achieve lasting and comprehensive reforms of the UN Security Council.

Our Group is bound by the firm conviction that expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the Security Council is imperative to better reflect contemporary world realities, and achieve a more accountable, representative, transparent and more importantly a 'relevant' Security Council.

We are heartened by the strong emphasis and high priority you attach to this long debated subject and compliment you for appointing Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica, as the Chair of the IGN to lead us forward on this important debate. This appointment is a welcome development as it brings not only fresh leadership but hopefully innovative ideas to what has been largely a stalled process so far.
Mr. President,

After ten rounds and seven years of Intergovernmental Negotiations nothing has changed on this subject; except for the momentum placed by the leadership of the General Assembly, who did their utmost in this regard.

The IGN was mandated to commence 'text based negotiations'. 140 countries, way more than two-thirds majority, made a formal and written submission to the Chair in 2009 asking him to initiate a text based negotiation process.

However, we are repeatedly airing statements of known positions, and continue to plead to the Chair to conduct negotiations on the basis of a text, similar to all other Chairs in all other UN processes.

Mr. President,

With the 70th Anniversary Year of the United Nations, approaching it simply cannot, therefore be "business as usual", if we embark upon the next round of the IGN with the same stasis and vacuum that has characterized the last ten rounds.

The process will only move forward if you as the President of the General Assembly mandate the Chair to conduct negotiations immediately on the basis of a text, which is tabled with your full authority and backing.

However, if we allow the self defeating argument of "consensus to emerge even before the commencement of negotiations" as a pre condition for commencing text based negotiations, then we are simply trying to scuttle any forward movement on this process, which only suits the interests of a limited minority of objectors.

We therefore count upon your leadership, as the President of the General Assembly, to ensure that the 11th Round does not amount to an exercise in statement making, but a real process of negotiations, where representatives focus their energies, line by line, paragraph by paragraph in arriving on at least bracketed text by the conclusion of the 69th UNGA.

As per your own estimates, more than 100 plus Heads of States and Governments in their interventions during the High Level Segment of the 69th UN General Assembly called for urgent reforms of the UN Security Council. All our Heads of State and Governments unanimously made the same request way back in 2005.

It is therefore a courtesy to the sentiment of all our Heads of State and Governments that we provide them with some feedback on what we have achieved on this subject, if anything at all on this process, when they all gather for the 70th Anniversary Summit next year.

We therefore hope that once we commence the text based negotiation process under your leadership, we would be able to provide our leaders, when they meet next year, a platform through which a concrete outcome on this long standing subject could be eventually arrived at.
It was in 1963, fifty one years ago, that this same General Assembly enlarged the membership of the UNSC from 11 to 15. A modest increase of four in the non-permanent category only. Since then the membership of the United Nations has increased from 113 to 193. 80 more countries have been added, but their addition hasn’t altered the composition of the world’s premier body mandated to maintain international peace and security!

We have a truly bizarre situation today, when nearly 75 percent of the work of the Security Council is focused exclusively on the continent of Africa, and yet, ever since its inception, the body does not have, not even one permanent member from the whole of the 54 strong African membership.

It is therefore critical that we move further ahead with a ‘results based time line’ as an absolute imperative. Using superficial arguments of not imposing artificial time lines, while calling for fixed time lines in all other UN processes, only reflects of doublespeak language used to deceive usually through concealment or misrepresentation of truth and would epitomize our collective failure to address an issue of urgent and pressing importance.

It is our Group’s firm conviction that the year 2015, which will be the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations, as well as 10 years following the 2005 World Summit when all our Heads of State/Governments mandated us to achieve early reforms of the Security Council, would be reasonably early, to show progress on that unanimous mandate.

Mr. President,

As the only Group which has increased in membership over the years, and in keeping with our tradition of active support for the reform process, the L69 Group has also put forward a number of proposals for transforming our interactions and deliberations into real negotiations.

As a Group with perhaps the largest convergence of the likeminded countries from the developing world, the L69 has been able to significantly enhance convergences with the African Group and forge a common position. It is a position that embraces comprehensive reforms and has deliberately avoided the ‘piecemeal’ approach that some of the detractors of any forward movement on reforms have used to hold the process hostage.

Let me reiterate again that the L69 acknowledges and supports the African common position as enunciated in the Ezulwini. Such enhancement of convergences benefits the momentum contributing to the IGN process, which may also be recognized in the negotiation text.

Mr. President,

Today, when we see the inability of the Security Council to respond in a timely manner to pressing issues of war and peace, when we see decisions of the Council being increasingly put to public scrutiny, and large sections of civil society and academia, questioning not just its representativeness but credibility, even to the extent of member states rejecting seats after getting elected, we should be seen to be constructively engaged in restoring the dignity of this premier body by reforming it to reflect contemporary realities.
The L69 Group is committed to playing its part in ensuring that this result, which we all envisage, is not left to future generations, but brought about now and here, under your able stewardship.

I thank you, Mr. President.