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Statement by

Ambassador Heiko Thoms
Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations – New York

UN General Assembly - Item 119: Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

12 November 2014

Mr. President,

Let me begin by commending you on the appointment of the Permanent Representative of Jamaica, Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, as the new Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations. We are confident that your choice, a result of thorough consultations, will lead to substantial progress in this process.

Please be assured, Ambassador Rattray, that we stand ready to collaborate closely with you, unified in our desire for a result-oriented process to bring about the reform of the Security Council.

At the same time, I would like to extend my gratitude to Ambassador Tanin, who has dedicated so much energy to bring the IGN to the point it has reached today.
I would like to align myself with the statement delivered by my Brazilian colleague, Ambassador Patriota, on behalf of the G4 countries and would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

Speaking of efforts and achievements so far, Germany considers the non-paper developed by the former PGA John Ashe and his Advisory Group a crucial document as it summarizes the various positions of the different groups on this issue and constitutes one possible text-based foundation for our negotiations in the IGN.

After a lengthy exchange of positions, the time has come to finally translate rhetoric into actual negotiations and make real progress on Security Council reform. The necessity is evident.

All of us acknowledge the need to overcome the deadlock that has caused us so much frustration as well as the suffering of people turning to the United Nations Security Council for help. The tenor of the statements delivered today proves this. However, it is our responsibility to not only name the problem, but to dissect it and solve it.
Let me mention a few decisive points:

First of all, the demand for an ex-ante consensus text, *before* negotiations have even started, will not lead to any results. This is not in line with the usual UN working methods and has caused the continued stalemate in the reform process so far.

All transparent and output-orientated negotiations require a negotiation text. We are completely open regarding the content of such a text. We sincerely hope that you, Mr. President, will present such a text as a starting point of the next IGN.

Mr. President,

Directing our view to beyond the deadlock on Syria and Ukraine, the necessity to reform the Security Council remains obvious and long overdue. The Council is far from representing the geopolitical realities of the 21st century.

The legitimate demand by a majority of nations for an equitable geographical distribution in the Security Council represents one major pillar of the G4 proposal. There have been various attempts by different groups to improve the work of the Council so far, and we welcome, for example, the constructive work by the Accountability, Coherence, and Transparency (ACT) group to reform working
methods. In addition, the French-Mexican proposal on limiting the use of the Veto in cases of mass atrocities received major support across regional groups and underlined the undeniable necessity to reform the Security Council.

However, overcoming the current paralysis of the Security Council by merely reforming its working methods without a real, structural reform of the Council is an attempt to cut the proverbial Gordian knot without a sword: it cannot succeed.

The United Nations’ 70th anniversary in 2015 will be a historic opportunity. The anniversary marks 50 years since the first – and last - UNSC reform, 20 years since the beginning of the reform debate and the establishment of the OEWG and, most importantly, 10 years since the Heads of States and Governments called for an “early reform” of the Security Council at the 2005 World Summit. It is our obligation to live up to these expectations.

Germany, together with its G4-Partners, will give its utmost to reinvigorate the process in order to achieve a tangible outcome by the end of next year.

We call upon all reform-oriented countries to join us in this endeavor.