Agenda Item 119: Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council
Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this important meeting.

2. The question of Security Council reform has been on the agenda for many years and, Mr. President, you have rightly recognized it as a priority. My delegation looks forward with optimism towards making meaningful progress on this subject under your able leadership.

3. I welcome the appointment of Ambassador Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica as Chair of the 11th Round of Intergovernmental Negotiations and assure him of our full support and cooperation. I have no doubt that Ambassador Rattray will inject new momentum to the IGN process during the 69th Session of the General Assembly.

4. I should also like to place on record our deep appreciation to the previous Chair, Ambassador Zahir Tanin, for his steadfast commitment and stewardship of the IGN process for a number of years.

Mr. President,

5. Bhutan aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the L69 by Ambassador Menissa Rambally, Permanent Representative of St. Lucia.

6. The imperative to reform the Security Council to make it more representative, transparent and accountable cannot be overstated. This has been recognized since 1993 when the General Assembly first began debating Security Council reform. Our Leaders in 2005 also called for early reform of the Security Council as an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations. Many of our Leaders reiterated this call during the high level segment of the 69th Session of the General Assembly.

7. Since 2009, the 10 rounds of the IGN have kept us engaged on this important subject. However, despite the overwhelming support for reform, we have not made much progress. During the IGN, a majority of delegations supported expansion in both categories of membership. The Chair of the 10th Round of the IGN in his assessment, among others, highlighted that there was a continual emphasis on the need for reform. While some progress has been made to improve the working methods of the Council, the lack of a working document has made it difficult to engage constructively in real negotiations and address all issues. We, therefore, look to your leadership and that of the Chair of the IGN to take the process forward on the basis of a zero draft.
Mr. President,

8. Bhutan supports the need to reform the Security Council in keeping with contemporary realities based on the principle of sovereign equality, equitable geographic distribution, transparency, accountability and democratization of the decision making process. We believe that expansion of the Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent membership categories and improvement in its working methods is necessary to further strengthen and enhance the legitimacy and functioning of the Council.

9. For over 20 years, beginning with the Open Ended Working Group till the recently concluded 10th Round of the IGN, we have heard and listened to various proposals. We have engaged extensively on all issues based on GA Decision 62/557. We now have the benefit of years of discussion and debate and we understand each other's position better. What we need now is a working document so that real negotiations can be pursued in earnest. Only then can we make meaningful progress in our common endeavor to reform the Security Council by building on areas of convergence and finding common ground on areas in which we disagree.

Mr. President,

10. The 70th Anniversary of the UN in 2015 presents an opportune occasion to show real progress on a subject that has remained on our agenda for over two decades. Despite the seemingly intractable nature of this subject, it is now time for us to engage in text-based negotiations to take the reform process forward. And while a decision taken by consensus is the most desirable way forward, we cannot allow its absence to obstruct progress indefinitely. In this regard, we are confident that you will provide renewed momentum and impetus to this process and steer it towards a result-oriented and meaningful conclusion.

11. I thank you.