Statement by
Ambassador Yusra Khan
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations

on

Agenda item: 119 “Question of equitable representation on and increase
in the membership of the Security Council and related matters”

New York, 12 November 2014
Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking you for convening this important debate. I would like to firstly convey my delegation’s deepest appreciation to Ambassador Zahir Tanin, the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, for his very able stewardship of the IGN over the past years, and would like to congratulate Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, the Permanent Representative of Jamaica, for his appointment as the Chair of the next round of Intergovernmental Negotiations.

Mr. President,

We meet here in the midst of heightened and complex security challenges in various regions. As the emerging as well as old challenges are confronted, the global expectations from the Security Council to act effectively are more pronounced.

But an effective maintenance of international peace and security in the face of today’s challenges requires a Council whose structure reflects the plurality and realities of today. A Council that can demonstrate unequivocally that it is representative, democratic, transparent, accountable and efficient, serving the interests of the entire international community and not a select few.

Indeed when the cases such as of Palestine and Syria remain unaddressed in a meaningful manner by the Council for long periods, serious questions linger on its credibility.

Being that all UN Member States have entrusted the Security Council to act on their behalf, it is our collective responsibility to help ensure that the Council fully lives up to fulfilling the peace and security imperatives, as well as the norms set out in the UN Charter, international law and humanitarian law.
Indonesia will thus remain an active proponent in the efforts toward realizing a comprehensive and intergovernmentally led reform of the Security Council.

Since my delegation has previously elaborated its position on the five key reform issues at a number of occasions, I would restrict myself on making a few observations on the rounds of negotiations so far in the Informal Intergovernmental Negotiations and our view on the way forward.

Mr. President,

As important as the 10th and preceding rounds’ discussions have been, they have not led to a narrowing of differences on the Council’s reform. The perspectives are vast and deep. Most notably, the issues of membership categories and related expansion carry strong views. But the veto and other key issues also have marked divergence.

The reform of the Security Council with its inherent geo-strategic implications has clearly high stakes for many. Certainly, the Member States’ have legitimate concerns and expectations.

But encouragingly, all countries also agree that we must be constructively engaged in the reform process.

To promote “forward thinking” that helps to advance the process in a meaningful manner, we urge Member States to exercise greater political flexibility to consider “intermediate options” that may lead to potential convergence, particularly on membership expansion and veto, which have underlying ramifications on differences in other reform issues.
A number of countries have proposed models on the intermediate option for the categories of seats. Along with other reform issues, we are willing to discuss them further with an open mind in the new round of negotiation.

Regarding the veto, Indonesia advocates the abolishment of the right to veto. As a step towards that, we could support a mechanism of regulating or managing the veto. The renewed calls for the non-use of veto in cases concerning serious violations of international humanitarian law and genocide must be given due consideration. We support that the veto should not be exercised under Chapter VI, and that there should be a requirement of two concurrent negative votes of permanent members to prevent the adoption of a Council decision.

Mr. President,

We note the suggestion of a so called “high-level audit of endeavors to achieve early reform of the Security Council” and that the “audit should be drafted by an independent political figure to be selected”. Notwithstanding the good intentions behind the proposal, we reiterate that the nature of informal negotiations, as a membership-driven process must be fully observed and preserved.

All Member States must have an equal voice in a transparent reform process, which must involve them in taking any decisions on the way forward. Furthermore, we underscore that all five key reform issues should be considered together without piece-meal solutions, and the integrity of the Decision 62/557should be upheld.

Concrete gains on the Council’s reform have been elusive. Nevertheless, we must be relentlessly and constructively engaged to forge commonalities and build on them. On its part, Indonesia will continue to work with all interested delegations to help pave workable pathways for a meaningful reform.
Thank you.