



PERMANENT MISSION OF SAINT LUCIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by

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On behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF REFORM OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL**

13 FEBRUARY 2020

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). At the outset, CARICOM takes this opportunity to thank the Co-Chairs for accepting the responsibility of facilitating the IGN during this session and pledges its full support to you in the execution of your mandate. We offer our commendations to the IGN Co-Chairs of the 73rd session for their excellent stewardship of the process and are pleased to see a measure of continuity in the facilitation with the reappointment of Ambassador Nusseibeh. We also welcome Ambassador Joanna Wronecka and congratulate her on her appointment. CARICOM intends to remain constructively engaged in the IGN as together we seek early reform of the Council.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

In your letter of 31 January 2020, you advised that today's meeting would be dedicated to hearing the views of Member States on "ways in which our work can be taken forward during [this] session, building on the progress achieved so far in the IGN process." CARICOM supports an open and transparent approach to our work and is of the view that such an approach lends itself to much progress. On this note, therefore, we look forward stress the importance of employing working methods that facilitate practical decision-making processes that can assist us to make tangible headway in our deliberations. In doing so, our working methods should remain inclusive and take account of all views expressed as we exert our best and most genuine efforts to find a solution that will make the Security Council fit for purpose in this 21st century.

In keeping with the theme of today's meeting, allow me, Co-Chairs, to put forward the following points for consideration of the membership. **First**, CARICOM is interested in the judicious use of time during this session. We have considered how the IGN process has evolved over the years, particularly in its use of time and the frequency with which meetings are convened, and are of the view that there might be value in assessing ways in which we can further maximize the time at our disposal during this session so as to achieve more constructive deliberations CARICOM, therefore, respectfully suggests that in drafting the schedule for this session, deliberate thought be given to this factor.

Second, with respect to the schedule of meetings, CARICOM notes that you have undertaken to announce these after this meeting to allow sufficient time for planning and consultation. CARICOM is of the view that the finalization of the schedule should be subject to the views expressed by the membership, as the Member States are the ones ultimately driving the process. We therefore welcome your characteristic openness, inclusiveness and responsiveness as you draft the schedule.

CARICOM's **third** point relates to the outcome document for this session. We are of the view that there should be continuity of the work already done and believe there is scope to further develop the substance of the Revised Elements of Commonality and Issues for Further Consideration paper. In this regard, CARICOM underscores the need for responsiveness to the expressed wishes of the membership and, in the spirit of transparency, to avoid exclusion of positions and proposals and aim for accuracy in any revisions of the paper. Moreover, the creation of a repository of information can support the ability of Member States, particularly small developing states, to more effectively participate in the IGN process.

Fourth, CARICOM emphasizes the responsibility of each Member State to respect the voice and views of others. Reform of the Security Council is a particularly sensitive issue and there are many divergent positions on the process and substance of the reform. CARICOM believes, however, that as sovereign states, every one of us can contribute meaningfully to the dialogue on reform of the Security Council and that maximum participation should be encouraged as a means of enhancing the legitimacy of the process. CARICOM has always been open to dialogue and will continue to reach out to all stakeholders who have a genuine interest in addressing the many concerns underpinning the need for reform of the Council. We hope to find a willing partner in all.

Fifth, CARICOM maintains its position that any real progress on the issue of the reform of the Security Council is hinged on a method to achieve the objective of early reform in accordance with the practice of the General Assembly.

Distinguished Co-Chairs, CARICOM wants the IGN to overcome the impasse. CARICOM wants to advance the process. CARICOM hopes that we can make concrete progress this session.

Finally, Co-Chairs, CARICOM takes this opportunity to emphasize that each session we conclude without achieving any of the goals envisaged in the reform process is a stark reminder that the imbalances that exist on the Council will continue to be perpetuated

by a maintenance of the status quo. These imbalances include the exclusion of entire regions, specifically Africa and my own Latin America and the Caribbean region, from the permanent category of membership. CARICOM hopes that the meetings this year can achieve concrete and actionable outcomes. We have spent many years elaborating our positions and are conscious that this item has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since 1979. CARICOM hopes that we can find a way to break the deadlock that has impeded meaningful progress over the past several years and stands ready and committed to achieve this end.

I thank you.