



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Victor Moraru

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations

on agenda item 124 - “Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council”

(New York, 20 November 2018)

Mme President,

At the outset, I wish to express my appreciation to you for convening the annual debate on Security Council reform.

My delegation welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh of the United Arab Emirates and Ambassador Christian Braun of Luxembourg, as co-Chairs of the next round of intergovernmental negotiations. We would like to express our support for their future work.

Mme President,

For more than 25 years the Security Council reform is comprehensibly debated at the United Nations, including within the framework of the intergovernmental working group (IGN).

Member States have been able to achieve certain progress, attested by an increasing convergence on some important elements of reform. Yet there are still differences of opinion regarding how we should conduct the negotiations and on what text they should be based.

My delegation welcomes all efforts to move debates forward.

The Republic of Moldova has always pleaded for an enlarged and more democratic Security Council. The Council needs to better reflect contemporary world and that means more representation for Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Like many other Member States, we believe that any reform of the Security Council must go beyond just increasing the number of seats. There have been too many instances in which the Security Council did not discharge its functions in accordance with Charter provisions. It is therefore important that the intergovernmental negotiations deliver an outcome that will strengthen the effectiveness, accountability, inclusiveness and transparency of the Council.

Reform should also ensure that the Security Council and its members are bound to act in accordance with the UN Charter and that its decisions reflect the collective will of the general membership.

Mme President,

The threat of the use of the veto is one of the biggest obstacles for the effective performance of the Security Council, irrespective of its configuration.

As a general principle, we view the reform as a possibility to minimize the use of veto right rather than creating premises for its expansion which could jeopardize the Council's effectiveness.

As a signatory of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group's Code of Conduct, the Republic of Moldova advocates against the use of the veto in cases of mass atrocity crimes and welcomes the pledges made so far in that regard.

Reform must also lead to the improvements in the Council's working methods potentially leading to the gradual approval of the Council's rules of procedure so that they are no longer provisional. The working methods and the relationship with the General Assembly are, indeed, very important matters, as they determine the daily dynamics of the system.

Mme President,

A large number of delegations brought their contribution to finding commonalities during the IGN negotiating process, including, more recently, through their inputs to the Revised Elements paper that resulted from the five meetings of the IGN during the 72nd session of the General Assembly.

In this context, I wish to extend our gratitude to the previous IGN co-chairs, Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh of the United Arab Emirates and Ambassador Kaha Imnadze of Georgia. Their approach to steering the discussions through ensuring inclusivity of the process and transparency was much appreciated and we believe these are principles that should guide future deliberations of the working group.

The five clusters related to Security Council reform, namely the categories of membership, the veto question, regional representation, the size of the enlarged council and the working methods, and the relationship between the General Assembly and the Council are no simple matters. The difficulty of such reform does not diminish the pressing need for it.

As we will enter the next phase of intergovernmental negotiations on the reform, we have to build on the progress achieved in the past. This is where the flexibility is so much needed, especially from the five Permanent Members who enjoy most of the prerogatives and powers not only in the Council, but which radiates on the entire UN system.

Obviously, the result of the negotiations must be backed by all Member States. In our opinion, only a consensus can guarantee that we will be able to fully implement an agreement once negotiations are concluded.

The Republic of Moldova will continue to stand for an accelerated and outcome driven process, for a Council that serves the purposes of the UN Charter and our common vision of a rule-based and peaceful world.

Finally, Mme President, I would like to conclude by expressing my delegation's readiness to work with you and the IGN co-Chairs to achieve a meaningful outcome.

I thank you, Mme President.