



Security Council

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Letter dated 25 November 2022 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the pleasure to inform you that India proposes to organize a ministerial-level open debate of the Security Council on the theme “New orientation for reformed multilateralism” under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”.

The open debate will be chaired by the Minister for External Affairs of India, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, and will be held in the Security Council Chamber at 10 a.m. on 14 December 2022.

A concept note intended to guide the discussions on the topic is attached (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ruchira **Kamboj**



Annex to the letter dated 25 November 2022 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Concept note for the open debate of the Security Council to be held on the theme “New orientation for reformed multilateralism” under the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”

1. The United Nations, established in 1945 with the noble objective of saving future generations from the scourges of war, heralded a new era of international relations. The abiding principles of this era were envisaged as a commitment to maintaining international peace and security, upholding international law, respecting obligations arising from mutually negotiated treaties and promoting fundamental freedoms for all humanity. The United Nations affirmed the principle of sovereign equality and became the most universal and representative organization providing a voice to its Member States.

2. For the past seven and a half decades, the United Nations has been largely credited with maintaining peace and saving humanity from another world war. It has continuously strived to create a better world for the people, through its emphasis on development, human rights and gender empowerment, despite the myriad challenges it has encountered.

3. The world is not the same as it was 77 years ago. The 193 States Members of the United Nations are more than triple the 55 Member States that it had in 1945. However, the composition of the Security Council, responsible for global peace and security, was last fixed in 1965 and is far from reflecting the true diversity of the wider membership of the United Nations.

4. New global challenges have emerged during the past seven decades, such as terrorism, radicalism, pandemics, threats from new and emerging technologies, growing asymmetric threats, the disruptive role of non-State actors and intensifying geopolitical competition.

5. This was recognized in the declaration of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, which states:

Our world is not yet the world our founders envisaged 75 years ago. It is plagued by growing inequality, poverty, hunger, armed conflicts, terrorism, insecurity, climate change and pandemics. People in different corners of the world are forced to make dangerous journeys in search of refuge and safety. The least developed countries are falling behind, and we still have not achieved complete decolonization.¹

All of these challenges call for a robust multilateral response. The new orientation for reformed multilateralism envisages reforms in all three pillars of the current multilateral architecture – peace and security, development and human rights – with the United Nations at its centre.

6. While the United Nations Millennium Declaration called for formal endorsement of comprehensive Security Council reforms, the 2005 World Summit Outcome reflected support for early reform of the Security Council – an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations – in order to make it more

¹ General Assembly resolution 75/1.

broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions.²

7. The Secretary-General has noted that today's collective security system is being tested like never before. Our world is riven by geopolitical divides, conflicts and instability, from military coups to inter-State conflicts, invasions and wars that stretch on year after year. Lingering differences between the world's great Powers – including in the Council – continue to limit our ability to respond collectively. The tools that have kept us from catastrophic world war are more important than ever, but they must be fit for today's rapidly deteriorating international peace and security environment.³

8. While there have been several proposals from Member States and groups of States on a framework for reforms, the lack of a common negotiating text hampers progress.

9. Similarly, the global development architecture outside the United Nations is equally distorted, and intense efforts would be required to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems. Such efforts would be critical to ensuring sustainable development, including strong, sustained, balanced, inclusive and equitable economic growth for all.

10. Recognizing the need for reform as early as 2000, the leaders of the world declared:

We will spare no effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities: the fight for development for all the peoples of the world, the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease; the fight against injustice; the fight against violence, terror and crime; and the fight against the degradation and destruction of our common home.⁴

11. The multidimensional crises facing the world today demand a representative multilateral architecture that is reflective of contemporary global realities and is well equipped to meet the emerging challenges. The rapidly shifting global security landscape, the persistence of traditional security challenges and the emergence of new and complicated challenges all demand a clear, pragmatic, nimble and effective platform for collaboration to ensure sustainable peace. The need of the hour, clearly, is to promote responsible and inclusive solutions to international peace and security. These would require:

(a) Early reform of the United Nations, with comprehensive reform of the Security Council at its core, in accordance with the commitment made by the leaders of the world in 2005, and subsequently reiterated in 2020, to “instil new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council”;⁵

(b) Addressing widespread concern at the inadequacy of the existing multilateral institutions to deliver results or meet new challenges;

(c) Providing a multilateral architecture that not only responds effectively to current challenges but also stays fit for purpose by preparing for and responding promptly to challenges that may arise in the future.

12. With 22 years having passed since the Millennium Declaration and 17 years since the 2005 World Summit, concrete progress on reforms of the multilateral architecture remains elusive. While there are time-bound targets for key areas, such

² General Assembly resolution 60/1.

³ Secretary-General's remarks at the 9112th meeting of the Security Council, on 22 August 2022 (S/PV.9112).

⁴ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 75/1.

as Sustainable Development Goals, the reform of the United Nations itself has been left open-ended, without a set timeline.

13. The upcoming open debate is intended to encourage Member States to carry forward this important conversation on providing a new orientation for multilateralism, and to share their ideas on how best to move forward in a time-bound manner.

Guiding questions

- How to inject new life into reformed multilateralism in order to ensure that the tools we have today are adequate to address the challenges of the future? What should be the key elements of this new orientation for a reformed multilateral system?
- What are the steps that are required to ensure that the Security Council reflects the contemporary global realities, which would make it more effective in discharging its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security?

Format

- The open debate will be chaired by the Minister for External Affairs of India, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.
 - The Security Council will be briefed by the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly.
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