

8<sup>th</sup> Round of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform

Statement on behalf of the group of “Small Five”

10 April 2012

Mr. Chairman

Thank you for convening this meeting. I am speaking on behalf of the group of the “Small Five”. Since we will have an occasion to present our proposals at the next session of the IGN on 4 May I will be very brief

The S-5 have listened very carefully to the presentation of the group of African States. As you know, we do not pronounce ourselves on the enlargement of the Security Council. This being said, the reality is that Africa is a major region of the world and has many significant players in global affairs. Its voice must be heard on global issues and its interests must be taken into account.

Our practical recommendations for the reform of the working methods of the current Security Council would allow the African Union and individual African delegations to be better informed of, better consulted on and better involved in Security Council decision-making which directly affects them as countries on the agenda of the SC, as troop or police contributors, as actors within the peace-building process or as simple member States obliged to implement the decisions of the Council. In short, a better interaction between the Council and the wider membership is beneficial for the UN as a whole and Africa in particular.

We believe that progress on working methods, while an indispensable part of comprehensive Security Council reform, should not be dependent on progress in the enlargement of the Council and stands on its own merits. Our recommendations concern the working methods of the Security Council in its *present* composition. Our resolution contains a set of relatively modest, practical steps which are intended to assist in your daily work here and now. They do not require any Charter amendments and in no way prejudge the outcome of the comprehensive Security Council reform, neither on the enlargement nor its composition. We do not even pretend to present a definitive solution on the working methods. What we are suggesting is a first step in an ongoing process. It is obvious that a Council composed of 20 to 30 members would require further changes in its working methods which are likely to be much more substantial than the ones we are recommending in our resolution. This is why the S5 believes that the improvement of the Security Council’s working methods is an ongoing process that will not end with one resolution, and that this is an issue that will continue to be an intrinsic part of the overall IGN process.

We all agree that a comprehensive solution for Security Council must be found which makes the Council more representative and thus more legitimate. As much as we support this process, the achievement of an overall reform is likely to take some

time. While we continue on our quest for comprehensive reform, we should consider fixing some things on the way which can be achieved fairly easily.