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INTERVENCIÓN DE COLOMBIA REUNIÓN ANUAL DE ALTO NIVEL GRUPO UNIDOS POR EL CONSENSO Septiembre 28 de 2020

His Excellency, Mr. Luigi Di Maio, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy,

Excellencies Ministers, Distinguished Ambassadors and High Representatives.

I would like to express my gratitude for convening this Ministerial meeting, in the framework of the 75th General Assembly high level week.

I wish to commend the efforts carried out by Italy as coordinator of Uniting for Consensus group, as well as all its members, in the framework of the deliberations on the Security Council reform.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the normal dynamics of the Intergovernmental Negotiations.

Therefore, we should remain attentive to the way forward to be proposed by the President of the General Assembly, in order to define a roadmap.

Security Council reform is crucial for all United Nations Member States, given the need to generate a major adjustment of the global security governance.

The Council needs to adapt to the demands and transformations of the international community of the 21st century. Also, it has to be more efficient and reflect the balance between all nation's aspirations and power.

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Dear Minister,

Colombia, as one of the United Nations founding members, participated in the formulation of the San Francisco Charter.

Since then, it has continuously played an active role in the Organization, with a clear conviction in multilateralism and a strict faithfulness to the international law, for the construction of an equitable and rule-based international order.

In this framework, my country reiterates that the intergovernmental negotiations are the only legitimate platform for discussion on the Security Council reform.

We are confident that in 2021, IGN will continue in-depth discussions on the substance, based on the five clusters agreed: **(1)** categories of membership; **(2)** the question of the veto; **(3)** regional representation; **(4)** size of an enlarged Security Council and its working methods; and **(5)** the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly.

Excellencies,

I would like to reiterate Colombia's attachment to the UFC principles, recognizing the importance of discussing the size and working methods of an enlarged Security Council.

Our goal is to achieve a more democratic, representative, effective, transparent, and accountable body.

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In that regard, I would like to highlight the following five points:

1. The enlargement of veto and permanent seats not only hampers the possibility of a just and comprehensive reform. It also represents a clear way against democratic principles, equity, and the rights of all Member States to take part in the collective construction of the international peace and security.
2. At this moment a text-based negotiation (TBN) would only benefit individual interests, rather than a collective one.
3. UFC cannot acquiesce any proposal representing new rules or a format change, different of IGN.
4. For the 2021 debate, we share the need to formulate jointly a robust UFC narrative, based on our common position and principles.

Colombia consider that the raising awareness outreach strategy currently implemented by UFC, is a positive instrument to persuade and convince other Member States with our proposal.

The main objective is to advance in favor of an inclusive reform.

5. We also need to approach other regions, including Africa, developing countries and SIDS, among others, bearing in mind that the primary UFC model prioritizes the participation of other unrepresented States.

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Dear Minister,

To conclude I would like to quote former Secretary General, Kofi Annan, when he stated in his *In Larger Freedom Report* that:

“The Security Council should not only be an instance for the balance of power among its members, but the cornerstone of the multilateral system to ensure the exercise of the freedoms and rights of all members, based on an inclusive and participatory approach”.

You can count on Colombia’s unwavering commitment to advance in the reform of the Security Council with all members of the Uniting for Consensus group.

Thank you very much.