

Permanent Observer Mission of the
AFRICAN UNION to the
United Nations

الاتحاد الأفريقي



Mission Permanente d'Observation
de l'UNION AFRICAINE auprès
des Nations Unies

UNIÃO AFRICANA

305 East 47th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10017 Tel. (212) 319 5490 Fax (212) 319 7135/319 6509
Email: aumission_ny@yahoo.com www.aumission-ny.org

NY/AU/POL/4/801/15

The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations presents its compliments to the African Permanent Missions to the United Nations, has the honor to circulate the attached Statement to be delivered by the C-10 Coordinator on behalf of the African Union Member States on 30 October 2015 at the General Assembly on the "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council, Agenda Item: 121.

The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the African Permanent Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 29 October 2015

African Permanent Missions (All)
to the United Nations
New York





**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

336 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017

STATEMENT

by

H.E. MR. VANDI C. MINAH
Permanent Representative

at the

General Assembly Debate on the “Question of equitable representation on and
increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to
the Security Council Agenda Item: 121

70TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 30th October 2015

Check Against Delivery



Mr. President;

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Union Member States, and to profoundly thank you for convening today's debate on agenda item 121: the "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters".

Let me congratulate H.E. Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxemburg on her appointment as Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiation, and to also express our support and readiness to work with her in building on the gains made so far.

Allow me also to thank H.E. Ambassador Courtenay Rattray Permanent Representative of Jamaica and outgoing Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations for the tremendous work and progress made during the 69th session.

At the outset, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Africa to this very important issue and look forward to working with you and engaging the membership in building on the progress thus far that is in accordance with General Assembly decision 62/557, and favourable to the Common African Position enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.

We are heartened that during the last General Debate of this Assembly many Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need to reform the Security Council in order to make it "broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions". We remain committed to the General Assembly Decision 62/557 and subsequent Decisions. We hope that an acceptable outcome on the reform issue will be forthcoming during this session.

Mr. President;

We have continuously voiced our position in all IGN meetings including populating the Framework Document that culminated into a text as circulated by the President of the 69th session on 31 July 2015. Our participation in the Intergovernmental Negotiations is accordingly solidly anchored on that platform.

Going forward, the African Union Committee of Ten on UN Security Council reform is actively engaged with holding consultations with all Member States and remains open to further consultations with such interest groups who have come



up or are likely to come up with initiatives on the reform of the Security Council. We reiterated that the Common African Position, as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration enjoys broad support from the general membership.

Mr. President;

It is common knowledge that support for the Common African position has gained momentum and continues to receive more support in these deliberations for Africa's legitimate claim for permanent membership in the Security Council, and to correct its under-representation in the non-permanent category within the context of addressing the historical injustice done to the continent as being the only region not represented in the permanent category. This claim is without controversy recognized and acknowledged as legitimate by the general membership and we submit, it ought to be redressed without further delay. Any delay would mean further perpetuating and compounding injustice; thus denying the continent its dignity and rightful place in a major decision making organ of this organization.

We note that proposals and opinions proffered by diverse interest groups differ. One important area of division is on the issue of the veto. Africa's position on the veto is clear, "abolish the veto" but maintains that as long as it continues to exist, it should be extended to new permanent members as a matter of common justice. In this context, we have shown flexibility on the question of the veto in the sense that we call for its abolition; but we are prepared to accommodate its existence as long as it is extended to new permanent members. Ours is therefore a compromise position in dealing with this very contentious issue.

We are of the view that the only way we can reach a solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States is to allow the text to continue to evolve during this session of the Assembly in an open, transparent, inclusive, balanced and comprehensive membership-driven manner.

Let me at this point proffer some clarifications on the Common African Position.

Firstly, with reference to the question of whether our position is a take it or leave it proposal and what compromise we can afford; the Common African Position is a legitimate demand to redress an historical injustice as the only continent/region without representation in the permanent category of the Security Council and also under-represented in the non-permanent category as

...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...

Permanent Observer Mission of the
AFRICAN UNION to the
United Nations

الاتحاد الأفريقي



Mission Permanente d'Observation
de l'UNION AFRICAINE auprès
des Nations Unies

UNIÃO AFRICANA

305 East 47th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10017 Tel. (212) 319 5490 Fax (212) 319 7135/319 6509
Email: aumission_ny@yahoo.com www.aumission-ny.org

NY/AU/POL/4/801/15

The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations presents its compliments to the African Permanent Missions to the United Nations, has the honor to circulate the attached Statement to be delivered by the C-10 Coordinator on behalf of the African Union Member States on 30 October 2015 at the General Assembly on the "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council, Agenda Item: 121.

The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the African Permanent Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 29 October 2015

African Permanent Missions (All)
to the United Nations
New York



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

336 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017

STATEMENT

by

H.E. MR. VANDI C. MINAH
Permanent Representative

at the

General Assembly Debate on the “Question of equitable representation on and
increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to
the Security Council Agenda Item: 121

70TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 30th October 2015

Check Against Delivery

Mr. President;

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Union Member States, and to profoundly thank you for convening today's debate on agenda item 121: the "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters".

Let me congratulate H.E. Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxemburg on her appointment as Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiation, and to also express our support and readiness to work with her in building on the gains made so far.

Allow me also to thank H.E. Ambassador Courtenay Rattray Permanent Representative of Jamaica and outgoing Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations for the tremendous work and progress made during the 69th session.

At the outset, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Africa to this very important issue and look forward to working with you and engaging the membership in building on the progress thus far that is in accordance with General Assembly decision 62/557, and favourable to the Common African Position enshrined in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.

We are heartened that during the last General Debate of this Assembly many Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need to reform the Security Council in order to make it "broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions". We remain committed to the General Assembly Decision 62/557 and subsequent Decisions. We hope that an acceptable outcome on the reform issue will be forthcoming during this session.

Mr. President;

We have continuously voiced our position in all IGN meetings including populating the Framework Document that culminated into a text as circulated by the President of the 69th session on 31 July 2015. Our participation in the Intergovernmental Negotiations is accordingly solidly anchored on that platform.

Going forward, the African Union Committee of Ten on UN Security Council reform is actively engaged with holding consultations with all Member States and remains open to further consultations with such interest groups who have come

up or are likely to come up with initiatives on the reform of the Security Council. We reiterated that the Common African Position, as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration enjoys broad support from the general membership.

Mr. President;

It is common knowledge that support for the Common African position has gained momentum and continues to receive more support in these deliberations for Africa's legitimate claim for permanent membership in the Security Council, and to correct its under-representation in the non-permanent category within the context of addressing the historical injustice done to the continent as being the only region not represented in the permanent category. This claim is without controversy recognized and acknowledged as legitimate by the general membership and we submit, it ought to be redressed without further delay. Any delay would mean further perpetuating and compounding injustice; thus denying the continent its dignity and rightful place in a major decision making organ of this organization.

We note that proposals and opinions proffered by diverse interest groups differ. One important area of division is on the issue of the veto. Africa's position on the veto is clear, "abolish the veto" but maintains that as long as it continues to exist, it should be extended to new permanent members as a matter of common justice. In this context, we have shown flexibility on the question of the veto in the sense that we call for its abolition; but we are prepared to accommodate its existence as long as it is extended to new permanent members. Ours is therefore a compromise position in dealing with this very contentious issue.

We are of the view that the only way we can reach a solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States is to allow the text to continue to evolve during this session of the Assembly in an open, transparent, inclusive, balanced and comprehensive membership-driven manner.

Let me at this point proffer some clarifications on the Common African Position.

Firstly, with reference to the question of whether our position is a take it or leave it proposal and what compromise we can afford; the Common African Position is a legitimate demand to redress an historical injustice as the only continent/region without representation in the permanent category of the Security Council and also under-represented in the non-permanent category as

2015

Statement By His Excellency Antonio
Gumende Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Mozambique and
Chair of the African Group in New York
at the High-level Experts Group
Meeting Towards the Post-2015
Development Agenda and the African
Agenda 2063: Enhancing the
management of Africa's Extractive
Industries to promote inclusive and
sustainable industrial development,
structural economic transformation and
inclusive and resilient economic growth

Minah, Vandi C.

Minah, Vandi C.