



# Elect the Council



## Summary Proposals

Towards a legitimate and effective UN Security Council

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Elect the Council invites comments on the latest version of its proposals for reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) now available [here](#). After additional consultations a final document will be the basis for a global mobilization and advocacy campaign as from early 2016 to advocate for an enabling resolution by two thirds of the member states of the UN General Assembly.

There is near-unanimous consensus on the need to reform the UNSC, but change through intergovernmental negotiations in New York is rendered impossible by competition among members (and among different country groupings).

In April this year, and after several months of consultations, the current chairperson of the intergovernmental process on UN Security Council reform, Jamaican Ambassador E Courtenay Rattray, embarked on a clean slate approach. He circulated a one-page 'framework' outline consisting of various headings, which member states were requested to populate with their suggestions on reform. By 13 May, Rattray had received inputs from countries and groups that probably represent close to two-thirds of the member states of the UN. Yet key countries, including some permanent members registered their objections to the process. At the end of July his office could circulate a cleaned up and consolidated text as 'basis for the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the reform of the Security Council.' Although there are signs of an emerging consensus on the size of a reformed UN Security Council there is little consensus on anything else. Key positions on reform remain as entrenched today as they have been for several decades and the prospects for progress are faint.

In accordance with Article 108 of the UN Charter, Elect the Council advocates for a resolution to amend the Charter, 'adopted by a vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly [UNGA] and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council'.

Elect the Council proposes to do away with permanent seats on the UNSC and the veto and to move towards a system where countries are elected to the Council bound to four technical requirements for candidacy. The criteria are:

- Experience and capacity

- In financial good standing with the UN and its agencies
- Willingness to shoulder additional financial contributions to UN efforts on international peace and security, as determined by the UN General Assembly
- Respect for open, inclusive and accountable governance, the rule of law and international human rights standards

Implementation of these criteria would occur at regional level, where, in line with current practice, each electoral region would present their candidates to the UN General Assembly where actual voting would occur. Regional groups would also be requested to take the interests of cross-regional interest groups such as those from the Small Island and Developing States and the Arab group into consideration.

Elect the Council proposes a Council consisting of 8 countries elected for five-year renewable terms and 16 countries elected for three years (non-renewable) respectively, thus a UNSC of 24 members.

During a 15-year transition period the current five Permanent Members of the Security Council will remain members of the Council without the need to stand for election. Three of the P5 members will occupy three of the five-year slots allocated to their respective electoral regions (China in the Asia-Pacific Group, Russia in the EEG group and France/UK or the USA in the WEOG group) and the two remaining P5 members will be accommodated in two additional seats. This means that the UNSC will consist of 26 members during the 15-year transition period. After 15 years the P5 members would need to contest for elections in their respective regions should they wish to remain on the UNSC.

The P5 will also be provided with one of two proposed additional voting privileges during the 15-year transition period. Under Option A their votes will carry more weight than those of ordinary members of the Security Council, decreasing in weight over time. Under Option B a decreasing number of Council members will be required to support a resolution. Both substantive and procedural decisions within the UNSC would require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

A mandatory review would occur every 30 years.

Today the UNSC is increasingly a divided house – between the power of the majority and the power of the purse, including between those countries that favour a more interventionist approach to peace and security issues and countries that emphasise national sovereignty. An integrated and interdependent world needs a different solution as populations, trade and challenges expand.

Please download the full concept paper at <http://www.electthecouncil.org> and post your comments.

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