Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your reappointment as Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations on UNSC reform.

These negotiations have benefited immensely from your leadership and guidance. We look forward to your continued efforts in expediting the negotiations towards achieving, at the earliest, a genuine reform of the UNSC.

One persistent problem in the OEWG process that preceded the current intergovernmental negotiations, apart from it being an unending series of statements, was that there was very little continuity in each UNGA session. Each session essentially restarted the reform process.

We believe your reappointment will provide the much needed continuity in the process of intergovernmental negotiations, allowing us to build upon the progress achieved in the first three rounds of negotiations held earlier this year.

In this context, let us recall that during these three rounds, an overwhelming majority of member states unambiguously expressed their preference for a reform that involves an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent membership categories.

The Chair’s summaries, compiled in document A/63/960, clearly acknowledged this fact when stating that the model with expansion in both categories had commanded the most support. The somewhat understated manner of presenting
the level of support in the Chair’s summaries is perhaps natural given your impartial position as Chair.

It is essential that we now build on this widespread demand for expansion in both categories.

Let us also be clear that genuine reform cannot be achieved without an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent membership. The current structure of the UNSC continues to reflect 1945 and is no longer tenable.

The Charter itself envisaged a review after 10 years. But it took 20 years for a minimum movement, when in 1965 a limited expansion in the non-permanent category was implemented.

It has since been 44 years with no further movement, even though the world has changed significantly.

Contemporary reality demands new inclusions in the permanent membership.

Working methods also need improvement, and it would be unrealistic to hope to achieve this without an expansion in the permanent membership.

Any expansion that is limited to adding more non-permanent members, either directly, or indirectly through convoluted proposals, will merely perpetuate the current problems that are clamouring for reform.

Mr. Chairman,

For today’s meeting, you had asked us to reflect on our own positions and proposals and that of our peers.

Our reflection has only served to strengthen our view that the overwhelming majority shares our position for the need for an expansion in both categories. We believe that it is, therefore, natural to build on this.

We hope the handful that do not share our perspective will truly reflect on their position and acknowledge that the interest of the membership at large, and that of the organization itself, is best served by supporting the views that the vast majority espouses.

We remain convinced that this is where convergence of ideas can and will happen.
Over the last few months, delegations have repeatedly elaborated on their preferred proposals and options. These are now available in oral or written form.

It is imperative that you, Mr. Chairman, now provide a text or a document on which actual negotiations can proceed.

The time for making statements reiterating our positions is now past. Instead, decisive progress needs to be made thorough detailed and textual negotiations.

In this effort, Mr. Chairman, you can count on our full support. There are some delegations that attempt to question your authority to present such documents, despite clear precedence and practice in your support.

The reality is that these delegations are attempting to disguise their real desire of ensuring no progress. They are worried that any text will serve to make genuine movement in the reform process.

We must not let such views of a small minority block our path. We call upon you, Mr. Chairman, to present a text that you believe captures the views of the membership and can lead us down the path of genuine reform.

We are at the cusp of history and our actions will determine the evolution of international governance structures.

We must bring about real change in the UNSC, both in its composition and in its working methods.

We count on your wisdom, courage and initiative in presenting a Chair’s document or text, a document that must necessarily include the core demand of the overwhelming majority for an expansion in both permanent and non-permanent membership.

Thank you.