

To the Permanent Representatives  
of Member States of the United Nations

Copy to  
H.E. Abdulla Shahid  
President of the General Assembly

H.E. António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

New York, 3 March 2022

**Draft Resolution on a Standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council**

Excellency,

We have the honor to send you attached our proposal to create a standing mandate for the UN General Assembly to convene for a debate every time a veto has been cast in the United Nations Security Council, without prejudice to a possible formal outcome of such a discussion, an initiative we have been working on since early 2020 and decided to postpone in times of the pandemic.

Our proposal is firmly anchored in the Charter of the United Nations, which provides that Member States confer on the Security Council the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, on their behalf. The Charter also provides the General Assembly with competence on questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

We are all aware that the effectiveness of the work of the Security Council, a key element for the success of the United Nations, has been increasingly hampered by the use of the veto, including against the expressed will of the wider membership of the organization. In order to give all of us, on whose behalf the Security Council carries out its work, a voice within the framework of the General Assembly, we are proposing a procedural mechanism which provides for a meeting of the General Assembly to be called automatically each time a veto is used, within a defined timeframe, with priority in the speakers list given to the Permanent Member/s having cast a veto. The Assembly may adopt a proposal as a result or simply engage in a debate.

The measure we are proposing is straightforward and modest. At the same time, we strongly believe that it will make a meaningful contribution to strengthening the role of the General Assembly, and enhance the accountability between the Council and the Assembly provided for under the UN Charter.

We look forward to engaging with you on the substance of this text and hope to be able to count on your active support for this text which we wish to have considered by the General Assembly expeditiously.

Sincerely,



H.E. Mitch Fifeld  
Permanent Representative of Australia  
to the United Nations



H.E. Lachezara Stoeva  
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria  
to the United Nations



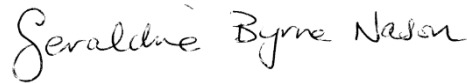
H.E. Rodrigo A. Carazo  
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica  
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H.E. Martin Bille Hermann  
Permanent Representative of Denmark  
to the United Nations



H.E. Sven Jürgenson  
Permanent Representative of Estonia  
to the United Nations



H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nason  
Permanent Representative of Ireland  
to the United Nations



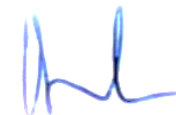
H.E. Martin Kimani  
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H.E. Andrejs Pildegovičs  
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H.E. Feridun Hadi Sinirlioğlu  
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