Statement by the
Permanent Representative of LEBANON
To the United Nations

Ambassador Dr. Amal MUDALLALI

At the
Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council.

New York, on Wednesday, March 28th, 2018

(Kindly check against delivery)
Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Let me start by thanking you for your steady efforts in steering the intergovernmental discussions on this critical issue. Rest assured you can always rely on the full support of the delegation of Lebanon.

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Kuwait on behalf of the Arab Group, and would like to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, allow me to express our position fully.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Lebanon, as one of the founding members of the United Nations (UN), is supportive of any institutional reform that aims at increasing the transparency and democratic character of the UN, in line with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. Let us remember that only through comprehensive reform will the Organization remain credible, and achieve the aspired levels of efficiency and effectiveness. Against this backdrop, Lebanon supports a Security Council reform that is balanced, conducted in a transparent, inclusive and open manner and garners the widest support from all Member States.

Let me stress that my delegation has supported the ACT’s Code of Conduct to not vote against any credible draft resolution intended to prevent or halt mass atrocities, and the French-Mexican initiative on veto restraint in cases of mass atrocity crimes. Both initiatives are complementary and realistic, as they are rather a political and voluntary commitment than a legally binding one. We see merits in these two initiatives that seek to ensure more reliability on and credibility of the Security Council.
Distinguished Co-Chairs,

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the revised paper you have circulated, which consolidates the “Elements of Commonality and Issues for Further Consideration” produced during the 71st Session. In this regard, we welcome the reference to the Arab Group’s position within the document.

The issue of regional representation remains crucial, and Lebanon wishes to reiterate the importance of allocating a permanent seat with full privileges to the Arab states, in case of any future expansion in this particular category. Moreover, the principle of equitable representation further implies adequate representation of the Arab states in the non-permanent seats category, again, in case of expansion.

With Arab states comprising 12% of the whole UN membership, and given the numerous issues pertaining to the Arab world in the Security Council’s work, the issue of a fair Arab Group representation cannot be emphasized enough.

I look forward to remaining actively engaged in this process in support of your work.

Thank you.