



**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, JULIUS  
MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND  
COORDINATOR OF THE AU C-10 ON UN  
REFORMS, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA - 10<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY 2020**

STATEMENT – PRESENTATION OF C-10 REPORT 2

Mr. Chairman - His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa,

Mr. Chairperson of the AU Commission - H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat,

Colleague Excellencies, Distinguished guests,

Permit me to first thank our host, His Excellency Abiy Ahmed, and the People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, for the warm hospitality accorded me and my delegation since our arrival in this friendly and beautiful city.

Let me, at the outset, on behalf of the Committee of Ten (C-10) Heads of State and Government on UN Reforms, also thank each and every one of you for the diverse ways in which you have continued to support the work of the Committee in making progress on implementing its mandate -- to advocate and canvass the Common African Position on UN Security Council reform.

I commend, especially, and with deep appreciation, the leadership demonstrated by and the unflinching support extended to the C-10 by Egypt and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi during his tenure as Chair of the African Union.

It is my expectation that this exemplary level of support will be equally demonstrated by South Africa, the current Chair.

Mr. Chairman, Excellences,

Our 21<sup>st</sup> Report has been circulated for your attention. The report builds on our previous Reports submitted to this Assembly on behalf of the Committee of Ten.

My remarks today are intended to provide an update on the present state of play, as well as to underscore the dynamics of the Security Council reform process. It highlights updates on the Inter-Governmental Negotiation (IGN) process; and efforts made by the C-10 to advance the Common African Position.

Mr. Chairman; Excellencies

With the support of this Assembly, we have consistently presented, advocated, and canvassed the Common African Position. We have, in that regard, succeeded in placing the Common African Position on a more solid foundation within the reform process.

Through the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration, we have sought a comprehensive reform that will assure Africa of its rightful place at the UN Security Council.

Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most-populous continent. We constitute 1.3 billion of the world's population. Over 60% of the decisions made in the Security Council directly or indirectly affect the African continent. Africa contributes its fair share of personnel and resources to the UN and its activities.

Against this background, Africa's demand for two Permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges, including the right of Veto, and two additional Non-permanent seats, is therefore even more legitimate, and ought to be addressed.

We demand representation on the world stage. We must not continue to undercut our influence on the world stage. We must remain steadfast and continue to stand together in pushing our common agenda to ensure that Africa takes its rightful position on global matters.

We must continue to be united and speak consistently with one voice on the substantive and procedural issues on the reform of the UN Security Council.

It is a continental aspiration that is in accord with the principles and purposes of the United Nations and firmly anchored on the principle of common justice. This explains why our position has continued to enjoy greater and greater legitimacy.

Our argument for Regional Representation continues to provide a sound basis for our demand for reform as enunciated in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. The continuing glaring imbalance in the composition of the Security Council -- a status quo that is in direct conflict with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and which therefore undermines the legitimacy of the Council's decisions – must be addressed.

We have made tremendous progress in raising the visibility and legitimacy of our common aspiration.

We have undertaken a number of high-level consultative meetings, including the Summit of C-10 Heads of State and Government, Meeting of Foreign Ministers and intensively

engaging other Interest Groups and stakeholders, including the current Five Permanent members (P-5).

I recently embarked upon consultations with my peers and colleagues within and outside Africa. I intend to continue with these consultations in line with emerging issues and progress made.

We are, however, resolved more than ever, to make greater meaningful progress that will lead to the achievement of our objectives. We continue to urge unity of purpose around our shared aspirations and values. The journey may seem to be long but we do believe that we will eventually get there.

Mr. Chairman Excellencies

The task ahead is arduous given the diverse competing interests and the dynamics of the process.

Let me report to this Assembly that in January this year, our dear brother and colleague, His Excellency Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, graciously consented to host the Eighth

C-10 Consultative Ministerial meeting in Dakar, Senegal. The outcome of that Ministerial Meeting is annexed to the 21<sup>st</sup> Report.

In Dakar, the Committee recognised that other Interest Groups and several UN Member States participating in the IGN Meetings in New York have articulated support for the Common African Position, although some of them are not fully compliant with the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.

Accordingly, the Committee, has adopted an approach focused on guiding the discussions in the upcoming meetings of the IGN on rectifying the historical injustice done to the continent.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies

UN Member States, including all Interest Groups, have over the last fifteen years, held onto their respective positions with no sign of flexibility. These positions, divergent as they are, have made it difficult to achieve decisive progress on the reform process.

The challenge that the IGN continue to face is the difficulty of narrowing down on the differences of the various proposals

submitted by UN Member States, as well as procedural matters related to the reform process.

Another challenge is the continual dual membership of some Interest Groups that hold positions that are either divergent or have nuanced similarities to our African Common Position. In particular, the continual dual membership of African countries in other Interest Groups, raises questions about the cohesiveness and unity of Africa around our Common Position.

We must not only remain faithful to the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on the reform of the UN Security Council, we must also demonstrate our fidelity through our participation at the IGN in New York and all other multilateral and bilateral fora on both substantive and procedural matters. We cannot afford to allow ourselves to be divided by other interest groups and competing interests.

We are faced with challenges in terms of the varied interest and divergence in positions. The respective positions of the P-5 (China, France, Russian, the UK and the U.SA), the G-4 (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan), and the Uniting for Consensus group (UfC) are excellent examples of this challenge. Some of these

States and Interest Groups remain opposed to regional representation and enlarging the Security Council in the Permanent category along its current Veto power structure.

It is worthy to note that the question of the Veto, Regional Representation, the Categories of Membership, and Size of the Security Council continue to be the sticking points of discussion in the IGN.

Additionally, there is also the challenge of moving beyond procedural matters including the persistent call for text-based negotiations.

Even in the face of these challenges, the African Common Position remains unchallenged, strong, and viable to pursue as the best means of addressing the historical injustice. We must remain united and cohesive, and continue to speak with one voice on both substantive and procedural matters.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

In an effort to guide this Assembly on the way forward, I would like to foreground the following. All AU Member States should collectively:

1. Underscore the imperative and legitimacy of the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration;
2. Restate our position on the Veto and resist the creation of a third category of membership of the Security Council;
3. Continue to resist an intermediate/transitional arrangement;
4. Continue to encourage other African countries to delink membership of other interest groups which creates the impression of a divided Africa;
5. Continue to defend, promote and advocate the Common African Position on all aspects of the reform at every opportunity.

In order to be cohesive, as well as to achieve greater impact, the Committee will draft an appropriate common language that strongly advocates and canvasses the Common African position. This common language should be included in our respective statements during the 75<sup>th</sup> UNGA in September this year. The Committee will also continue to liaise with the African Union Member States in New York for effective participation at the IGN meetings.

## STATEMENT – PRESENTATION OF C-10 REPORT 11

In presenting the 21<sup>st</sup> Report together with its draft Decision for adoption; allow me esteemed colleagues, to state that in view of the recognition of the legitimacy of the African demand we must continue to resist the temptation and efforts by other Member States and Interest Groups to divide and distract Africa from its Common Position.

Africa should stay the course, continue to speak with one voice, and remain united on all aspects of the UN Security Council reform process.

Let me conclude by informing this Assembly that the Republic of Uganda has graciously offered to host the next high-level meeting of the C-10 later this year.

I thank you for your attention.