



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Related Matters

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Mr. President,

1. Let me join others in thanking you for convening today's meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG). My delegation would like to register its continued support for your efforts to accommodate different positions among Member States to achieve genuine progress on Security Council reform.

Mr. President,

2. My delegation believes that the 62nd session of the General Assembly has now reached the critical juncture on the reform of the Security Council. Only through the spirit of mutual trust and consensus, we can move Security Council reform forward for the remaining days in this session. Otherwise, we may lapse into regression by denying the achievements of this Working Group, thus leading to fragmentation and strife among the membership.

3. Since the meeting of the Working Group on September 2, there have been efforts to pool wisdom to work out a compromise solution that reconcile divergent positions of Member States. However, **we find that our legitimate positions and constructive suggestions for amendment have yet to be reflected in the**

revised draft decision. Therefore, we would like to reiterate the following key points of our position and propose some amendments to the draft decision:

4. First, I would like to stress that the **Open-ended Working Group** is the only forum **that has the authority and legitimacy for conducting consultations and negotiations on Security Council reform.** The Working Group is the forum where open, inclusive and transparent consultations and negotiations aimed at general agreement among Member States are possible.
5. There are some arguments that the Working Group is a fruitless venue, we disagree. Achievements such as the Facilitators' Reports and your Seven Principles did not lead to further concrete progress simply because some countries refused to even consider them. It is the political will of Member States that matters, not the venues where consultations and negotiations occur.
6. Any Member State has the prerogative to table any amendments and proposals on Security Council reform directly to the General Assembly. However Member States have refrained from unilateral action outside of the Working Group. Security Council reform is not a matter of numbers, but a political settlement within the Open-ended Working Group.
7. For the aforementioned reason, we would like to propose that in paragraph (c) of the draft decision **'the Working Group'** should replace 'the General Assembly' as the venue for "intergovernmental negotiations." And in the first line of paragraph (e), the term "also" should be deleted and "to this end" should be added after "Working Group" so that the role of the Working Group could be made clearer.
8. Second, Security Council reform should be based on **general agreement** of the UN membership. Since the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group, general agreement has been the cornerstone as the agreed objective of the membership on the reform of the Security Council. This objective has been reaffirmed by numerous General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including resolution 55/30 and decision 61/561 which were adopted by consensus. With this in mind, we suggest that in paragraph 22(chapeau), the phrase "building upon the work done during previous sessions and with a view to reaching general agreement" should be reinstated and in paragraph (c) also "widest possible political acceptance" should be replaced by "general agreement."
9. Third, my delegation has consistently underlined the need for prior agreement in the Working Group on the framework and modalities, and negotiables before we launch intergovernmental negotiations. This is simply because launching any negotiations without agreeing how to conduct the negotiations and what to negotiate about will only lead to confusion and chaos, which will get us nowhere in the end. This concern is shared by UfC, the African Group, and the Arab League etc; I do not understand why the express support of a significant number of Member States should not be reflected in the draft.

impression that there is agreed list of negotiables, which is not actually the case. Therefore this sub-paragraph should be replaced by the original sub-paragraph on the five key issues. And in the last line of the paragraph (c) the word “negotiables” should be inserted before “the intergovernmental negotiations. With additional amendments, the sentence then reads; “In this context, decides, at the outset, to agree on the framework and modalities, and negotiables in the Working Group for the subsequent intergovernmental negotiations.”

11. Fourth, since the Seven Principles were first proposed by you, Mr. President, on 14 November last year, they have been most widely supported and accepted by the membership. Few, if any, countries have expressed their objection to them. There has been wide recognition among the Membership that the Seven Principles constitute the progress of the 62nd session. Therefore, the third paragraph in the preamble should be moved back to the operative part as sub-paragraph (d)(iv).

12. Fifth, the reference to an **artificial timeframe** in paragraph (c) is unrealistic or premature at least in view of the reality that we face. We have to consider these consequences when the artificial timeline is not respected, which will only result in an erosion of trust and credibility of the General Assembly decision.

13. In closing, the Republic of Korea has always been ready to embark on a negotiation process with a view to reaching general agreement on Security Council reform. Although we have some concerns about the revised draft decision, we will continue to participate in consultations in a flexible way. We hope that, under your leadership, Member States will be able to find a compromise solution that moves forward on this important issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.