



Argentina

**ASAMBLEA GENERAL
DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

*Grupo de Trabajo de Composición abierta sobre la cuestión de la
representación equitativa del Consejo de Seguridad y el aumento del
número de sus miembros y otros asuntos relativos al Consejo de
Seguridad.*

**Intervención del Embajador Jorge Argüello
Representante Permanente de la República Argentina
ante las Naciones Unidas**

*Nueva York, 17 de junio de 2008
Sírvese verificar contra lectura*

**UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation
on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other
Matters related to the Security Council*

**Statement by Ambassador Jorge Argüello
Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic
to the United Nations**

*New York, June 17th, 2008
Check against delivery*

**Misión Permanente de la República Argentina ante las Naciones Unidas
Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations**
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Mr. President, Thank you for convening this Working Group on Security Council Reform. It is taking place amid the urgency to achieve positive and satisfactory results with the widest possible agreement. We must be able to arrive at a compromise solution as soon as possible since the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Council and of the Organization in general are increasingly at stake in an international environment characterized by the persistence of conflicts as the Middle East, the scourge of terrorism and the complex threats of climate change or the food crisis. All of these are situations that may pose a risk for international peace and security.

I would like to join the voices of acknowledgement to the members of your Task Force, our colleagues of Bangladesh, Chile, Djibouti and Portugal. The recent report we are analyzing today is a promising step forward in the framework of the principles established by you, Mr. President. We underline the need for the process to be open, transparent and inclusive. The report is clear: we must explore new ideas since we all know that the principal problem is the issue of the categories of membership. The paradigm shift proposed by the report is therefore important and necessary at this time: what we can reach in the short term, with a time-line of a certain number of years to be determined after a mandatory revision. Only a realistic focus will allow us to get out of the current situation. This realistic viewpoint has to guide us at this moment of transition where we must decide how to continue towards a negotiating phase. Maybe some caution and greater clarification over the negotiating framework would be more effective than to rush and lose the window of opportunity for agreement.

Since the principal problem is the insistence of some countries on creating permanent privileges, we believe that the Annex specifying all possible options should clearly incorporate the "non permanent" position. It is not a question of insisting here with all arguments of the position of my country and that of the "Uniting for Consensus" group in order to achieve the democratization of the organization but we do believe it necessary to correct the inconsistency of this attachment and the report.

We do not believe that "no reform" is another option as it is suggested in the report. The Council in its current composition is neither representative, nor efficient. The biggest part of the efficiency and legitimacy problems come exactly from the indefinite presence of permanent members and from the working methods monopolized by them. This is why we also believe in the regional representation factor. This is something that we should further explore as an element of negotiation. Building of trust and accountability of members within each region in a reformed Council will contribute to a good atmosphere of regional cooperation and also, to ratify the solid trends of regionalization in decision making that are currently underway in international relations. Regionalization enables possibilities for a better representation in all categories of states.

I underline the conclusion of the report that there is general consensus to increase the category of non permanent members and the necessity to modify the working methods of the Council. Finally, Mr. President, it is understood that we must be guided by a spirit of cooperation and dialogue, without any unilateral initiatives as we have seen on other occasions. This is the time to get all of us together. We also need the political commitment and generosity from the five permanent members. Finally I express all the support of Argentina for making progress with the reform in this Working Group.