



Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations

Statement

by
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in the

**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**

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

Let me thank you for convening this meeting. I would also like to thank you for your introductory remarks and for the work done by our four colleagues, the Vice–Chairpersons of the Task Force, the ambassadors of Bangladesh, Chile, Djibouti and Portugal in recent weeks. Your Task Force has presented a comprehensive report which can serve as a starting point for intergovernmental negotiations.

Mr. President,

The report of the Vice-Chairpersons shows three things very clearly:

- First, Member States are committed to reforming the Security Council,
- Second, Member States are ready and willing to enter into intergovernmental negotiations,
- and third, the potential of the OEWG to bring us closer to a result has been exhausted. We can only make progress by moving directly to intergovernmental negotiations. Positions on substantial issues are indeed still far apart. But we will not overcome the differences by way of consultations, where known positions would only be restated again and again. In order to identify the stakeholders' "red lines", in order to sound out possible compromises, and in order to arrive at a

result that will obtain the necessary support by Member States, we need to enter into a negotiation process.

Mr. President,

Let me once more recall the mandate we adopted at the end of the 61st General Assembly, namely the General Assembly decision of September 17, 2007, and I quote, “to achieve concrete results, including through intergovernmental negotiations, building on the progress achieved so far, particularly at the 61st session, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States”.

Mr. President,

This – unanimously adopted – mandate urgently needs to be acted upon. There are barely three months left until the end of the 62nd session of the General Assembly. We, therefore, expect the outcome of today’s meeting of the Open-ended Working Group to directly lead to the start of the long anticipated intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, still during the 62nd session of the General Assembly.

We owe this step to the international community. We owe this to our UN that is suffering due to the lack of the long overdue Security Council reform. And we owe it to ourselves, as members

of the General Assembly. We must ensure that the Security Council remains legitimate and effective, and reflects in its composition the geopolitical realities of the 21st century. We have to make progress in this most important aspect of United Nations reform. This is what the world expects from us.

Mr. President,

In the past, an overwhelming majority of Member States expressed their readiness to embark upon a negotiation process without delay. They have done so again today. We especially note that the African summit has declared the readiness of the African States to negotiate, as from now on. We must not allow a small group of States not inclined to move to negotiations in the near future to block the will of the overwhelming majority of Member States.

Mr. President,

We do have a suitable basis for intergovernmental negotiations: The annex of the Vice-Chairpersons' report provides very useful material. And you also received the Cyprus paper which had been produced upon your request by the "overarching process" under the excellent leadership of Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis before our last meeting in the OEWG.

Mr. President,

The Task Force has completed its work. Its consultations yielded one crucial result: The clear majority of Member States wants to move on to intergovernmental negotiations. And they want to do this now, in the 62nd session of the General Assembly, in line with the mandate we adopted last September.

This is a unique chance for you, Mr. President, to open negotiations. There is no need for any more preparatory work. The issue of Security Council reform has been on the agenda of the GA since 1979. We should and we can move on to intergovernmental negotiations without delay, without preconditions and with the clear determination of achieving results. As the end of this General Assembly comes within sight, we cannot allow to drag our feet.

Mr. President,

For whatever support you require in order to kick off this long-overdue negotiation process, you can fully count on us. We are optimistic that together we can master this challenge. We all agree, and we have all declared many times before that the

reform of the Security Council remains urgent and necessary. The time has come to get to work and make the reform happen.

Thank you.