

Canada

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
SOUS RÉSERVE DE MODIFICATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR JOHN MCNEE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**TO 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**

NEW YORK, 19 JANUARY 2009

**DÉCLARATION DE
L'AMBASSADEUR JOHN MCNEE
REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT DU CANADA AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**

**AU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL À COMPOSITION NON LIMITÉE CHARGÉ
D'EXAMINER LA QUESTION DE LA REPRÉSENTATION ÉQUITABLE AU
CONSEIL DE SÉCURITÉ ET DE L'AUGMENTATION DU NOMBRE DE SES
MEMBRES, AINSI QUE D'AUTRES QUESTIONS AYANT TRAIT AU CONSEIL DE
SÉCURITÉ**

NEW YORK, LE 19 JANVIER 2009

- Thank you Mr. Facilitator, for organizing today’s session. Canada welcomes the opportunity to present our views on Framework and Modalities for the forthcoming intergovernmental negotiations.
- Last September, this working group was mandated to address the framework and modalities for the forthcoming negotiations.
- Canada has taken the view that this step in the process must be taken seriously, and should produce a CONCRETE outcome – one aimed at facilitating negotiations.
- We are conscious that others in this room have argued that nothing this group produces can bind those negotiations in any way. However, Canada believes that with a modest amount of goodwill we can reach agreement on basic principles to guide the negotiations. Doing so would serve as a vital confidence building measure and would in our view increase the prospects for success during the negotiating phase.
- We have also given you our commitment to come forward with specific proposals aimed at laying the groundwork for real reform in the coming months.
- In this spirit, I am pleased to introduce, together with the distinguished representative of Malta, a working paper containing elements for a draft GA decision that would in our view lay the groundwork for successful negotiations. It is our proposal that this document be used as the basis for the OEWG’s recommendation to the General Assembly.
- In the interest of time I will not elaborate upon all of the provisions of this document. However, allow me to register just three points about its content:
 - First, let me state clearly that this document represents a compromise solution from Canada’s perspective. Our preference would be for a more structured negotiation or prep-com process. Instead, it contains a more limited set of guiding principles for the negotiations which we believe represent a reasonable middle between the positions of the main groups in this debate.
 - Second, of all the provisions in this document, we believe the most important, by far, is the principle of “Single Undertaking” (i.e. the idea that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”). The reality is that the component parts of the SC Reform negotiation are complex and inter-related. Member states need to be able to assess and negotiate the reform in its entirety. Only by agreeing that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed” can we ensure a genuine negotiation, one which encourages compromise, and in which the interests of all member states’ are heard and respected, particularly those of historically under-represented groups.

- Third, let me underline that this paper is not a take-it-or-leave-it proposal. Canada considers it open for discussion/negotiation. In the event that we cannot agree to recommend a concrete outcome to the General Assembly, Canada is equally open to deferring this discussion until February, and to have it within the negotiations themselves. What is not acceptable, in our view, is to drift towards negotiations without agreement on framework and modalities, including format, timeframe and schedule and sequencing of those negotiations.
- Mr Facilitator, we believe this document, and the general principles it contains, provides the basis for a negotiating process that will ensure all member states' voices will be heard. We look forward to working with others to reach agreement on the road ahead.

SC Reform Negotiations: Elements for a Decision by the GA on framework and modalities

Pursuant to Decision 62/557 of the General Assembly, the following are suggested elements for a draft General Assembly decision on the guiding principles and terms under which intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform will be conducted.

I. PREAMBLE

- i) Recalling its previous resolutions and decisions relevant to the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council.
- ii) Mindful of Chapter XVIII of the Charter of the United Nations and of the importance of reaching general agreement as referred to in its resolutions 48/26 of 3 December 1993 and 53/30 of 1 December 1998 and its decision 61/561 of 17 September 2007, as well as the ratification of any amendment to the Charter as stipulated in Article 108.
- iii) Recalling Decision 62/557 of 15 September 2008 which mandated the OEWG to address, [no later than February 1, 2009], the framework and modalities in order to prepare and facilitate intergovernmental negotiations which are to commence in informal plenary of the General Assembly [not later than February 28, 2009].

II. OPERATIVE

- 1) Decides that intergovernmental negotiations to be conducted in informal plenary of the General Assembly will be governed by the following principles and procedures:
 - a) Respect for the sovereign equality of Member States;
 - b) Ensuring equitable geographical representation;
 - c) The objective of making the Council more democratic and equitably

representative, to enhance its transparency, efficiency and effectiveness and accountability to the membership;

- d) Ensuring full ownership of the reform through full accommodation of the interests of all Member States and regions, particularly those which have been historically under-represented;
- e) The objective of achieving a negotiated solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States, well above the required two third majority;
- f) The process shall be open, inclusive and transparent, guided by objectivity and impartiality and held in good faith and mutual respect. All discussions shall be open to all Member States;
- g) The negotiations shall be comprehensive, covering and open to all issues and aspects of Security Council reform including inter alia increase in membership and improvement of working methods;
- h) The negotiations shall be based on an agreed agenda;
- j) The principle of "Single Undertaking" shall apply: every item of the negotiation is part of a whole and indivisible package and cannot be agreed separately ("nothing is agreed until everything is agreed");
- k) The negotiations shall be conducted in accordance with the general practice of informal plenary of the General Assembly.