




MAURITIUS

REMARKS

by

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At

**The Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group
on the Question of Equitable Representation
on and Increase in the Membership of the
Security Council and Other Related Matters**

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Mr. President,

I join previous speakers in thanking you for convening today's meeting on "the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other Matters Related to the Security Council" and also for the Draft Report contained in Document A/AC.247/2008/L.1. My sincere appreciation also extends to the Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh, Djibouti, Chile and Portugal as Vice-Presidents of the Task Force.

To start with let me say that I share the views expressed by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Guinea, H.E. Mr. Alpha Ibrahima Sow, Chairman of the African Group for the month of September. As a matter of fact, the African Group of Ambassadors took stock and deliberated on the draft report at its last meeting on Friday 29 August. The discussions and consultations are ongoing and as of now there is no African Position either on the report or the draft decision.

Allow me therefore Mr. President, to bring out the following from a purely national perspective.

1. The six-page report contained in Document A/AC.247/2008/L.1, four pages consist of factual statements listed in a chronological order. I should therefore rather like to skip them and direct my attention to the draft decision. But before I proceed to it let us recall para. (2) of the PGA's preceding report which stated the following amongst others:

Quote

- "In general terms, there continues to be a common understanding that the Security Council in its current composition does not reflect international reality and this needs to be adequately rebalanced."
- "All have expressed their disposition to enter intergovernmental negotiations."

Unquote

We are all aware that the present composition of the Security Council plays totally in favour of the permanent members because of the position, privileges and rights that they enjoy therein. Therefore it is evident that no matter how many additional non-permanent members we add on to the Security Council, they would not be able to change the decision making power of the P-5. A balancing act would therefore in the first place require the reconfiguration of the composition of the permanent membership itself. The logical consequence that follows is the addition of new permanent members, reflecting the changed geopolitical realities of the world, in the category of permanent members. This is precisely what an overwhelming number of individual member states, the African Union, the G-4 and the L.69 Group amongst others have been advocating for years now.

Secondly, if “All have expressed their disposition to enter intergovernmental negotiations” then what are we still waiting to start the intergovernmental negotiations. Agreed that there is no consensus on the framework and the modalities as yet. However, the next question is, shall we have one? In the view of my delegation the chances are very unlikely if we have listened carefully to the divergent views on this matter in the preceding meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group. In this respect, we propose that in order not to waste any more precious time, we consider the various avenues open to us including the informal plenary of the General Assembly to start the intergovernmental negotiations.

Mr. President,

Coming back to the draft decision we can live with pre-ambular para. (a), (b), (c), and also with operative para. (1) and (2) of para. (d). However, as far as para. (d) (3) is concerned, we are simply calling for its complete deletion. Suffice it to add that para. (d) (3) is superfluous and at best it attempts to lay down unnecessary pre-conditions to constitute the basis to commence intergovernmental negotiations.

As far as para (e) is concerned and with view to moving the reform process forward in a comprehensive manner, we concur with the amendments proposed this morning by the distinguished Permanent Representative of India, H.E. Ambassador Nirupam Sen, as well as various other delegations in this context.

Furthermore, we also believe that para. (f) be positioned after para.(c), of the draft decision with a view to avoiding any erroneous interpretations or misuse of it.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me add that my delegation looks forward to the start the intergovernmental negotiations within a week after the adoption of a decision to commence negotiations, on the basis of the proposals and positions contained in resolution 61/561 which would include, *inter alia*, expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories, equitable geographical distribution, greater representation to the developing countries, including better access for small and island states, and improvement in the working methods of the Security Council

I thank you for your attention.