



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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REMARKS

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

IN

THE MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED  
WORKING GROUP

ON

SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM

New York,  
2 September, 2008

**Remarks by Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan,  
in the Meeting of the Open Ended Working Group on Security Council reform  
2 September 2008**

1. **Mr. President**, you have a heroic task at your hands. It is not the first time that we are witnessing divergences and differences on the issue of Security Council reform. We have been in deadlock for nearly twenty years. The best hope was generated at the 61<sup>st</sup> UNGA Session, which set out clearly the political outline that an intermediate solution was the only possible way. That outline recommended by the Facilitators excluded the most divisive issue, i.e. the ambition of some to acquire the permanent status. Regional representation was, however, not excluded in that outline.
2. The 62<sup>nd</sup> UNGA Session has constituted a push back by those very states that have pushed us to deadlock in the past. The principle of "general agreement" of last year is now being challenged. The OEWG is now sought to be sidelined, if not ended. The slogan of "never ending working Group" looks good, but certainly what is more real is the "never ending ambition of the few" that has driven us to deadlock.
3. The aim that we all agreed for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session was to achieve progress. We have neither achieved progress nor negotiations, because the conditions for making progress and for negotiations have been denied. Negotiations, as you have yourself stated in the seven principles, were to take place once the modalities and framework were agreed and a basis established. Today, it is clear that we do not have agreement on the framework and modalities and no agreement on the basis for negotiations. Yet we are asked to open negotiations, regardless of the divergences, despite the fact that your recommendations have been spurned vociferously by those who seek the start of negotiations.
4. Negotiations, Mr. President, cannot commence or succeed by coercion of the member states and even of the President of the General Assembly. Our aim should be general agreement, to create conditions in which we can achieve effective and timely reform of the Security Council.
5. My delegation has circulated here a list of amendments to the text, which we believe are necessary for reaching agreement. These amendments i) make the point that the emphasis on general agreement must remain. We cannot have reform of the Security Council through voting procedures. Such a reform will neither be effective, nor acceptable; ii) ensure that the Working Group is the only venue for discussion; iii) require that we must agree on the framework and modalities and identify the negotiables, as you have recommended in your seven principles.
6. Some of the Permanent Representatives who have today objected to the seven principles, we have heard them praise the seven principles before. They have not taken a

step forward. What they committed to earlier, they are now rejecting. This, Mr. President, is not the way to negotiate. Negotiations can only happen and succeed in an atmosphere of trust and mutual confidence. We cannot succeed if we say one thing in private and another in public.

7. We believe that the draft can be amended through consultations. We believe this could be done under your guidance. But let me say that if ambition and selfishness remain the guiding principles of some of our interlocutors, we would remain in deadlock.

8. This will be my last statement as the Permanent Representative of Pakistan. I can afford to take a more detached position. Mr. President let me recall that when the Charter of the UN was adopted in San Francisco, President Harry Truman of the United States said to the delegates: "You have created a great instrument for peace and security and human progress in the world. If we fail to use it, we shall betray all those who have died in order that we might meet here in freedom and safety to create it. If we seek to use it selfishly – for the advantage of one nation or any small group of nations – we shall be equally guilty of that betrayal".

9. **Mr. President**, we must not betray the Charter in our search for reform of the Security Council. We must have a Council that is representative of both the member states and the regional groups. We must have a Security Council, which is large enough, yet small enough. We must have a Council that can overcome the danger of veto from the permanent members. We must also achieve reform in a timely manner so that the United Nations may not become irrelevant. There are two critical elements for our consideration: first, the regional approach; and second, the creation of a body under the Security Council, similar to the Peacebuilding Commission, a commission on peace and security, to which the Security Council should delegate most of its authority and that commission should be representative enough to take into account the interests of all, large and small states, who are at the center of the deadlock that we have witnessed. **Thank you.**

**IV. Recommendations**

22. The Open-ended Working Group decided to recommend that the consideration of the item be continued at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, **building upon the work done during previous sessions and with a view to facilitating the process of reaching general agreement.** The Working Group, recalling ~~General Assembly decision 61/561 and~~ the progress made during the **sixty-first and** sixty-second sessions, recommends to the Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

“The General Assembly,

**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,**

**Mindful of the importance of reaching general agreement on the question of equitable Representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council;**

“(a) Takes note of the report of the 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 on its work during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly;<sup>4</sup>

“(b) Notes with appreciation the Chairperson’s initiative and efforts in the process of a comprehensive reform of the Security Council as well as the work done by the Vice-Chairpersons;

“(c) Decides that:

1) The position and proposals of member states: African Union, G-4, League of the Arab States, L 69 Group, Organization of Islamic Conference, Overarching Group proposal, P5 perspectives, Small Five States, Uniting for Consensus;

*relationship between the Council and the General Assembly;*

3) The following documents: Report of 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 (A/61/47); General Assembly decision (61/561); Report of the 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 on its work during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly<sup>1</sup>

**4) The Seven Principles proposed by the President of the General Assembly (A/62/PV47-51);**

~~form a basis~~ **will constitute the main elements** for intergovernmental negotiations;

**“(d) Decides to continue consultations in the Working Group on the framework and modalities and identification of negotiables, bearing in mind the Seven Principles proposed by the President of the General Assembly, with a view to launching intergovernmental negotiations;**

“(e) Decides also, building on the progress achieved so far, particularly during the sixty-first and sixty-second sessions, ~~as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States,~~ to **subsequently** commence intergovernmental negotiations **in the Working Group**, in good faith, with mutual respect and in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, on the question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council, with the objective to seek a **compromise** solution which can garner ~~the widest possible~~ **general** agreement among Member States;

“(f) Decides that the Working Group, **to this end**, should continue to exert efforts during the sixty - third session of the General Assembly aimed at achieving general agreement among member states in the consideration of all issues 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, taking into account the progress achieved from the forty-eighth to sixty-second sessions of the General Assembly;

“(g) Further decides that the Working Group should submit a report to the General Assembly before the end of its sixty-third session, including any agreed recommendations”.