



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**H.E. Ambassador PARK In-kook**  
**Permanent Representative**

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

**2 September 2008**

**New York**

**<Check against Delivery>**

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Mr. President,

1. Let me first thank you for convening today's meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Related Matters (OEWG). The Republic of Korea has steadfastly supported your initiative and efforts to move the process of Security Council reform forward and will continue to do so for the remaining days and weeks of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly. We also commend the tireless efforts of the Task Force, consisting of the distinguished permanent representatives of Bangladesh, Chile, Djibouti, and Portugal.
2. As we look back over the last couple of years, significant progress has been made on Security Council reform. First, the Facilitators' Reports were submitted during the 61<sup>st</sup> session, which put forward the intermediate approach as a viable compromise solution. During the current session of the General Assembly, the Seven Principles were laid down by you, Mr. President, which has been widely accepted as invaluable guiding principles for the deliberations of Security Council reform. There is no doubt that we, Member States of the United Nations, will remember the Seven Principles as an important legacy you presented to us.

3. Now that we have reached the final phase to adopt the report of the Open-ended Working Group and the draft decision of this session, we continue to count on your leadership so that we achieve a successful conclusion that can bring Security Council reform to the next stage.

Mr. President,

4. My delegation believes that Security Council reform is a sensitive issue that needs to be approached from wide perspectives. Given the enormous implications for the credibility of the United Nations, my delegation believes that Security Council reform should be pursued in way that unites rather than divides Member States. The international community is now facing unprecedented global crises in the areas of environment, food, energy, and development. Under these circumstances, it is by no means desirable to take on any initiatives which may lead to division and confrontation among Member States. From this perspective, success in Security Council reform should boost other reforms of the UN system. By the same token, mistrust and division bred in the course of Council reform may have a negative spillover into other areas of UN reform.

Mr. President,

5. We have the draft decision before us as the outcome of this session. My delegation deeply appreciates your efforts to prepare this draft decision. Instead of commenting on the draft paragraph by paragraph, let me take this opportunity to highlight several key points of the position that Korea, along with its UfC colleagues, have long held on this issue. It is our hope that our legitimate positions will be duly reflected through further consultations and discussions in the coming weeks. In this sense, I would like to endorse the proposed amendments circulated by Pakistan this morning, as it correctly mirrors our position.
6. First, in order for any negotiations to be successful, it is common sense that a basis for the negotiations should be agreed first. Launching intergovernmental negotiations without agreeing how to conduct negotiations and what to negotiate about will only lead to confusion and chaos, which will get us nowhere. It is for the sake of success of negotiations that we have underlined the need for consultations in the Open-ended Working Group on the framework and modalities, and negotiables, with a view to launching intergovernmental negotiations. I understand that this is why a significant number of Member States, including UfC, the African Group, and the Arab League, support the idea, which has been repeatedly confirmed in your Seven Principles.
7. Second, The Open-ended Working Group is the only forum that has the authority and legitimacy for conducting consultations and negotiations on Security Council reform. Moreover, the Working Group is the only venue where open, inclusive, and transparent interaction is possible. We therefore believe

that the Open-ended Working Group should continue its role in the coming session of the General Assembly and beyond as the sole legitimate venue to conduct negotiations. While some Member States argue that the Open-ended Working Group has become a fruitless venue for the last fourteen years, we disagree. As some delegations aptly pointed out this morning, achievements such as the facilitators' report and your Seven Principles did not lead to further concrete progress because some countries refused to consider them. We are all too well aware that it is the political will of Member States that are more important than the venues where consultations and negotiations occur.

8. Third, we believe that Security Council reform should be based on general agreement of the Membership of the United Nations. Since the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group, general agreement has been the agreed objective of the Membership on the reform of the Security Council. This objective is reaffirmed by numerous General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 55/30 and decision 61/561.
9. Forth, the negotiation of Security Council reform should build upon the progress made so far, in particular the work of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly. The UfC agrees with the Facilitators' conclusion that the intermediate approach is the only feasible compromise option that can break the current impasse. The intermediate approach has also been regarded as a possible compromise solution by many countries. We believe that the Facilitators' reports could be points of convergence that would serve as a basis for inclusive negotiations.
10. Lastly, as you clearly indicate in the Seven Principles, any negotiation should be conducted in good faith and with mutual respect. There should be no attempt to impose unilateral proposals upon others that would lead to fragmentation and strife among the membership.

Mr. President,

11. My delegation believes that Security Council reform is worthwhile only if it is consistent with the fundamental principles of transparency, efficiency, accountability, and representativeness. We believe that the addition of permanent members would undermine these principles. The Republic of Korea has consistently upheld the position that the best way to reform the membership of the Council is through an increase in non-permanent, elected seats, not through the addition of permanent members. Our position is based on the belief that, only through elections, accountability can be ensured – not just a single election that entitles the winners to remain in office in perpetuity, but periodic elections where Member States will have an opportunity to review the performance of the Council members and respond accordingly.

12. In closing, the Republic of Korea has always been ready to embark on a negotiation process with a view to reaching a general agreement on Security Council reform. Although we have some concerns about the draft decision, we are willing to participate in consultations in a flexible way, based on our above-mentioned positions. We are confident that, under your leadership, this session will achieve progress on this important issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.