

## **SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM**

### **Introduction**

1. Ever since the end of the Cold War, it has been evident that the Security Council needs to be changed – both in its composition and in its methods of work. The agenda and the actual work of the Open-ended Working Group on Security Council Reform offer evidence of that. While there has been progress in the area of working methods, the second part of the agenda of reform, the enlargement of the Security Council's membership, has been lagging behind. The need to move ahead in both areas and ideas for enlargement of the Security Council were expressed in a variety of the UN forums in the past years. While there has been some progress in the discussions on the Security Council reform in the recent years, there is a need for specific proposals and, finally, decisions. Enlargement of the Security Council is not only a matter of fairness but also the necessary condition for the Council's effectiveness. In order to satisfy these requirements enlargement is necessary both in the categories of permanent and non-permanent members.

### **Additional Permanent Members**

2. There are good reasons to enlarge the number of permanent members of the UN Security Council. They include the need to strengthen the Council's effectiveness and its representative character. To achieve this it has been proposed that additional six permanent members should be added to the current composition in the Security Council. The present non-paper is inspired by this idea and proposes the following distribution of additional permanent seats: Two for Africa, two for Asia, one for the Latin American and Caribbean and one for Western European and Others Group.

### **Two Groups of Non-permanent Members**

3. In the current system non-permanent members rotate with varied frequency. Some members present their candidatures more frequently than others. Some members are elected more frequently than others. More frequent rotation of a number of non-permanent members is a reality. Enlargement of the Security Council offers a possibility to organize this process better, to improve predictability and also to take into account the varying levels of contribution that non-permanent members make to the maintenance of international peace and security.

### **Non-permanent Members with More Frequent Rotation**

4. The General Assembly should elect a total of twelve members into the category of “non-permanent members with more frequent rotation”. The members thus elected would serve every second two-year term within a period of twelve years. This means that there would be six non-permanent members with more frequent rotation in any given composition of the Security Council. They would be eligible for re-election every twelve years. After twelve years the General Assembly would review the system and elect the next group of members to serve within this category. Six among these members would be from Africa and Asia, two from Latin America and the Caribbean, one from Eastern European group and three from the Western European and others group. The sequence of rotation would need to be determined by the General Assembly.

### **Non-permanent Members to be Elected in Accordance with the Principle of Geographic Representation**

5. There should be eight non-permanent members of the Security Council elected on the basis of the principle of equitable geographic distribution. Four among these members would be from Africa and Asia, two from Latin America and the Caribbean, one from the Western European and Others Group and one from Eastern European Group. While this group would be smaller than the current total of ten non-permanent members of the Security Council, the proposed distribution would follow the principle of an equitable geographic representation, keeping in mind the enlargement in other categories of members of the Security Council.

### **Total Number of Seats and the Review Conference**

6. The total number of seats of the enlarged Security Council in any given term would be twenty-five: Five current permanent members, six new permanent members, six non-permanent members with more frequent rotation and eight other non-permanent members. This total, together with the combination of the proposed categories of members, would at the same time ensure the representative character of the Security Council and a size which would be sufficiently limited to allow effective work of the Council.

7. The amendment to the Charter related to the enlargement of the Security Council would need to include a review clause allowing for a comprehensive review of the new system. This review would be conducted twelve years after the entry into force of the amendment.