



INTERVENTION BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

CHAIR OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS  
ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION AND INCREASE IN THE  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO  
THE COUNCIL

AT AN INFORMAL PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

**Check against delivery**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

1. Welcome back. Today, we once again exchange our place under the burning sun for a seat in this negotiation room – the room where we deal with the burning issue of Security Council reform. Summer has come and gone, and I hope this period of reflection has strengthened your resolve to reform the Council. In the words of the American poet Wallace Stevens: “The summer night is like a perfection of thought.” I can’t wait to hear how you have perfected your thoughts over the many past summer nights. After all, through my July 16 letter, I asked you to take advantage of the hiatus by reaching conclusions about your own positions.
2. In addition to that, I also asked you to informally reach out to others – not just to the likeminded, but also across the aisle. We certainly have come a long way since February 19, but in the times ahead we need to go the extra mile by increasingly being compromise-driven and taking into consideration the logic of the other’s position and the level of support it enjoys.
3. We can’t stall now, after starting off so well. After clearing all the procedural hurdles on day one. After seeing a genuine surge of interest, with up to two-thirds of the membership actively and interactively engaged. After, inspired by my Overview, chewing over the main options and negotiables for reform.
4. Out of these, as always based on your guidance, we are for now going to zero in on two potential reform models, looking not just at all their different varieties but also at all their different pros and cons. During the meetings, Member States are of course free to express their views on any matter they deem relevant. I for one am just discharging my fundamental responsibility as Chair by slightly focusing the agenda as per your requests. It is my firm intention to help you move ahead, not go around in circles. What is more, I do so without any prejudice whatsoever to the particular solution you might arrive at in the end. I do not point my finger in any definite direction – I am simply the one who holds the gavel.
5. So, in accordance with your different requests, tomorrow will be all about the model featuring an expansion in both current categories, with the intermediate model at the center of attention come September 3. Needless to say, both models extend into all five dimensions of reform – known among Security Council reform aficionados as the five key issues.
6. Nevertheless, today we kick off this third round by explicitly putting the five of them at the forefront of our discussion. Considered one by one in the first round and more comprehensively during the second, the five key issues now feature on the agenda all at once. After this exchange, yet another opportunity to explore the interconnectedness of these issues, we will have looked at them from every possible different angle.
7. This way, we do justice to GA Decision 62/557, which will continue to be our brightly shining lodestar on the journey towards reform. Or, to be more precise, early reform, the overarching objective world leaders rallied around

back in 2005. When is early, one might ask. It is never too early in a world where the number of major conflicts last year went up instead of going down. It is never too early in a world where city streets are the new trenches and civilians the main casualties of war. It is never too early in a world where the next global emergency calling for a global response could be in foreign rather than financial affairs. The Wallace Stevens poem I quoted from at the outset bears the following title: "The house was quiet and the world was calm." Yet the world is not calm, so this house cannot remain quiet. In these dangerous days, this house, this world organization, is called upon to pull together and pull off a long overdue reform of its peace and security organ. The challenge is to make it reflect the global realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, not the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Security Council can become more effective, its resolutions more readily implemented, if it is widely perceived as a more representative and thus more legitimate body. Here, becoming more effective is really just jargon for saving more lives. That is why, in the words of the President of the General Assembly, a better Council cannot wait until tomorrow, if we want to have a better tomorrow.

8. As the third round gets underway, our collective efforts to boost the Council's legitimacy and its effectiveness enter into a new phase – a decisive one. I urge you to make the most out of the little time we have left this session by being compromise driven, concrete and concise. Nobody, I presume, has forgotten about the three minute rule over the summer, although I won't get tired of reminding delegations time and again if necessary. You have a lot of work on your hands and I am here to facilitate that work – as you have grown accustomed to, impartial to any of the positions, yet partial to progress.

Thank you.