



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

245 East 49th Street • New York, NY 10017

**STATEMENT**

by

**The Coordinator of the C10 Permanent Representatives in New York for  
and on behalf of the African Group, delivered by**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR RUPERT S. DAVIES**

**Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the  
United Nations**

on

**Exchange 1 of the Third Round of the Intergovernmental Negotiations  
of the Informal Plenary of the General Assembly on the *Question of  
Equitable Representation and Increase in the Membership of the  
Security Council and other related Matters***

**NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for re-launching this informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the first exchange of the third round of negotiations on the *Question of the Equitable Representation on and, Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council in particular*, dealing with all the five key clusters together.

The concerns of the African Group on your letter of 16 July have been clearly expressed in my letter of August 27 addressed to you. While we welcome your determination to move the process expeditiously to a conclusive end, we do however; hold serious reservations on your proposals to guide our deliberations in this third round. The expectations of many delegations, in keeping with your clear statement made during the second round, was for an outcome paper reflecting all positions and proposals on the table with indications of the measure of support each appears to have garnered.

Mr. Chairman

What is presented instead is an opportunity to discuss the Five key clusters again in the first exchange, to be followed by a discussion in the second exchange, on the model of expansion in the two categories with its varieties, which you say, has commanded most support; and then by a discussion in the third exchange, on the model of the intermediate approach and its varieties, which you admit lacks clarity and requires further elucidation. After all this, you intend to come out with another letter to usher in the remainder of the third round, when as you say the lodestar 62/557 will then shine brightly.

This arrangement is much confusing. The pitching of certainty with uncertainty has the effect of eroding the support model one has commanded and enjoyed, and to prevent its due attainment by prejudicing whatever chances of support it stands to further garner from the membership. Further it is unhelpful, in that it fails to identify which of the varieties of the model has commanded most support or whether it is all varieties of that model that have each equally commanded most support and which are they anyway?

The proposed arrangement also has the inevitable consequence of suppressing the integrity of the common African position on expansion in the two categories, with the prerogatives and attributes of permanent membership including the veto, so long as it continues to exist. It further suppresses its position on size and Regional Representation.

Moreover, despite its obscurity it seeks to elevate unjustifiably, the Intermediate approach and its varieties, also unspecified, to the status of a possible option for further consideration irrespective of what support it has commanded so far and although not covered by the requirement that decisions must be based on the positions and proposals of member states as provided by paragraph (e) of Resolution 62/557.

Mr. Chairman

Essentially, we are yet to be convinced how the process has zeroed in on an intermediate approach as a position during the course of the previous rounds. The intermediate approach, in our view, should naturally emerge from the discussions on the well-known

positions, if at all, but **not identified and isolated** as a separate sui generis item for negotiations. Be that as it may, we have a stake in these proceedings and will therefore continue to remain committed to negotiate in good faith and with mutual trust.

Mr. Chairman

You identified the period between your letter of 16 July and the commencement of this third round to be used by member states as a period to reflect on their respective positions and interface with like-minded groups and opponents as well. Our case for reform, Mr. Chairman, is firmly rooted in a demand to the International community to redress an historical injustice and imbalance, and render to Africa what is due and denied Africa for far too long. Africa therefore still remains firmly wedded to its position in line with the Ezulwini Concensus as has been extensively stated on the five clusters in all previous rounds.

Mr. Chairman,

On this note allow me to reiterate the common African position on all the clusters discussed in the first and second rounds of the negotiations.

**Categories of membership:** a legitimate and balanced Security should be expanded in both the permanent and non-permanent categories, any third category whether classified as interim, intermediate or transitional, that does not emerge as a natural offshoot from real negotiations is an unwelcome departure from the true reform process advocated by our leaders in the World Summit Outcome Document;

**Veto:** the veto has consistently been discredited as anachronistic and more self-serving and should therefore be abolished or regulated accordingly; if maintained it is only but fair and as matter of common justice that it be made available to all permanent members;

**Regional Representation:** equitable geographical representation to redress the historical injustice leading to the under-representation of Africa in the non-permanent category in the Security Council and its non-representation in the permanent category;

**Size of an enlarged Security Council and Working Methods:** a democratic, representative, inclusive and accountable Council with enlargement to 26 members and Africa allocated not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership and five non-permanent members – the African Union being responsible for the selection of Africa's representatives to be presented to the General Assembly for election;

On the **Working Methods and Relationship between Security Council and General Assembly**, we will continue to advocate and strive for reform measures that will enhance Council's effectiveness and efficiency as well as the legitimacy, effective interface and coordination between these two principal organs. As we have consistently intimated in the recent past, Africa is prepared to consider the various options already on the table in respect of these clusters when the negotiations really move into specificities.

I thank you for your kind attention.