

**Statement of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to  
the United Nations on the Security Council reform  
Rome, 5 February 2009**

Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy for the invitation to the Rome Ministerial meeting on the Security Council reform.

Excellencies,

The effectiveness of international security system impacts on the authority of the United Nations. When the agreement the Security Council member to react to a serious threat to world peace seems elusive, then we are all at a risk.

We believe that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and, in carrying out its duties under this responsibility in accordance to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, the Security Council acts on behalf of Member States. It is therefore of vital importance, not only to the Organization but to the world, that the Council should be equipped to carry out this responsibility.

We shall respect our shared values and accept the restraints inherent in those values in order to find an approach that is based on a global consensus. The Security Council shall fully realize its primary responsibility for collective management of threats that transcends national boundaries and have implications on international security.

Achieving those objectives will not be effective without the reform of the Security Council and depend on our political willingness to deliver expected results.

We consider reform of the Security Council to be exceptional international significance. Making this body more representative and balanced and its work more effective and transparent, especially with regard to the decision-making, is vital in adapting the UN to the realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Azerbaijan believes that reform of the Security Council should not be confined to enlargement of its membership. We stand for rationalization of the Council's working methods, greater transparency in decision-making, accountability in performance and full implementation of its resolutions and better participation of non-Member States in the work of the Council. Given the non-implementation of a number of United Nations resolutions, in particular those related to regional

conflicts, we attach great importance to the establishment of a mechanism that would provide for monitoring and implementation of those resolutions.

It is our conviction that the existing regional groups should be maintained. Any increase in the non-permanent membership of the Security Council should ensure an enhanced representation of the Eastern European Group by the allocation to the said Group of at least one additional non-permanent seat in the enlarged Security Council.

Azerbaijan strongly believes that the comprehensive reform of the Security Council should not be limited to its enlargement, but should go hand to hand with the reform of its working methods in order to make them more efficient and transparent and to increase the democratic and accountable nature of the body and provide the implementation of Security Council resolutions, in particular related to the regional conflicts.

We are of the view that any increase in the non-permanent membership of the Security Council should ensure an enhanced representation of the Eastern European Group by the allocation to the said Group of at least one additional non-permanent seat in the enlarged Council. We wish to emphasize the fact that, since 1991, the Eastern European Group has more than doubled its membership.

Excellencies,

As it was announced by the President of the General Assembly at the informal plenary session of the General Assembly before the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on 29 January 2009, on 19 February the intergovernmental negotiations regarding the reforms of the Security Council will be commenced.

We believe that the negotiations will be based on the decision of the General Assembly 62/557, and be guided by the UN Charter, 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and the relevant UN rules and procedures, past practice, also based on proposals by Member States, in good faith, with mutual respect and in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, which can garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States.

In conclusion, I would like to express confidence that this Ministerial meeting, so well organized, will be a significant step towards the reform of the Security Council, as a main body responsible for the peace and security in the world.