

**United Nations General Assembly  
Fifty-ninth session  
Informal thematic consultations  
Cluster IV: “Strengthening the United Nations”**

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**Written statement by**

**Andrei Dapkiunas**

**Permanent Representative of Belarus  
to the United Nations**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

There is a good case for **preventing the dilution of authority of the General Assembly**. Belarus feels it necessary to strengthen significantly the status of the General Assembly in the UN system.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

The Economic and Social Council should play more prominent role to promote the implementation of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals as well as coordinate the activities of specialised agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations.

The present authority of ECOSOC and its structure allow this body to make a valuable contribution to the solution of social-economic and humanitarian problems without additional institutional measures.

**SECURITY COUNCIL**

The issue of the **working methods** is of paramount importance in the whole Security Council reform package. If isolated from practical steps to ensure **greater transparency, democracy and accountability** in the activities and procedures of the Security Council, any expansion of the Council’s membership will hardly qualify as a reform event.

Models A and B proceed from one well-intentional, beautiful but, unfortunately, essentially unrealistic premise. Geographical re-grouping in the United Nations today is not possible. **The traditional geographical groupings in the United Nations are here to stay.**

At this advanced stage of deliberations – and further on, possibly, negotiations – the wide-ranging diversity of views on the best model for the Council’s enlargement makes it expedient **to substantiate suggestions about the number and distribution of seats with hard facts** (tables, graphs etc.) and to provide rationale as to how these suggestions address the aired concerns of Member States about ensuring maximum fairness in the process of the Council’s reform. Simply juggling the figures (24, 25, 26, 27...) will not make the process very meaningful.

Belarus has made its modest attempt to contribute by presenting some quantifiable evidence and suggestions about the possible procedure of rotation

of the Council's presidency in its own model of the Council's expansion (please see <http://www.un.int/belarus>).

Belarus would like to reiterate that any realistic model of the Council's expansion should include as its indispensable element **the Eastern European Group with one permanent member of the Security Council and two non-permanent seats**.

Belarus underlines the importance of the idea of **regional responsibility, accountability and connectedness** as an essential prerequisite for a successful and meaningful tenure on the Council – for permanent and non-permanent members alike.

### **PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**

Belarus supports the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission.

It would be expedient to establish the Commission as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. The Commission may be accountable to the Security Council and ECOSOC while the General Assembly may have the central role in the formulation of post-conflict strategies.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

Problems of consideration of the human rights agenda within the United Nations system are of political, not institutional nature.

Politicization of human rights issues, unseemly exploitation by some countries of the human rights agenda in their own interests, wide use of double standards in considering human rights issues are the main factors which prevent the Commission on Human Rights from fulfilling its mandate effectively.

**Institutional restructuring** of the UN human-rights machinery **alone will not be able to solve these problems**.

Creating a set of UN councils to work on a triad of major causes for the international community is undoubtedly a visually attractive idea. Yet as an attempt to rearrange the UN geographical grouping has shown, not everything logical and beautiful is feasible within the constraints of concrete circumstances.

If the international community at large is not ready **to reassess the substance and the spirit of the United Nations debate on human rights**, to see it in a different, less politicized and confrontational light, Belarus will hardly be in a position to support the creation of a smaller standing Human Rights Council.

### **REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Belarus shares the opinion of the Secretary-General that the United Nations and regional organizations should play complementary roles in facing the challenges to international peace and security.

At the same time we cannot agree to the increase of the financial burden on the UN budget to finance regional operations authorised by the Security Council. Financial resources for such operations should be mobilised by regional

organizations themselves with the possible UN support of non-budgetary nature.

#### **UNITED NATIONS CHARTER**

Belarus supports the deletion of the “enemy” clauses. Belarus will support the abolishing of the Trusteeship Council if a consensus on the completion of its current mandate is achieved.