

United Nations General Assembly
Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group
on the Question of Equitable Representation
and Increase in the Membership of the
Security Council and Other Matters

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Remarks

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Madame President,

Let me express my sincere thanks for your personal involvement and interest towards Security Council reform. I hope that deliberations around the key issues of the reform under the guidance of distinguished moderators will be indeed focused and productive and would facilitate further intergovernmental consultations.

With regard to enlargement of the Council my delegation believes that increased membership should insure proper representation of both developing countries and geographical regions. I would like to note that **Eastern Europe is one of the regions which is clearly underrepresented** and should be eligible for additional seat in the Council.

Years of deliberations of the working group demonstrated how difficult it was to reach a compromise on the matter of enlargement. In this regard it might be reasonable to once again review and attentively analyze all proposals, including those suggesting interim solutions.

To give a boost to Security Council enlargement we reiterate our readiness **to choose one conception of the reform as the foundation** for further consultations. How to pick the right one? Let us borrow **the method of indicative voting** approbated recently in the Security Council. An approach which will receive the largest number of votes could become a base for the next round of our talks. The elements of other proposals could be added in the process of further consultations.

The Council's composition and its working methods are indeed interrelated. Especially when both are considered outside the Security Council Chamber. I would like to underline the unique role that elected members of the Council may play in stimulating and motivating the Council to pursue the reform of its own, and here I mean mostly the reform of the working methods in order to increase their transparency and clarity.

Last but not least, I would like to comment on the issue of relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is important to insure that provisions of the Charter setting up **division of powers and responsibilities between the General Assembly and Security Council are strictly observed**. Any amendments changing,

modifying or clarifying the existing provisions should be agreed upon among Member States prior to their practical implementation.

Any efforts to interpret liberally the concept of “international peace and security”, unjustified stretching of this definition by including in it the matters which lie outside the sphere of the competence of the Council do not contribute to a higher degree of trust in the authority of the Council and may put the legitimacy of its actions into question.