



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

112TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**“QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN
THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED
MATTERS:DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/59/L.64)”**

NEW YORK, 12 JULY 2005

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to discuss in depth the critical issue of the reform of the Security Council. It is indeed a matter, which will have a great impact on the working of the Security Council and for that matter the United Nations as a whole.

We have at the moment one draft resolution tabled, one draft resolution circulated and one more draft resolution most likely to be tabled tomorrow. Without going into the specifics of any of the draft resolutions please allow me to reiterate some of the views I had previously expressed on this important issue of the enlargement of the Security Council.

We do not find it absolutely necessary to increase the number of permanent members. For, the concept of permanent membership falls contrary to the principle of sovereign equality, the very foundation on which our Organization is built.

We would indeed like to see a more representative Security Council, which would better reflect the present membership of our Organization. We feel that we should increase adequately the number of non-permanent seats so as to make the Security Council more representative.

The criteria for membership should be reasonable and achievable so that a great majority of the member states could seek a seat in the Security Council. Raising the bar too high, would lead to selectivity, which would in reality enable only a small number of member states to join the Security Council.

On the other hand, it would be far more desirable if every member of our Organization can aim at Security Council membership, when they believe that there is a role that they can play. Is it not better, to represent oneself rather than being represented by someone else? Furthermore, we feel confident that every member of our Organization would be able to represent its own region when it comes to that.

Having said this, we are prepared to accept flexible and renewable non-permanent membership, which could allow member states to be re-elected if they and their regions so wish.

It is true that we may have focused so much on this particular dimension of the reform process, perhaps at the expense of the other dimensions. Yet it is indeed a very important aspect, which would have a direct bearing on the working of our Organization. It took us so long to get to where we are. This is an opportunity which we can not afford to miss.

Thank you.