



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HUSSEIN HANIFF, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE PLENARY ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND THE INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL, NEW YORK, 21 FEBRUARY 2012

Mr Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share, with member states, Malaysia's views on the proposal of the group, known as Uniting for Consensus, on how a reformed United Nations Security Council should look like. In principal, Malaysia shares and concurs with the proposal of the UfC on the way forward for a reformed Security Council. The UfC proposal, in general, gives emphasis on the new dynamics of the world today, and in many ways, reflects the geopolitical and economic state of play among the 193 member-states of this august body.

Mr Chairman,

2. In principal, Malaysia favours the expansion of both categories of the membership of the Security Council. On the same token, Malaysia is realistic in its views on the time frame for the reform process to conclude, having seen not much progress in the last 20 years. As an interim measure, Malaysia sees merit in the UfC proposal for the creation of longer-term seats, with terms up to 5 years. Malaysia also sees the merit in the provision of seats for regional groups that are either not represented or under-represented in the permanent membership category. More importantly, this proposal by the UfC caters for small and medium-sized states, that today represent 59% of the membership of the United Nations. For far too long, we have failed to harness the full capability of this group of countries to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

3. On the question of veto, Malaysia wants to see an end of the veto power among members of the Security Council, as this is undemocratic. Until such time, Malaysia has and will continue to urge the Permanent Members of the Security Council, which, in their exercise of the veto, to ensure that these actions should be regulated so as to prohibit the actions from being used unjustly and more importantly, against the interest of the majority of member states of the United Nations.

4. The working methods and procedures of work of the Security Council are issues that majority of us, member states, would want to see immediate improvement. The Security Council, while being the master of its own working methods, should move with times where transparency and member state wide consultations and participation are the only way forward. The reform of the working methods of the Security Council is not an issue that needs the Charter of the United Nations to be amended. We can start even today if we have the political will to do so. The question is, are we, collectively, ready to move forward on this pillar of reform?

5. While the Security Council has the primary role in ensuring international peace and security, as enshrined the Charter, the General Assembly has the full legitimacy as the principal forum of the United Nations, due to its nature of being the most universal and democratic organ of the UN. Developments in the past month have proven that the General Assembly, for all its deficiencies, can rise up to the occasion when it is most needed. More so, decisions taken at the General Assembly, either by consensus or through the process of voting, represent the true voice of the international community. The Security Council should seriously consider the benefits of working closely with the General Assembly, and not use the Assembly only when it becomes the victim of the veto, that is actually its own creation.

6. A reformed Security Council, in terms of membership expansion, needs a review mechanism, as proposed by the UfC. Malaysia agrees with this review mechanism proposal, as the issue of membership expansion and the working methods of the Council itself would continue to be debated for a long time to come. Nothing is cast in stone in the United Nations. We should endeavor to improve the United Nations as a whole, to ensure the outcome of our work would positively benefit the peoples of the world.

Mr Chairman,

7. In conclusion, I wish to reiterate again that Malaysia shares many of the views of the UfC. This proposal is worthy for all of us to consider and bring the process forward, to the next level. Having said that, I wish to reiterate that while Malaysia shares the principle of consensus in determining the final outcome of the Security Council reform, we worry that the word “consensus” could be used to retard the forward movement of the process. Disguising national and bilateral concerns in the process of getting a consensus would not move the reform process forward. We have to move beyond national positions or we can choose to not do so, and continue making more statements that won't lead us anywhere in the next 20 years.

I thank you Mr Chairman.