



# Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY MR. SAIFUL AZAM ABDULLAH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE PLENARY MEETING ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL, NEW YORK, 2 MAY 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to thank you for convening this meeting to discuss the proposal of the Small 5, consisting of Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland, and their proposed draft resolution A/66/L.42 on **Improving the working methods of the Security Council**. I also wish to express Malaysia's full support for your work, Mr. Chairman, in moving the Security Council reform process forward and I wish to assure you that Malaysia would continue to participate actively in this exercise.

Mr. Chairman,

2. The seven sub clusters of reform in the working methods of the Security Council as contained in the Annex of the S 5 resolution merits further and closer examination by all present here today. The proposal for the Security Council to seek the views of member states on the work of the Council, in particular, is something that all member states should support. The work of the Council, in close coordination with non-member states, especially countries and regional organizations concerned, is vital. Countries and regional organizations relevant to the issues on the table would be able to bring in regional views, build confidence among the actors concerned and help resolve conflicts before these conflicts get out of hand.

3. Malaysia also supports the need for more briefings by the President of the Council for the larger membership, but these briefings have to be more interactive and substantive. The current practice of reading from prepared texts agreed by Council members has constrained the President from engaging the wider membership on issues of major concern, including seeking their valuable views that can add value to the work of the Council as a whole.

4. The work of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council has also come under close scrutiny of member states. These bodies, reporting to the Council as a whole, were established through Security Council resolutions and were meant to assist the Council in the implementation of the resolutions. Past experience of some member states in their dealings with the subsidiary bodies, on many occasions, have been frustrating. Member states concerned are not informed of the reasons for the negative decisions of the Committees. The time has come for the Council to be as transparent as possible in its work and in this regard, Malaysia welcomes the Security Council resolution 1989 (2011) that indicates the need for a more democratic process in the relevant subsidiary bodies and enhances the ultimate aim of providing some degree of transparency in the work of the committee concerned.

Mr. Chairman,

5. I wish to touch on the issue of the use of the veto by permanent members of the Security Council. Malaysia has been among the countries that have consistently called for the abolishment of the use of the veto, in conformity with the principle of sovereign equality as envisaged in the UN Charter. Alternatively, the exercise of the veto should be regulated so as to prohibit such power being the sole discretion of its holder to unjustly overrule the wishes of the majority. There have been many proposals on how we can regulate this. Malaysia had previously suggested that a modified veto system be put in place, whereby two veto powers backed by three other members of the Security Council would be needed to block any Security Council resolution. The use of a veto must be explained and could be overridden by two thirds affirmative votes. In this connection, the proposal by the S5 to allow the permanent members to cast negative votes that does not constitute a veto in the sense of Article 27 of the Charter, merits serious consideration. This proposal would provide the flexibility for permanent members to disagree on issues that has some degree of national implications but at the same time, would not block Council action, for the overall good of the human race in matters related to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

6. We have come to the end of the Eight Round of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on the increase of membership of the Security Council and other related matters. Many of us here today are eager to know where do we go from here. The discussion should not stop here but to move forward, which is the only sensible path to take. If we have to look back, it is because we want to avoid making mistakes of the past that led to this prolonged discussion. Malaysia is ready to move forward, together with the wider membership.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.