



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY H.E AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON
SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM, NEW YORK, 16 APRIL 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to commend you for the reconvening of this Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters. This process, with roots in Resolution 48/26 of 1994 and 62/557 of 2008, has allowed member states to state their views on the issue, in a very democratic fashion, but with very little progress. The time has come for us to engage in some real negotiations and for us to do so, we need a working text. We cannot continue reiterating our positions or engage in a discussion any longer through national or group statements. We have done that in the past and we need to get down to real work now.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Your letter to member states dated 25 July 2012 captures very well the current state of play. Your recommendations should remind all of us here today that the current framework of negotiations is not bringing us any closer to reforming the Security Council. I agree with you, Mr. Chairman, that we need to start real negotiations or what you have termed as “robust negotiations, involving active give and take”. It is indeed true that we need to inject additional energy and ideas into the process. We can, if we want, start exploring in detail the different reform models that we have all proposed in the past. These include the expansion of both categories, the interim model and the intermediate option as espoused by member states.

3. You also mentioned in your letter, Mr. Chairman, on the need to move to the next stage of the process. You suggested that member states, possibly through a GA resolution, provide the Chair of the process, the mandate to draft a concise working document. On this suggestion, I believe that there would be different views from the floor, on the basis that the process, which includes the drafting of the working document, has to be member state driven. I agree that the process would have to be member state driven, and having the Chair drafting the working document, with the participation of member states, would provide the legitimacy to the draft. And no, Mr. Chairman, I am not suggesting that the document be drafted in a plenary format. We have to find efficient ways to do it. We can learn a thing or two from the experiences of

the membership recently in the follow-up to the Rio+20 process, and the Post-2015 development agenda.

4. On the proposal to convene a high level meeting on the reform of the Security Council, it should only be considered when we reach a stage where the membership as a whole see the added value of such a meeting in pushing the process forward. We have not seen much positive and forward progress in the past 20 years and it would be unrealistic for us to expect a major leap in negotiations in the next 6 months. In this respect, we should actually focus on the substance of the issue, make some real progress first and then only we should consider convening a high level meeting to provide the conclusive push needed to wrap up the negotiations.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Actually, we can have some forward progress if we choose to do so. There was a proposal by the S5 on reform on the working methods of the Council. We were supposed to have acted upon it last year but some developments stalled the action. The proposals by S5 were actually low lying fruits of the process, which we could adopt without needing to amend the UN Charter. Yet we did not have the collective courage to do so. Let us look into this proposal again. And let us not stall this move by arguing that reform is a package and that we should avoid the piece meal change. Perhaps, we should begin with what we could agree first without compromising the final outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

6. I wish to conclude by assuring you of my delegation's support for your work. Let us all start this round of negotiations with the intention of moving things forward. Compromises are needed for this round to see real progress. We need to move beyond the entrenched national and group positions. Lets us support the Chairman by giving him the mandate to produce a working document. We need to have real progress at this 67th UN General Assembly.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.