

Intervention by H.E. Ambassador Daw Penjo, Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations, New York at the Joint Debate of the General Assembly on Items 9 - Report of the Security Council” and Item 22 – Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council on November 13, 2007

Mr. President,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Joint Debate on Agenda items 9 and 22. My delegation would like to convey its appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Natalegawa of Indonesia and current President of the Security Council on his presentation of the Annual Report of the Security Council to the General Assembly. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The issue of Security Council reform has been on our agenda for nearly a decade and a half. We have deliberated at great length on why the Security Council needs to be reformed and various ideas and proposals have been presented in this regard, including on improving the working methods. The 61st session of the General Assembly under the leadership of H.E. Haya Rashed Al Khalifa generated good momentum and adopted an important decision on September 17, 2007. By this decision, the issue of Security Council reform is to be considered during the 62nd session so that further concrete results may be achieved, including through intergovernmental negotiations, building on the progress achieved so far, and on the positions and proposals made by member states.

My delegation welcomed the decision as, in our view, intergovernmental negotiations are the only way forward to address this sensitive and complex issue. Without such a process, the concrete ideas and proposals made over the years will remain just empty words.

My delegation would like to request you, Mr. President, to initiate without delay the process of intergovernmental negotiations. We also request you to determine through an objective and transparent method, the elements that command the widest support so that they can serve as the basis for the intergovernmental negotiations. Only through this process, we believe, a comprehensive reform of the Security Council can be achieved and its legitimacy and credibility enhanced. In this context, my delegation would like to reiterate its position that the Council should be expanded in both the permanent and nonpermanent categories and allow for greater representation by developing countries including better access for small states. We also reiterate our call for a comprehensive overhaul of the Council’s working methods in order to make it more transparent and inclusive.

Thank you, Mr. President.