

REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. SAMUEL OUTLULE  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA AND  
CHAIR OF THE AFRICAN GROUP FOR THE MONTH OF  
DECEMBER 2007**

**AT A MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON  
THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND  
INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL**

**FRIDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2007**

1. Mr. President, the African Group which I have the honour to chair this Month and on whose behalf I have the privilege to take the floor, commends you for convening this important meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council.

2. We are deeply grateful to you for your continuing commitment and determination to provide sound leadership in strengthening the work of the General Assembly on a variety of issues of crucial interest to Member States.

3. The African Group is particularly pleased that this meeting, takes place following your consultations with Member States. This is a manifestation of inclusiveness and transparency in your approach to matters before the General Assembly.

4. The African Group welcomes the convening of this meeting and you can count on us to be constructive and committed in addressing the matter of the reform of the Security Council.

5. The reform of the Security Council has received considerable attention, debate and thought in Africa. This culminated in the decision now commonly known as the Ezulwini Consensus. Africa's position which is well known, inter alia, calls for not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right of veto and two additional non-permanent seats.

6. The African Group maintains its adherence to this Common Position which is fair, just and principled. Africa has presented a position aimed at correcting the historical injustice to its members in the representation in the permanent category. This position deserves a response.

7. We accept that these are questions or issues that may be addressed within the implementation of the decision adopted by the General Assembly in its 61<sup>st</sup> session, in particular paragraph "d" of document A/61/47 which reads;

"Decides that the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council should be considered during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly so that further concrete results may be achieved, including through intergovernmental negotiations, building on the progress achieved so far, particularly at the sixty-first session, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States;"

8. It is important to recognize, that if significant progress is to be made in moving the process forward Member States should make concerted efforts to achieve a common vision including what kind of concessions stakeholders should make to realize the common objective to reform the Security Council.

9. Mr. President, we are here to listen carefully to the views of Member States. Africa is prepared to work with you and other Member States on this and other matters in good faith. You can count on our commitment to see the reform process completed.

10. Let us be clear. Africa does not fear negotiations. It is through negotiations that we can achieve a common vision. We are the beneficiaries of reforms and naturally it is our duty to be prepared to participate in building a reformed Security Council including through intergovernmental negotiations. We all want a Security Council that is more representative of and responsive to contemporary global realities.

11. Mr. President let me conclude by reaffirming our readiness and political will to be constructive. The African Group participated in the debates and consultations that led to the adoption of the Report of the Open-ended Working Group A/61/47.

12. We are committed to making further progress and to build on what has already been achieved. The African Group will give serious consideration to the proposals of Member States made at this meeting.