

Check against delivery



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Andreas D. Mavroyiannis,  
Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations  
at 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,  
New York, 14 December 2007**

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor and for convening this meeting. I am not taking the floor to repeat any substantive or procedural points that are important to my delegation with respect to Security Council reform. We consider that this has already been done to the extent that we now know where things stand.

It seems also clear to us that what is required at this stage is a collective decision as to how best to embark on a negotiation process that will elicit feasible, yet meaningful reform, taking into account the respective positions and the gap that separates them. We have previously stated the need for active coordination of an attempt to capture a formula that will take us forward. There cannot be another basis for negotiation if our aim is to reach a concrete outcome.

It is within this context that I would like to make a personal contribution to the brainstorming that is necessary in cases where collective decision-making is required. From my experience with this issue over the past few years and my exchanges with many different colleagues, I would propose a formula that reflects the pursuit of the great majority of the membership to, on the one hand, fully empower the Security Council to fulfill the mandate entrusted to it under the Charter, and on the other, enhance its legitimacy by increasing its effectiveness without adversely affecting its efficiency.

Furthermore, the arrangements that I am going to suggest might allow for an understanding to be reached within regional groups, including on, but not limited to, a sort of rotation.

So, the elements I would like to put forward are the following:

Firstly, in terms of enlargement, seven new seats could be added to the Council, six of them adhering to rules that are currently not foreseen in the Charter and one regular, two year, non-permanent seat. An expansion to 22 appears to me modest and pragmatic yet meaningful and satisfying the criteria mentioned above. It has also realistic prospects to gather the necessary ratification dynamic.

Specifically, for a period of fifteen years, two further seats would be allocated to member States of the African Group and two further seats would be allocated to the Member States of the Asian Group. Also for 15 years, the group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the group of Western European and Others Group would each be allocated a further seat. Lastly, the group of Eastern European States would be

allocated a further regular non-permanent seat, as this appears to be the wish of the great majority of the members of this group. Candidates for these seats will be subject to regular election procedures by two thirds majority at the General Assembly.

States elected to fill six of the seven new seats will, in principle, be able to serve the entire 15 year period on the Council. However, at five-year intervals, any State may choose to challenge the incumbent(s) from its own regional group. If this challenge is backed by the majority of the members of that regional group, and subsequently, of the entire membership, the seat will re-open to election for all members of that regional group, including the incumbent.

Some role might be contemplated in this respect for regional groups, as a means of incorporating the will of the group in the selection process, as well as testing the prospects of the challenge to decide if it will be put to a vote before the entire membership. For example, a specific majority might be required within a regional group for an election to go ahead or by defining a minimum number of cosponsors to a draft resolution that would challenge an incumbent. This minimum number of cosponsors could be for instance the majority of the members of the regional group of the incumbent and may be in addition, a simple majority of the entire membership.

At the end of the 15-year time period, there would be a mandatory conference to review these arrangements; accordingly, these would be in place until a decision amending them has come into force and they would be without prejudice to the negotiations during the review conference or their eventual substantive outcome.

In addition to enlargement, and regardless of the timeline for the ratification of Charter amendments necessary for it, we could simultaneously decide on concrete ways to improve working methods in order to improve access and further associate the broader membership to the work of the Security Council. Once we have decided on both, we may proceed to de-link the evolution and monitoring of these two processes. Some of the elements I would suggest for the improvement of working methods are to

1. Make available at all times, information regarding the Council's meeting schedule,
2. Designate a contact point for providing information on the work of the Council to delegations of member States not members of the Council,
3. Consult with the member State(s) directly affected by an item under examination,
4. Explain one's vote in cases where there is no unanimity, and especially when a negative vote has been cast by a permanent member of the Security Council,
5. Conduct of as many of the Council's proceedings as possible in an open format and establishment of mechanisms for receiving the input of member States that are not members of the Council,
6. Appeal to permanent members of the Security Council to ascertain that war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity would not be committed and that other irremediable negative developments would not occur as a result of blocking Security Council action.

None of the abovementioned elements are exclusive or set in stone. But they could serve as a guide, in form as well as in substance, for the project at hand. We cannot avoid a drafting session so that each of us can push their position to its limits and try for its culmination to the largest degree possible. This seems to us to be the only method that can give us the golden mean.

Thank you, Mr. President.