



Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations

Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Thomas Matussek
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in 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**

14 December 2007

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

Let me first thank you for your letter of 6 December and for convening this meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Security Council reform. I would also like to thank you for your introductory remarks. And I am convinced that together we can move forward the process of Security Council reform, including the questions of timetable, the appointment of a Task Force and the organization of work.

Mr. President, when you invited us to this meeting, you asked us to focus our attention to identifying concrete elements of negotiables that could form the basis for intergovernmental negotiations, having in mind, in particular, the report of the Open-ended Working Group of the sixty-first session and its Annexes, and the positions and proposals of Member States. Let me particularly thank you for this initiative.

Mr. President,

At innumerable meetings of the OEWG we have discussed all relevant issues at length and in great detail. After so many debates I am sure we all know each others positions quite well. We should move now from endless theoretical discussions to practical steps and results.

On September 17, we decided that time has come to move to the next stage, which is to start intergovernmental negotiations, on the basis of the decision taken by the sixty-first General Assembly. Letter d) of this decision

gives you and Member States the mandate to conduct intergovernmental negotiations to achieve concrete results during the sixty-second session.

Expectations are running high and we count on your leadership and guidance to move the process forward. In recent weeks and days, at various occasions, over luncheons and dinners, we have been discussing the way forward. On these occasions, you have announced that you will appoint a Task Force to enable Member States to conduct intergovernmental negotiations on the basis of progress achieved so far. You have also introduced the idea, that an "Overarching Group" should lay the foundation of a text basis to enable Member States later on to negotiate on the basis of concrete text proposals.

Mr. President, we thank you for your suggestions. We feel encouraged, and we started this process and organized a first meeting of an "Overarching Group". We invited States from all the groups of stakeholders and – to avoid misunderstandings - we made very clear that the "Overarching Group" is and continues to be open to all Member States, that nobody will be excluded and that the work of the Group will be totally transparent. I repeat this so that no misunderstandings will occur today: it is an open Group and it will work in a very transparent way.

Mr. President, this week we started this Group with an an intensive debate on how to get organized. From this discussion, we extracted the following essentials:

The "Overarching Group" is open to all interested States; it will exclude no State and also no position from the scope of the discussions, based on the results achieved so far.

The "Overarching Group" will be completely transparent in its work, will continue to support you in your endeavour to move the reform process forward and will regularly inform you on the progress achieved.

The "Overarching Group" will start soon to work on text elements to be considered for further negotiations in the following six categories

- size of the Security Council,
- categories of membership,
- the question of veto,
- election procedure for new members,
- review,
- and working methods.

Mr. President,

This approach is both in line with the mandate of letter d) of the GAs decision, and in line with your own suggestions. Naturally, we remain open to any other constructive suggestions to move forward. We are not bound to our present approach. Any State which has a better idea how to move things forward should suggest this today and we will be the first to cooperate. However, there should not be further delays, and we certainly

would not be ready to support proposals which endanger the progress achieved so far during the sixty-first session. We have to move from theory to practice, and we have to move now.

Mr. President, it is my hope that, at the end of the work of the "Overarching Group", we can provide you with concrete texts in the categories "size of and categories of membership", "election procedure" "veto", "review" and "working methods". The texts might have brackets, but I am confident that we will achieve a textual basis.

Mr. President,

On a separate note, let me take the liberty to reiterate briefly the German position on substance:

We continue to believe that the G4 proposal would be the best way forward and that it has enjoyed the largest support so far of all proposals presented by Member States or Group of Member States. However, as we have mentioned before, we are open-minded, we will show flexibility and we do not rule out a two-step or intermediary approach.

If an intermediary approach is to be considered it must bring about real change. We must create a formula for a Council that will reflect today's

political realities and truly change the balance of power in the Council right from the start of the intermediary period.

A mandatory review must be an integral part of the solution. Any solution we envisage must contain a mandatory review within a clear timeframe and a clearly defined mandate.

The decision will have to be made by a vote, which according to the Charta will have to be made by a two-thirds majority.

The aim is a more legitimate Council. What we want is not just a larger Council. What we want is a different Council, one that will be more legitimate, more transparent, more representative, more effective and more reflective of today's political realities. It is not enough to add more two-year seats or similar half-measures.

Mr. President,

We will prove flexibility, willingness to cooperate and readiness to negotiate. Once again, we invite Members to join us in showing flexibility and in using the format of intergovernmental negotiations thus paving the way for concrete results.

Thank you.