



Statement by H.E. Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, at the Informal 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

(19 July, 2007)

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Madam President,

My delegation wishes to thank you for convening these informal consultations and for your continued efforts in creating a favourable environment in the direction of a meaningful reform of the Security Council. I would also like to thank Ambassadors Heraldo Muñoz and Christian Wenaweser for the report before us.

The report of 26 June, together with the one of 19 April, constitutes important references. They should be examined carefully in the course of negotiations.

We do regret that latest report did not refer to the broad support that exists within the UN membership for UNSC expansion in both categories – permanent and non-permanent.

A genuine reform must necessarily address the need for an increased representation of all developing regions, including in the permanent category.

Negotiations should be conducted taking into account consistent positions that enjoy solid support from all regions as well as the recent reports by the facilitators.

Madam President,

Brazil firmly believes that a meaningful reform of the Security Council must contemplate the following features:

- (i) Enlargement of the Security Council membership in both permanent and non-permanent categories;
- (ii) Inclusion of developing and developed countries in both categories;
- (ii) Enhanced representation and legitimacy of the Council on the basis of criteria set out in Article 23 of the Charter: contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security and to other purposes of the Organisation, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution;
- (iv) A provision that the veto should not to be exercised by the new permanent members until the question has been decided upon in a review conference;
- (v) Working methods as an integral part of the decision on Security Council expansion.

Madam President,

It is essential that countries from all regions, particularly the developing regions of the world, continue to engage in the effort to reform and update the Security Council. In this context, I wish to refer to the New Delhi Ministerial Communiqué of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, issued on 17 July, which states, in its paragraphs 5 and 6 (*I quote*):

“The Ministers emphasized that the Security Council must, in its composition, represent contemporary realities and not those of the year 1945. Keeping in view that the decisions of the Security Council should serve the interests of the larger United Nations Membership, the Ministers emphasized the need for the urgent reform of the Security Council that would include its expansion on both categories of membership, permanent and non-permanent, in order to render it more democratic, legitimate, representative and responsive.”

“Towards this end, the representation of developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America, as permanent members of the Security Council, is essential. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to continue to jointly pursue a decision on the Security Council expansion. In this

regard, they noted the ongoing efforts at the United Nations. This commitment will be pursued on an urgent basis, with a view to achieving concrete results by the end of the 61st UN General Assembly.”
(end of quote)

Madam President,

We appreciate the valuable work you have conducted so far. Your decision in November last year to initiate consultations under the OEWG and the work of the facilitators allowed us to have an updated view of the process and the possibilities for reform.

It is essential to keep the momentum. In order to do so, we must build on the work carried out so far and, as you suggest in your letter of 26 June, initiate intergovernmental negotiations. These should start without delay. The new phase should be structured so as to lead us to a final decision. In order to create the necessary conditions for such negotiations, it will be necessary:

- (i) to establish a negotiation format without delay;
- (ii) to set up a tentative timetable, with a view to securing convergence toward a final decision. A deadline for the conclusion of this process is essential; and
- (iii) to ensure the discussion of all proposals submitted by interested countries or groupings.

It is with spirit of flexibility that Brazil is determined to participate in the next phase of this process, in order to achieve meaningful results.

After more than 15 years of discussions on the reform of the Security Council, it is high time that the institutional reform of the United Nations be completed. No reform of the United Nations will be complete without the reform of the Security Council. We are confident that under your guidance this long-standing issue be resolved, just as we are on the final phase of resolving other important issues relating to the reform of the Organization. Brazil and other like-minded countries are determined to build a stronger United Nations and will continue to work with determination toward these goals.

I thank you, Madam President.