



Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations

Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Thomas Matussek
Permanent Representative of Germany**

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**

July 19, 2007

(Check against delivery)

Madam President,

It is customary to thank you for organizing useful and timely meetings, and to thank facilitators for their good work. I have done this with conviction on numerous occasions, but today my thanks are even more heartfelt than usual.

Today's meeting is important and timely because it will help us to decide on the way forward within the 61st General Assembly. We also thank you for the very clear assessment and recommendations made in your cover letter: status quo is not an option and the next step should be negotiations.

We commend Ambassador Muñoz and Ambassador Wenaweser, together with the previous five facilitators, for their commitment to submitting a report that goes beyond stocktaking and that will help us enter into a new and, we hope, productive stage of Security Council reform.

Madam President,

You and the facilitators have decided to recommend to the membership a focus on the intermediary approach. You state that this does not invalidate established positions on Security Council reform, but that at present greater flexibility from all groups is needed to achieve a result. We believe this is a very wise approach.

We stress once more that a clear majority of the membership supports enlargement of the number of both permanent and non-permanent seats. We also stress our belief that the model proposed by the G4 provides for the most comprehensive reform.

We realize, however, that today we find ourselves in a situation where an intermediary approach may be the only way forward. It may not be the ideal course, but where every other path is blocked, those who are committed to progress must consider this option. Germany wants reform and is prepared to embrace feasible options, provided they bring about real change in the Council and leave the door open to more comprehensive reform.

Madam President,

The report, together with your cover letter, provides us with what I would like to call the seven rules we should follow on Security Council reform.

1. The next step must be a negotiation process. For the overwhelming majority, muddling along with the status quo and continuing endless consultations is not an option. The majority is willing to enter into direct negotiations now to achieve a result.
2. Aim for a result in the 62nd Assembly. We must make use of the momentum created by the facilitators' process and aim for a solution in the 62nd Assembly. Otherwise, the world will believe that our efforts at Council reform have failed and that the UN is not capable of reform.
3. Intermediary approach must maintain options for future reform steps. As the report rightly states, there is now a willingness on the part of the majority of member states to work on the basis of an intermediary approach now. However, the majority is not prepared to give up the possibility of a more comprehensive reform at a later stage.
4. Mandatory review must be an integral part of the solution. The option for more comprehensive reform and review of the first reform drive must not remain a vague promise. Any solution we envisage now must contain a mandatory review within a clear timeframe and with a clearly defined mandate.
5. Intermediary approach must aim for a politically sustainable solution. Even if we have a strong review clause, we must be aware that the period before the review may be a long one and that the danger exists that when the review approaches, we will face the same difficulties in reaching an agreement that we face today. This is why, even with the intermediary approach, we cannot simply settle for the lowest common denominator. 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 as well as its working methods right from the start of the intermediary period.
6. Decision will be made by vote. The report clearly states that a decision will be made according to the Charter, through a vote by a two-thirds majority.

7. 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 and more reflective of today's political realities. It is not enough to add more two-year seats or similar half-measures.

These are the seven simple rules suggested to us by the results of the facilitators' process. They are reflected in the report and are based on intensive consultations with the whole membership. They have not been imposed on us by anybody. They have emerged from more than a decade of our common efforts to move closer to Security Council Reform. The facilitators have helped to distill them from our discussions.

These rules should guide us in our next steps. They can be seen as the elements of a compact of the whole UN membership for Security Council Reform. I appeal to all of you to accept this compact, to participate in a results-oriented negotiation process and to make reform happen.

Summing up, we believe that it is time to move on to negotiations and that most member states are willing to engage. Two crucial questions remain: Who will give the starting signal and how we will organize the process? I hope that you, Madam President, will further assist us in setting up a group of member states who will undertake to organize the negotiation process and even draft a concrete proposal as a point of departure for our negotiations.