

STATEMENT BY

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AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

EIGHTH ROUND OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS  
ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON  
AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL

*(13 MARCH 2012)*

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the L69 Group of countries. The L69 Group comprises a diverse group of 41 countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, who are united by a common cause - to achieve, lasting and comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council.

The Group is cemented in its firm conviction that expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the Security Council is needed to better reflect contemporary world realities, and achieve a more accountable, representative and transparent Security Council.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me take this opportunity to welcome your decision to devote today's meeting to the L69 initiative which has been elaborated in the letter of 6 September last year.

To break the impasse created at the seventh round on 2 March 2011 and to suggest the future direction for these inter-governmental negotiations, the L-69 took the initiative aimed at taking the process forward. The initiative took as its starting point your assessment in September 2009 that the reform model seeking an expansion in both categories "commanded the most support from the delegations taking the floor."

Our proposition, therefore, was simple and straight-forward that reform of the Security Council should include expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories and improvement on its working methods and that this should be the direction of further negotiations.

Our initiative thus seeks to give direction to these negotiations in accordance with the parameters laid down in GA decision 62/557.

We have also carried out an outreach on our proposition and are very happy that we are now supported by a very broad coalition of member-states. In-fact, to date, a significant majority of delegations have signaled their support for this proposition, including more than 80 that have done so in writing.

Mr. Chairman,

On a number of previous occasions I have had the opportunity to explain the L69's overall position. It is widely known that our position reflects the nature, composition and aspirations of the Group.

I had stated that we are of the view that for comprehensive reform of the Security Council, it is necessary to expand the Council to 25/26 with the inclusion of new permanent and non-permanent members. The new permanent members should have the same responsibilities and privileges as the existing permanent members. Obviously this reform should enhance the abilities of the developing countries, through real voice and participation in the Council.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that it is only right that the intergovernmental negotiations continue its work on the basis of the principles of expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories and improvement on its working methods and reflect the same appropriately in the negotiation text.

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey that the L69 Group is keen to further deepen our convergence with all delegations and groups that are for real reform of the Council. We believe this proposition is also Ezulwini compliant. We support Africa's aspirations for permanent membership with the veto.

I would also like to propose to the S5 that in view of identity of positions, we enter into active consultations for strengthening the conditions for the start of real negotiations.

Mr. Chairman,

The L69 will continue to work with you in an active and constructive manner. We were instrumental in starting the intergovernmental negotiations. We remain engaged in these negotiations on the basis of the UN Charter, the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and relevant GA resolutions that require support from two-thirds majority of the UN membership for a decision in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing allow me to recall paragraph 30 of the Millennium Summit Declaration in which World Leaders inter alia resolved to intensify efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects.

I would also like to specifically highlight paragraph 153 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document in which Leaders further resolved to support early reform of the Security Council as an essential element of overall efforts to reform the United Nations in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus further enhance its effectiveness and legitimacy and implementation of its decisions.

The L69 Group is committed to playing its part in ensuring that this comprehensive reform is not left to future generations.

We believe that the proposition that reform of the Security Council should include expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories and improvement on its working methods enjoys the support of an overwhelming majority of member-states. This should henceforth be the established focus of these negotiations.

Thank you.