

H.E. Ambassador Zahir Tanin
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Afghanistan
to the United Nations
633 Third Avenue, 27th Floor
New York NY 10017

Your reference:
Your message of:
Our reference:
New York, 08.09.2011

Excellency, *Dear Zahir,*

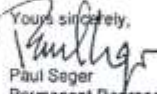
In your letter dated 18 August 2011 you have invited member States to submit documents and initiatives related to Security Council reform.

I have the honour to respond on behalf the "Small Five" (S-5) Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland.

As you know, the S-5 is advocating a reform of the working methods of the Security Council. To this effect, the group has presented a text of a draft resolution on 25 March 2011 which has been circulated again in a revised version on 15 June 2011.

Our text contains a compilation of good practices and moderate, concrete suggestions aimed essentially at improving the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly. We are of the view that our proposals would be beneficiary to both organs, since they relate to each other in several ways. The objective of our initiative is thus simple and modest: to make more progress in the institutional relationship and in the dialogue between the Security Council and the General Assembly through practical means.

It is the position of the S-5 that the working methods need to be reformed independently of the size and composition of the Security Council. We firmly believe that the proposals we are presenting can be easily implemented here and now, independently of the outcome of the enlargement exercise and without the need to amend the UN Charter. At the same time, the group is aware of the fact that working methods also are one of the five key issues of Security Council reform. Since we are fully committed to the intergovernmental negotiations, the S-5 would also like share its ideas within this process.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Seger
Permanent Representative