




MAURITIUS

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**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
New York**

Check against Delivery

Madam President

I join colleague Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives who have preceded me, in commending you for convening this important informal meeting on 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" following the recent report of the Facilitators.

I also wish to place on record my delegation's sincere appreciation for your relentless efforts and unstinting support in pushing ahead the agenda of the reform of the United Nations system, particularly the reform of the UN Security Council.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate and commend the six dedicated Facilitators - Permanent Representatives of Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and Tunisia - who have devoted their precious time and energy to carry out wide ranging consultations and deliberations with member states with a view to moving the UN Security Council reform process forward. My delegation is fully conscious of the very delicate task that was entrusted to them and their difficulties in coming up with a text that would satisfy a heterogeneous group of member states with legitimate and entrenched positions.

My delegation associates fully with the Statement made by H.E. Mr. Francis Butagira of Uganda in his capacity as Chairman of the African Group for the month of July. The Ezulwini Consensus remains the cornerstone of the Africa common position.

Madam President

We are all fully aware that the United Nations was established to save the future generations from the scourge of war. There is general agreement that the UN has done fairly well on this count. However, since the start of this Millennium, in addition to many pressing issues such as development, global warming, poverty-reduction to mention but a few, the world is also confronted with the threat of international terrorism. While it was relatively less difficult to prevent conventional wars, the fight against international terrorism is far from being won. The enemies in this case are in hiding. They strike with impunity at a time of their own choosing fatal blows to humanity irrespective of race, colour, or creed.

Madam President

The imperatives of this century require that the United Nations including the UN Security Council be re-engineered without any further delay. In this context, the reform of the UN Security Council must be approached from a broader perspective; one that transcends the notions and guidance proposed by the Facilitators' Report, if it has to serve any useful purpose to mankind.

The reformed Security Council of the third Millennium should be one that is able to meet the aspirations and legitimate rights of the different geographical regions of the world in an equitable manner, and one that is able to respond to the rapidly changing geopolitical realities of the world. That is why precisely Madam President my delegation joins the vast majority of member states who advocate that there would be no meaningful reform of the UN Security Council without an expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

Madam President

Over the past 13 years Heads of State and Government have articulated their vision of a reformed Security Council at the UN. In the 2005 Summit they expressed their resolve to support early reform of the Security Council with a view to making it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent. The world leaders have spoken amply on the subject of the Security Council reform. What we require today is the integration of these thoughts which would blend themselves with the ground realities.

Madam President

The permanent seats of the Security Council constitute the foundation not only the Council, but also of the United Nations Organization in its entirety. It symbolizes power. The imperatives of the globalizing world call for the sharing of this power. In this context, I should once again like to reiterate the position of Mauritius which was clearly elaborated by the Prime Minister of Mauritius Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam in his statement during the General Debate of the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly.

Quote

It is unacceptable that Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean regions are not represented in the permanent membership of the Security Council. It is also morally and politically unacceptable that world's most populous democracy is still denied a seat as a permanent member of the Council. It is

imperative that the reformed Security Council should include India among its permanent members. Unquote

Madam President

In keeping with the recommendations of the recent Facilitators' Report and your own suggestion to move the process to the negotiation level, my delegation bearing in mind the African common position, is prepared to engage in intergovernmental negotiations; one which, among others, would take the following elements into account:

- Expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories
- Greater representations to the developing countries
- Comprehensive improvement in the working method of the Security Council, including ensuring greater access to island and small states.

Thank you Madam President.