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Mission permanente de la Suisse  
auprès des Nations Unies à New York

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**61<sup>e</sup> Session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies**

**Séance informelle du Groupe de travail à composition non limitée chargé d'examiner la question de la représentation équitable au Conseil de sécurité et de l'augmentation du nombre de ses membres ainsi que d'autres questions ayant trait au Conseil de sécurité**

**Déclaration prononcée par**

**S.E. M. Peter Maurer**

**Représentant permanent de la Suisse  
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**61st session of the General Assembly of 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**

**Statement by**

**H.E. Mr. Peter Maurer**

**Permanent Representative of Switzerland  
to the United Nations**

**New York, le 19 juillet 2007**

Madame la Présidente,

Je vous remercie d'avoir convoqué cette réunion aujourd'hui. Je remercie également les ambassadeurs du Chili et du Liechtenstein de leur rapport très utile.

Aucun des modèles d'élargissement présentés à ce jour n'a suscité le consensus nécessaire à l'adoption d'une réforme du Conseil de sécurité. Des années de discussions n'ont apporté aucun progrès notable. Nos délibérations ont été marquées par de vieilles positions bien connues. C'est pourquoi la Suisse félicite les facilitateurs d'avoir fourni aux pays membres les éléments d'une nouvelle solution intermédiaire. Les réunions précédentes se sont illustrées par des appels à la souplesse ; le moment est venu d'y répondre. Nous espérons donc que le débat d'aujourd'hui incitera à poursuivre l'exploration des modalités, des détails pratiques et de l'acceptabilité d'une solution intermédiaire.

La Suisse est entièrement d'accord avec les conclusions des facilitateurs en ce qui concerne la future marche à suivre. La prochaine étape devrait consister en un processus de négociation que nous aimerions voir démarrer dans la 62<sup>e</sup> session de l'Assemblée générale. La Suisse est disposée à apporter une contribution constructive à ce processus.

L'élargissement du Conseil de sécurité devrait s'appuyer sur des critères objectifs, comme la taille et la population des pays candidats, leur contribution financière au système des Nations unies, leurs contributions en personnel pour les opérations de maintien de la paix et le rôle qu'ils ont joué en général, au fil des ans, au sein des Nations unies. Un élargissement devrait en outre améliorer la représentation des pays en développement au sein du Conseil. Il ne devrait cependant compromettre la capacité du Conseil à répondre avec promptitude et efficacité aux menaces qui pèsent sur la paix et la sécurité internationale. La Suisse continue donc d'estimer que les pays membres devraient envisager un accroissement raisonnable et gérable du nombre de sièges. Enfin, l'élargissement devrait améliorer la responsabilité du Conseil de sécurité envers l'ensemble des membres des Nations Unies et garantir la sauvegarde des intérêts des pays qui n'y siègent qu'à titre temporaire.

Ces deux derniers points relèvent aussi des discussions sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil de sécurité. La Suisse s'est félicité que les deux facilitateurs, tout comme les cinq facilitateurs dans leur précédent rapport, aient souligné l'importance des méthodes de travail. Les pays membres ont rappelé à diverses reprises que non seulement elles sont incontournables dans le cadre de la réforme du Conseil, mais qu'elles constituent en outre un problème à résoudre de toute urgence.

Cela fait exactement un an que le Conseil de sécurité a adopté la note présidentielle définissant diverses mesures d'amélioration de ses méthodes de travail. Le groupe des S-5 s'était à l'époque félicité de ce document, et avait donc renoncé à mettre sa résolution au vote, comptant sur le Conseil pour donner une suite concrète à sa décision. Un an plus tard, cet optimisme ne semble guère de mise: les mesures n'ont été dans le meilleur des cas que partiellement mises en œuvre. Le degré de transparence et d'inclusion varie au gré du bon vouloir de la présidence du moment, et fluctue donc d'un mois à l'autre. Le fait que ce mois-ci, quelque 80% des délibérations du Conseil ont lieu à huis clos, alors que ses réunions devraient en

principe être publiques, illustre bien notre insatisfaction. Qui plus est, la note présidentielle du 19 juillet 2006 n'abordait qu'une partie de nos inquiétudes; or ces dernières sont partagées par une grande majorité des pays membres, au-delà des S-5. Ce qui est d'autant plus regrettable qu'un gain de transparence et de proximité pourrait nettement rehausser la crédibilité du Conseil et sa capacité à représenter la communauté des pays membres.

Avec les autres membres du groupe des S-5, la Suisse est donc fermement convaincue que le Conseil de sécurité doit mettre en œuvre les mesures décidées il y a un an, mais aussi envisager d'autres améliorations. Les S-5 ont élaboré des propositions montrant comment le Conseil pourrait gagner en transparence, en proximité et en responsabilité. Le document joint à la présente déclaration réunit ces idées, dont certaines reprennent les suggestions du projet de résolution de l'année dernière, et d'autres constituent des approches nouvelles.

La Suisse entend poursuivre son engagement en faveur de la réforme du Conseil de sécurité, et en particulier de ses méthodes de travail. Nous sommes disposés, avec nos partenaires, à contribuer au développement de cette question, en liaison avec le Conseil de sécurité et son groupe de travail sur la documentation, ainsi qu'avec les pays membres qui le souhaitent.

L'élargissement et la réforme des méthodes de travail devraient idéalement aller de pair. La réforme du Conseil de sécurité sera incomplète si elle omet l'un ou l'autre de ces volets. L'amélioration des méthodes de travail demandée par de nombreux pays membres ne doit toutefois pas buter sur les difficultés que rencontre l'élargissement. Si ce dernier se révèle hors de portée, la réforme des méthodes de travail, processus dynamique et permanent, sera d'autant plus urgente et indispensable.

Je vous remercie, Madame la Présidente.

Madam President,

I thank you for convening today's meeting. I also thank the Ambassadors of Chile and Liechtenstein for their valuable report.

None of the enlargement models presented so far has succeeded in gaining the support needed to bring about Security Council reform. Years of discussions have been spent without any significant progress. Our deliberations have been dominated by old and well-known positions. Switzerland therefore congratulates the facilitators for providing Member States with notions of a new intermediary approach. There was a strong call for flexibility in earlier meetings. The time has come to live up to this call. We therefore hope that today's debate will send a clear signal to further explore modalities, practicality and acceptance of an intermediary solution.

Switzerland fully agrees with the facilitators' conclusions on future steps. The next stage should be a negotiation process, which we expect to begin in the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. Switzerland stands ready to make a constructive contribution to such a process.

Enlargement of the Security Council should take into account objective criteria like size and population of the candidate countries, their financial contributions to the United Nations System, their troop contributions to peacekeeping operations, and the role they have played in general, over the years, in the United Nations. Any enlargement should, furthermore, respond to the need for the enhanced representation of developing countries in the Council. At the same time, enlargement should not endanger the Council's ability to respond promptly and effectively to threats to international peace and security. Switzerland therefore continues to believe that Member States should focus on a reasonable and manageable increase of Security Council seats. Finally, enlargement should lead to a better accountability of the Council. It should ensure that the interests of countries which only can serve temporarily on the Council are safeguarded.

The last two elements are also part of the discussion on working methods of the Security Council. Switzerland is pleased that the two facilitators, like the five facilitators in their earlier report, stress the high importance of working methods. Member States have stated on several occasions that working methods are not only an indispensable part of Security Council reform, but are also an issue which needs to be dealt with urgently.

Exactly one year ago, the Security Council adopted a Presidential Note containing different measures to improve its working methods. The S-5 welcomed this document and consequently abstained from putting their resolution to a vote. This happened with the clear expectation that the Council's decision would be followed by concrete action. One year later, it has become difficult to maintain our optimism: the measures have only been partially implemented – if at all. The degree of transparency and inclusiveness mainly depends on the willingness of the respective Presidency, and thus changes from month to month. The fact that, in this month, roughly 80% of the

Council's deliberations are taking place behind closed doors, while its meetings should, as a principle, be public, may illustrate our discontent. Moreover, the Presidential Note of 19 July 2006 has addressed only parts of our concerns, which are not just those of the S-5, but represent the views of a large majority of Member States. This is all the more regrettable as better outreach and transparency could significantly improve the Council's credibility, and contribute to its better representing Member States.

For these reasons, Switzerland, together with the S-5, is of the strong opinion that the Council should not only implement the measures it took one year ago, but also engage in further improvements. The S-5 have elaborated proposals on how the Security Council could contribute to more transparency, outreach and accountability. We have compiled these ideas - which partly reflect the suggestions we put forward in last year's draft resolution and partly represent new approaches - in the paper annexed to this statement.

Switzerland remains committed to reforming the Security Council and particularly to a reform of its working methods. We stand ready – together with our partners - to contribute to developing this issue in cooperation with the Security Council and its Working Group on Documentation, as well as with interested Member States.

Enlargement and working methods should ideally go hand in hand. The reform of the Security Council would be incomplete without reforms in both areas. But useful improvement in working methods, as requested by a large membership, should not fall victim to the difficulties we are facing on enlargement. Should enlargement of the Security Council elude us, the reform of working methods as an on-going and dynamic process will become all the more urgent and important.

Thank you, Madam President.

## POSITION OF THE S-5 ON THE REFORM OF SECURITY COUNCIL

### WORKING METHODS

1. Security Council reform should ideally include enlargement and working methods. As countries with the possibility to only temporarily serve on the Council and thus with a vital interest in increasing its transparency and inclusiveness, we will continue to mainly focus on the reform of working methods.
2. We welcome the report of the five facilitators of April 19, 2007 as well as the subsequent report of June 26, 2007 and are pleased to note that both stress the high importance of improving working methods. The informal consultations in the Open-ended Working Group as a whole have confirmed that the reform of working methods remains a priority for member states. The reform of working methods is part of a continuous process and does not require an amendment of the Charter. Therefore, it should be pursued under any scenario and not be conditioned on progress in the expansion of the Security Council.
3. The reform of working methods is crucial for the effectiveness and legitimacy of the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole, and should hence be developed in a cooperative spirit between members and non-members of the Council. To this end, the Security Council could engage in a dialogue with non-members of the Council in order to combine efficiency of the Council with enhanced transparency and outreach to non-members. The Council could initiate such a dialogue by inviting interested States to participate in the Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions and/or by convening an open debate to discuss these issues.
4. We consider the Note of the President of the Security Council of 19 July 2006 (S/2006/507) to be a first step in the right direction and call on the Council to implement the measures contained therein in a comprehensive, systematic and coherent manner. Moreover, we urge the Council to take further measures to enhance transparency, efficiency and interaction with non-members, thereby increasing its legitimacy and effectiveness. The following set of measures could in our view help to reach this goal:

#### I. Measures addressed to the Security Council:

- a. To entrust the Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions with assuring the full and systematic implementation of the Presidential Note of 19 July 2006 (S/2006/507) and, in cooperation with interested member states, to develop further measures which enhance transparency, efficiency and interaction with non-members;
- b. To adapt its annual report to the General Assembly in order to allow for a substantial discussion of the Security Council's work in maintaining international peace and security on behalf of all member states pursuant to article 24 (1) of the Charter. The report should *inter alia* include an analysis and assessment of the major questions and challenges the Council was facing during the reporting period, outline the content and rationale of the decisions that were taken and highlight the Council's efforts in improving its working methods and outreach to non-members.
- c. To set up mechanisms that allow the Security Council to assess the extent to which its decisions have been implemented. To this end, the SC could create a working group that would: (i) assess the level of implementation of SC decisions; (ii) analyze the obstacles to implementation; (iii) suggest measures aimed at enhancing implementation.

- d. To announce all meetings of the Security Council and of its subsidiary bodies in the Journal of the United Nations, including meetings at expert level.
- e. To reactivate the Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions in order to further discuss and oversee the implementation of its recommendations "on how to improve the effectiveness of United Nations sanctions", contained in Security Council document S/2006/997. The Working Group should submit an annual report on its activities and achievements to the members of the Council and circulate it also to non-members.
- f. To establish listing and de-listing procedures which reflect international standards of due process and allow individuals or entities subjected to sanctions to have their case reviewed by a review mechanism, bearing in mind that the effectiveness of such a mechanism will depend on its impartiality, degree of independence and ability to provide an effective remedy. Security Council resolutions 1730 and 1735 provide a useful point of departure for these efforts.
- g. To give non-members with strong interest or relevant expertise access to subsidiary bodies, including the right to participate in meetings on a case-by-case basis. This measure is already decided in principle in the Presidential Note of July 2006, but not applied consistently. In particular, it has never been applied to the Working Group on Documentation itself.
- h. To share information with a member state having a specific matter under consideration in a subsidiary body, to the extent to which such information is non-confidential, linked to the specific case and its disclosure does not impair the implementation of the Security Council's decisions.
- i. To strengthen consultations with troop-contributing countries and also invite major stakeholders and financial contributors to the meetings. Such consultations should be as informal as possible and be held sufficiently in advance of the mandating, renewal or modification of an operation in order to allow participants to contribute meaningfully to the decision-making process. Whenever possible, SRSGs and/or Force Commanders should participate in these meetings.

II. Measures addressed to the Permanent Members of the Security Council:

- j. To exercise utmost restraint in using a non-concurring vote in the sense of article 27 (3) of the Charter and make voluntary pledges not to cast such non-concurring votes in cases of genocide, crimes against humanity, serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.
- k. To explain the reasons for using a non-concurring vote in the sense of article 27 (3) of the Charter at the time the resolution is rejected in the Council and to circulate a copy of this explanation as a Security Council document to all members of the organization.

5. We believe that the Security Council has taken useful steps in 2006 which culminated in the adoption of the Presidential Note. At the same time, we note that the application of the measures contained in that Presidential Note has been inconsistent and selective. We are further of the view that the major obstacles to the involvement of and access by non-members persist and that further efforts are needed in order to enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Council's work. We remain committed to contributing to this goal through the various options we have outlined in the past. While we place our work in the larger framework of Security Council reform in all its aspects, we also believe that progress on this matter of crucial importance is essential even in the absence of progress on the question of enlargement.