

STATEMENT

by

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and

**Coordinator of the C-10, Permanent Representatives in New York
*for and on behalf of the African Group***

at

**THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE PLENARY ON THE 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**

NEW YORK, Tuesday March 13 2012

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Mr. Chairman;

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the African Group; and to express our profound thanks to you, for convening today's exchange, the third in a series of evaluation process of member states' initiatives during this Eighth round of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in the informal plenary. We appreciate the guidance you have further provided and your instructive opening remarks this morning.

The last two exchanges have no doubt left us and indeed the entire membership with a better sense of understanding of the thrust of the initiatives covered and their possible contribution towards an effective and early reform process.

Let me also on behalf of the African Group thank members of the L-69 for their continued support of the African common position, which has been reiterated and reconfirmed this morning in clear and unambiguous terms, and for what by any standard, is an impressive introduction and presentation of their position on the process. The L-69 and the C-10 of the African Group, together with the African Group of the Whole, have continued to engage in moving the process of Security Council reform towards achieving progress in order to better reflect contemporary world realities and to make the Council more representative, legitimate, transparent and accountable. Inclusively, we have also continued to knock on doors closed or partially open with a view to engaging all stakeholders; in particular, reform minded groups and member states for an early and decisive reform of the Council. We will endeavour and continue to do so.

Mr. Chairman;

By Decision 409 of the Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government Summit held in Addis Ababa, paragraph 7 "encourages the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the UN to continue to build on and intensify its efforts directed at forging alliance in support of the African common position with diverse interest groups engaged in the intergovernmental negotiations...." We have in line with that mandate, reached out to several interest groups and delegations including the L-69 Group. Our engagement and consultations with the L-69 has the potential of heading towards the direction of a common platform when fully crystallized, and which we hope, will remain open to all reform minded delegations and interest groups committed to a comprehensive and early reform of the Council and to redressing the much acknowledged historical injustice done to the African continent as the only region currently without representation in the permanent category of the Council and also under represented in the non-permanent category. We therefore appreciate all interest groups that we have engaged with, and continue to engage with, for their frank and open support of the African Common position.

As we continue with this process, we should refresh our minds that the liberal ideals of equality, law and self determination cannot be claimed by any nation or hemisphere. They are held to be values with global force; and are at the heart of the United Nations Charter, and should form the solid foundation and crux of our deliberations on Security Council reform. Indeed, they represent the *raison-d'être* behind the African common position.

Mr. Chairman;

We are mindful that Decision 62/557, in laying the basis of the intergovernmental negotiations, identified the five key negotiable issues which for the most part are interlinked: categories of membership; the question of the veto; regional representation; size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council; and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly". On this note, we continue to support a comprehensive reform of the Security Council on all the five clusters as required by General Assembly Decision 62/557, and remain opposed to any piecemeal approach that has the tendency to potentially undermine the African common position and also not in accordance with your guidance to members in the conduct of these deliberations.

We therefore urge that it will be more meaningful that shifts in positions appearing in our deliberations should be reflected by way of amendment in the compiled text and/or for open pronouncements on the issues to be made to accord with positions in the text, also by way of amendment.

Mr. Chairman;

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, we reiterate our firm commitment to the process of an early reform of the Security Council that will make the Council more representative, legitimate, transparent and accountable; and mindful of the current geopolitical realities of the 21st century.

We leave you with two notable quotes instructive in the quest for a solution in the reform process: firstly the Deputy Prime Minister of the UK H.E. Mr. Nick Clegg in addressing the 65th Session of the General Assembly stated as follows "In recent years, our multi-national institutions have sometimes struggled to adapt to the new circumstances. Reform is essential. A good place to start is right here – the United Nations. The UN Security Council must be reformed to reflect the new geography of power.... Put simply, the UN cannot speak for the many if it only hears the voices of the few." He further continued to say "The world has changed. But the values that should guide us have not. We have to renew our international institutions in line with the new realities of world power and influence, and fearlessly project the ideals of democracy, equality, and freedom."

President Obama of the USA also in his address to the 66th session of the General Assembly had this to say "When the corner-stone of this very building was put in place, President Truman came here to New York and said, "The United Nations is essentially an expression of the moral nature of man's aspirations." President Obama went on to say "As we live in a world that is changing at a breathtaking pace, that is a lesson we must never forget."

We call on the unbiased conscience of this august assembly to see reason and continue to embrace Africa's aspirations for a equitable representation with an effective voice on the Council.

I thank you for your attention.

