



Statement

by

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to the United Nations in New York

Chair of the Coordinating Bureau

of the Non-Aligned Movement

Before

the General Assembly

On Agenda item 122

**Question of equitable representation on
and increase in the membership of the Security Council,
and other matters related to the Security Council**

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Mr. President,

I have the pleasure to speak today on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, I would like to express the Movement's appreciation to H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, the President of the 65th session of the General Assembly, for his efforts and good will in advancing the important issue of the reform of the Security Council. I would also like to commend you, President Al-Nasser, for including this issue on top of your priorities for the 66th session, and for expressing commitment to exert all efforts to reform the Security Council, based on the collective will of Member States.

The Movement congratulates you, Mr. President, for renewing the confidence in H.E. Ambassador Zahir Tanin, the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, for continuing to serve as Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council, towards achieving the maximum aspired progress during the 66th session.

Mr. President,

The Non-Aligned Movement attaches great importance to achieving concrete results on the Security Council reform through the intergovernmental negotiations, in accordance with General Assembly decision 62/557 and consequently decisions 63/565, 64/568 and 65/554. In this regard, The Movement's position is clearly reaffirmed in section (E) of the Bali Final Document (A/65/896 and S/2011/407), adopted by the 16th NAM Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia, in May 2011.

The Movement believes that the reform of the Security Council should be addressed in an early, comprehensive, transparent and balanced manner, without setting artificial deadlines, in order to properly reflect the needs and interests of both developing and developed Countries, while addressing at the same time all substantive issues relating, inter alia, to the question of the membership, regional representation, the council's agenda, its working methods and decision making process, including the Veto.

This is the reason why the NAM Ministers in their recent gathering in Bali reiterated that General Assembly decision 62/557 is and shall continue to be the basis of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Security Council reform. They also stressed that the enlargement of the Security Council and reform of its working methods, as a body primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and Security, should lead to a democratic, more representative, more accountable and more effective Council.

In this context, the Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement acknowledged the historical injustices against Africa with regard to its representation in the Security Council and expressed support for increased and enhanced representation for the African Continent in the reformed Security Council. They also took note of the African Common position as reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.

Mr. President,

Improving the working methods of the Security Council is of significant importance to the Movement as it is crucial to the effectiveness of the Council. Transparency, openness and consistency are key elements that the Security Council should observe and preserve in all its activities, approaches and procedures. The Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, which have remained provisional for more than 60 years, should be formalized, in order to improve its transparency and accountability. Moreover, the Movement rejects any attempts to use the Council to pursue national political agendas, and stresses the necessity of non-selectivity and impartiality in its work.

In this regard, there is an urgent need for the Security Council to adhere to the powers and functions accorded to it by the Member States under the United Nations Charter. Therefore, the Council should stop encroaching on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, through addressing issues which traditionally fall within the competence of these organs. Close cooperation and coordination among all principal organs is highly indispensable, in order to enable the United Nations to remain relevant and capable of meeting the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges.

The Security Council should also avoid resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing the issues that do not necessarily pose a threat to international peace and security, but on the contrary it should fully utilize the provisions of other relevant Chapters, where appropriate, including Chapters VI and VIII, before invoking Chapter VII that should be a measure of last resort.

Furthermore, the Security Council imposed sanctions remain an issue of serious concern to the Non-Aligned Countries. The use of sanctions raises fundamental ethical questions of whether sufferings inflicted on vulnerable groups in the targeted country are legitimate means of exerting pressure. In this regard, the objectives of sanctions regimes should be clearly defined, and their imposition should be for a specific timeframe and be based on tenable legal grounds, and should be lifted as soon as the objectives are achieved. The conditions demanded of the State or party on which sanctions are imposed should be clearly defined and subject to periodic review.

Mr. President,

The Movement remains committed to the dynamic and ongoing process of the overall reform of the United Nations, including the reform of the Security Council, in accordance with the objectives and scope of the review exercise set out by the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Millennium Declaration. Such reform is not to be considered an end in itself, and must be comprehensive, transparent, inclusive and balanced. It should be pursued in an effective and accountable manner, fully respecting the political nature of the Organization, as well as its universal and democratic character consistent with the Charter. In this context, any reform measure should be decided by Member States through an intergovernmental process and the voice of each and every Member State must be heard and respected.

Mr. President,

In my national capacity, I would like to associate my remarks with the statement to be delivered by the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group and to add the following elements:

Egypt reiterates its longstanding position towards achieving tangible progress and reaching concrete results in the intergovernmental negotiations on the Security Council reform based on General Assembly consensus decision 62/557, where Paragraph (d) clearly stipulated that the intergovernmental negotiations should be based on proposals submitted by Member States. The rationale is to keep the intergovernmental nature of the process and avoid jeopardizing the neutrality and impartiality of the President of the General Assembly and the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations.

The five key issues of our intergovernmental negotiations, which have been clearly defined in paragraph (e) of decision 62/557, should remain inextricably linked, and shall constitute an integral inseparable package that has to be agreed upon together. Accordingly, any proposed outcome of this exercise should include all those five negotiables and should garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States.

Our efforts should be directed to reach an agreement that would have an effect on the power structure in the Security Council, and allow equitable representation for all regions. Selectivity in dealing with the five key issues or trying to classify them into points of convergence and points of divergence will only divide Member States and will jeopardize the progress achieved so far.

Egypt, along with the African Group continue to call for agreeing first on principles and criteria of the negotiations regarding the five key issues, before embarking on any drafting exercise, involving merging language or streamlining positions in the compilation text, or even before discussing any proposed draft resolutions.

In full observance of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration, limiting the expansion of the Security Council to the non-permanent category only is not an option for Africa. The same applies to enlargement in the permanent category without the Veto rights. As both options will neither change the power structure of the Council nor correct the historical injustice to the African Continent.

Accordingly, Egypt believes that one way to advance the negotiations on the Veto rights of new and current permanent members together, could be the consideration of restricting the scope of application of the Veto rights accorded to current and new permanent members together, to exclude cases of genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, grave violations to international humanitarian law, cessation of hostilities between belligerent parties and the election of the Secretary General.

Regional representation is also closely linked to the size of the enlarged Security Council. Therefore, when the Ezulwini Consensus states that Africa is demanding, inter alia, no less than two permanent seats with all prerogatives and privileges, including the Veto right, that

should be read in a sense that Africa might demand more permanent seats if other regions smaller in number are getting more seats than their ratio of representation among the wider membership.

Despite the continued efforts and attempts within the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions of the Security Council to improve its working methods, it did not meet the aspirations of the larger majority of Member States, as the views of the General Assembly are not taken into consideration regarding this exercise.

Enhanced representation of the developing countries and Small States in the Security Council remains one of the fundamental pillars of the reform process since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 48/26. Egypt stresses the necessity to take duly into account the position of the members of the League of Arab States demanding a Permanent seat for the Arab Group in any future expansion in the category of permanent membership of the Security Council. This position was reaffirmed in the Sirte Declaration adopted by the Arab Summit in its ordinary session on 28 March 2010. We also stress the necessity to take into account the position of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation demanding adequate representation of the Muslim Ummah in any category of membership in the expanded Security Council.

Thank you Mr. President.
