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STATEMENT OF

**H.E. MR. FRANCIS K. BUTAGIRA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UGANDA
AND CHAIRMAN OF AFRICAN GROUP**

To

**an 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**

New York
Thursday, 19 July 2007

Please Check Against Delivery

Madam President,

On behalf of the African Group I would like to congratulate the two facilitators on their report which is a result of hard work. We had occasion to comment on the report of the five facilitators which preceded the present report. As we understand it the report of the two facilitators is to carry the reform process forward. The five facilitators' report had recommended that States may wish to explore new and emerging ideas concerning a transitional approach to Security Council reform. The two facilitators' report dwells on further exploration of the transitional approach. Regrettably none of the different options and variations takes into account the common African position on United Nations Security Council reform. The African position it should be recalled, calls for allocation of two permanent seats with all the privileges, including the right of veto and five non-permanent seats. It reiterates the commitment to preserve Africa's Unity and Solidarity in the selection, by the African Union, of its representatives in the Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf. We re-affirm this position known as "Ezulwini consensus". It should be emphasized that Africa is the only continent which has neither a permanent seat or for that matter a veto in the Security Council. We believe that the reform process will not only address these deficiencies but would make the council more legitimate, more representative and more competent to address emerging threats to International Peace and Security in the 21st Century.

It would appear the two reports of the facilitators relegate consideration of the African position to a proposed review process stage. In otherwise at the initial

and important stage Africa is expected to make concessions while other groups maintain their positions. We believe that to move forward flexibility must be shown by all the parties. Further more clarity is required of the proposed intermediary approach.

We are ready to listen to the views of other groups and engage in dialogue and if we detect any flexibility on their part to move the process forward, then we shall respond appropriately.

I thank you.