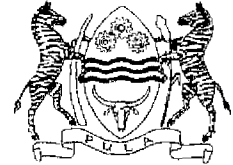


REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. SAMUEL OUTLULE
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON AGENDA ITEM 117 QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON
AND INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND
RELATED MATTERS AND AGENDA ITEM 120 FOLLOW-UP TO THE
OUTCOME OF THE MILLEMIUM SUMMIT

THURSDAY, 20 JULY 2006

NEW YORK

Mr. President

1. The delegation of Botswana extends deep gratitude to you for convening a meeting on this crucially important issue of the reform of the United Nations Security Council. In September 2005, the Heads of State and Government not only pronounced their support for early reform of the Security Council, but most importantly, they also declared it, "an essential element of overall efforts to reform the United Nations". In other words, we cannot pick and choose. Reforms must be broad, comprehensive and meaningful.

2. The Chairman of the African Group, my distinguished colleague and brother, Ambassador Youcef Yousfi of Algeria has ably articulated the African Common Position on this matter. His statement has the full support of my delegation.

3. Africa has made a just demand to be represented in the Security Council on a permanent basis. This deserves serious consideration. The Council is the only organ empowered by Member States under the Charter to maintain international peace and security. Africa has obligations and international responsibility to contribute to this noble objective.

4. The maintenance of international peace and security is not a matter of political and diplomatic prestige. It is a huge responsibility. It cannot and should not be the responsibility of a few. Africa therefore demands, as a matter of principle, to be permanently represented at the horseshoe table and to contribute to the search for solutions to problems that pose threats to our common security.

5. We are not demanding representation for Africa alone. We fully support the legitimate demands of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan for permanent membership. We are strongly convinced that these countries have the capacity and commitment to contribute to strengthening the Security Council.

6. We also strongly support the legitimate demands of other Member States for a Security Council that is more open and transparent in its working methods. Non-members of the Security Council, and in particular small states, can bring new ideas that reflect the conscience of humanity if they have a greater insight into the work of the United Nations.

7. Today, we know more than ever before, that peace and security are indivisible. An act of terrorism in some remote and wretchedly poor corner of the world has implications for security in the most affluent parts of our planet. We recognize that each and everyone of us must do their best to combat terrorism or prevent acts of terrorism. Activities of terrorist groups have grave security implications for nations, large or small, rich or poor, powerful or weak. In our approach to the question of reform of the Security Council we must, therefore, be united by our common humanity and commitment to do good, to continuously and persistently build a more peaceful and better future for all.

8. The maintenance of international peace and security is a shared responsibility. It requires partnership, co-operation and mutual support amongst the nations of the world. It takes a village to find solutions to the most intractable problems. The delegation of Botswana, therefore, cannot understand why anyone would refuse the offer of assistance and support or greater participation in addressing global security concerns. Issues of peace and security are complex. It is not merely about the outbreak of war or the absence of it. It is more and far greater than that! It is about a better life on this planet in all its aspects.

9. The world is unanimous that democracy and good governance are global imperatives of our time. There can be no justification for demanding democracy at the national level whilst at the same time denying the right to democratize international institutions. It should be a source of embarrassment, that here at the United Nations, there is still a poverty and drought of democracy and the yearning for a more representative Security Council, one that reflects global realities.

10. The reform of the United Nations should epitomize our collective aspirations for universal and democratic dispensation. An increase in the membership should strengthen, and not weaken, the Security Council. Democracy and good governance is a source of strength. Decisions of a Security Council that is more representative, inclusive and transparent would enjoy greater legitimacy, credibility and moral authority.

11. Mr. President, in 1964 the third Secretary General of the United Nations, U Thant, delivering a statement on the theme *Changing World: New Burdens and Responsibility, Strengthening the United Nations* said, "when we talk about strengthening the United Nations it is not from a point of view of seeking new power or greater glory [but] because this is an urgent necessity if the Organization and its members are not to be crushed by the great and actual responsibilities and challenges which our times have put upon them".

12. The reform of the Security Council is an urgent necessity. Its decisions are binding on all the 192 Member States yet it has only fifteen members five of whom wield the power of veto. The status quo has no justification on grounds of efficiency and effectiveness. This would be tantamount to justifying dictatorship or one party state rule on grounds that a democratically elected parliament would be unwieldy and dysfunctional. These are ideas which have long been discredited and assigned to where they rightfully belong, the garbage bin of history.

13. The delegation of Botswana fully appreciate that permanent membership of the Council comes with immense responsibilities. It is not a matter of political and diplomatic prestige. It is for a higher purpose. Botswana fully recognizes that not all Member States can be represented in an expanded Security Council. Botswana is therefore willing to be represented by some of our brothers from Africa and the wider international community who are prepared to shoulder these heavy responsibilities. Botswana stands ready to do her part as a Member of the United Nations.

14. Sixty years ago some countries could do without the United Nations. But today no country, no nation can afford to exist in a world without the United Nations. We all need each other to address the global challenges of this millennium such as, inter alia, terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

15. Mr. President let me conclude by expressing the hope of the delegation of Botswana that Member States will have the courage to move forward in reforming the Security Council for the common good. There should be no entrenched national positions because national interests are interconnected with global peace and security interests.

16. In the field of peace and security there are no national interests. There are only common challenges which require our collective efforts to overcome them. Therefore, let there be no room for procrastination and prevarication. Let us together move forward, in a constructive and balanced manner, the process of reform of the Security Council. Let us collectively strengthen and revitalize our global security architecture by including new permanent members. Our success in this great enterprise would not be the crowning or glorification of any state or nation. It would be the triumph of diplomacy and multilateralism!

I thank you.