



STATEMENT BY

**H.E. Mrs. MARÍA ÁNGELA HOLGUÍN**  
Ambassador , Permanent Representative

**Debate on Reform of the Security Council**

New York, 20 July 2006

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Mr. President,

I would like to thank Mr. Jan Eliasson, President of the General Assembly, for organizing this debate, which invites us once again to reflect on the issue of Security Council reform, an exercise that is always important and necessary.

The balance of the collective work done during this process of reform of the Organization is positive. We have new organs that we hope will help overcome the difficult and complex situations of today's world. We have started deep review processes of the administrative functioning of the Organization, which we believe are necessary to revitalize it and provide it with the dynamism it needs.

However, the zeal to reform has minimized the negotiation process through which lasting consensus is reached. The move from negotiation to intergovernmental consultation has weakened the capacity for agreement and mutual understanding. While negotiation allows one to know and appreciate another's perception, consultations through facilitators and speeches do not allow the same degree of interaction and understanding necessary to set the solid consensus required by long-term solutions.

We believe we have to pick up intergovernmental negotiation once again. We believe only this way will trust and the relationships based on cooperation which must characterize this unique multilateral and universal organism be renewed, and only this way will we have solid organisms that respond to the transcendental challenges we face today.

Mr. President,

In this context, we return to the issue of Security Council reform. We see that yesterday's differences are still present today. That the convictions to achieve a reform inclusive of the majority, with a firm respect for sovereign equality, are more valid than before. The use of closed formats to reach agreements in the past has not yielded positive results or bases on which lasting agreements can be built.

We believe that a reform of the Security Council outside of consensus will only bring greater divisions and, why not, the gradual loss of the legitimacy of the Council for having a composition that establishes and perpetuates privileges contrary to the principles of sovereign equality and the reality of the international system at this moment.

We believe that the reform of this main organ must be inclusive and transparent. An open and direct negotiation between States must exist until a formula that pleases all and guarantees the unity of the Members of the Organization is found.

Colombia, with the Uniting for Consensus Movement, has proposed a formulation that looks to integrate the majorities through a regional autonomy aware of the particularities of each group. Our proposal is based on giving each region the capacity of presenting the members that will represent it in the Council, as well as the frequency of their rotation. Our proposal is democratic, allows for accountability, is flexible and fair, and gives regions the importance they have in today's world. Our proposal is an effort in good faith to avoid an "all or nothing" showdown, as was said by the Ambassador of Canada during the presentation of Resolution L.68.

We know there are more alternatives and that is why we believe that through committed and direct negotiation between States we can find a consensus that helps rebuild the trust that has been greatly lost in the last few months, but which is ever more necessary.

Our proposal, as we have reiterated many times, as active members of the Uniting for Consensus Movement and in our national capacity, is to begin negotiating directly and transparently between States, without intermediaries, until we find a consensus formula that after 13 years of trying reforms the Security Council.

Thank you.