

EGYPT



The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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Statement

By

**H.E Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt
To the United Nations**

Before

**The Plenary meeting on the "Question of Equitable Representation
on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council" and
"Follow-up to the Outcome of the Millennium Summit".**

New York, 20 July 2006

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Mr. President,

Today, and in one of the most appropriate times, the General Assembly resumes its consideration of one of the most important aspects of the United Nations reform...The reform of the Security Council

The international community witnessed and continues to witness tragic, regrettable events that clearly threatens international peace and security in many parts of the world...events that the Security Council failed to address for many political considerations, resulting mainly from the lack of unanimity among its permanent members, and consequently leading to the paralysis of the Council and its inability to undertake the badly needed measures at the most appropriate time. That is why we should always keep in mind the interrelationship that exists between the current impasses in the work of the Security Council on the one hand, and our efforts to expand the membership and improve the working methods of the Council on the other.

Egypt is fully committed to the African common position as outlined today by the Chairman of the African Group, the Permanent Representative of Algeria and will remain committed to the positions taken and the proposals submitted by the Non-aligned Movement.

In this connection, Egypt, as many other Member States, has constantly advocated for the comprehensive reform of the Security Council. We have underlined once and again the need for the Council to reflect the current political realities, with special emphasis on granting developing countries, in particular the African continent, their long overdue deserved representation in the permanent and non-permanent categories of the Council. This is coupled by a strong support to all ideas aiming at improving the working methods of the Council, making it more responsive, transparent and open to the entire membership. Some of the questions we have to address today relate to whether we attempt to make progress on both tracks, or merely limit ourselves to one track at the expense of the other in order to surpass the opposition by some? Does improving the working methods of the Council constitute a

good enough outcome for our discussions? And if so, what kind of improvement should we be aiming at? And will they be adhered to by the Council?

While we support all endeavors aiming at improving the working methods of the Council, we note that those attempts still fall short of incurring meaningful changes to the Council's work and strengthening the principles of transparency and accountability. As we have noticed during the 60th session, the Council has increased its attempts to encroach on the prerogatives of the General Assembly. Instead of reflecting on the valid concerns raised by the majority of Member States on this very important issue, the Council turned a blind eye and continued its attempts to address issues that fall exclusively under the purview of the General Assembly in accordance with the Charter.

Furthermore, many of us have raised valid concerns regarding the process of the selection of the Secretary General. These concerns did not and do not aim at undermining the role the Council or its permanent members play in the selection process. They merely attempt to increase transparency in this process based on the fact that any Secretary General is a Secretary General for the Organization and its entire membership, not only for the Security Council. We look for serious efforts by the Council to increase the transparency in this process, far beyond informing the Membership through the President of the General Assembly of the procedural aspects of the work of the Council on this issue. In this particular regard, the General Assembly should also act on its own to develop a mechanism for the consideration of any candidate to be recommended by the Security Council for the appointment by the General Assembly. This General Assembly mechanism should include meetings with the candidate and preferably a straw poll to determine his/her rate of acceptance in the General Assembly in order to ensure that the candidate obtains the largest possible support of the entire membership of the organization and to ensure that his/ her official appointment by consensus is a true reflection of a transparent and democratic process.

In the meantime, concepts and suggestions aiming at addressing the question of increasing the Membership in the Council on an incremental basis are worth our consideration. The incremental approach to the expansion of the Membership of the

Council should in any case take fully into account the legitimate right of Africa to be adequately represented in an expanded Council, on the basis of the African common position as recently reaffirmed in the African Summit in Garmbia. Any proposal that falls short of providing Africa with the number and category of seats pursued by the Continent will not succeed. In this context, we believe that the African draft resolution sponsored by Egypt on this matter provides for the only viable solution to end the inequity that characterizes the composition of the current Council.

Furthermore, while we support in principle the approach reflected in the draft resolution tabled by the S5, we stress the importance of moving simultaneously on the two tracks of reform. We strongly believe that the references contained in the aforementioned draft resolution regarding the use of veto are insufficient. The exercise of the veto should not only be curtailed in the cases of genocide or massive crimes against humanity, but also must not be allowed in cases where a cease fire between two belligerent parties is pursued in any place in the world. Moreover, we are convinced that the process of the selection of the Secretary General should not be subjected to the exercise of the veto. We are hopeful that the sponsors of the S5 draft resolution shall expand their consultations on the various aspects of the draft so as to avoid any controversy, and to take fully into account the African position that calls for both the improvement of the working methods of the Security Council and its expansion as parallel processes leading to its comprehensive reform.

Mr. President,

The third and last question that is before us today is the future consideration of this issue by the open ended working group. While we share some frustration due to the lack of progress, we still believe that it provides the only viable mechanism to deliberate the issue of Security Council reform. We do not support the idea of merely appointing co-chairs or facilitators to undertake informal consultations in the absence of a clear intergovernmental process that would allow for all Member States to be part of the process in our continued search for a creative solution that could satisfy all of us.

Finally, we cannot overemphasize the need for a reformed and expanded Security Council, as an integral part of the United Nations reform agenda. As the events unfold in every part of the World, this need grows in order to enhance the legitimacy of the decisions of the Council....in order to enhance its ability to address the challenges of the 21st century more effectively and with a better understanding of the cultural and civilizational aspects of today's problems.....in order to make it transparent and accountable.....in order to make all of us part of the decision making process on the vital matters of international peace and securityand finally, in order to have a Security Council able to act when it comes to the protection of civilians and children in armed conflicts.

Thank you.