



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT
BY
AMBASSADOR AIZAZ AHMAD CHAUDHRY
ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
PAKISTAN

AT

THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

REFORM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
Agenda item 117: Question of equitable representation on
and increase in the membership of the Security Council
Agenda item 120: Follow-up to the Outcome of the
Millennium Summit

New York,
20 July, 2006

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20 July 2006

Mr. President,

1. We are meeting again to discuss the reform of the Security Council, which is an issue of vital interest for all Member States.
2. The 2005 World Summit supported reform of the Security Council in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions. The World Leaders also recommended that the Security Council continue to adapt its working methods, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work. We are fully committed to working with all Member States for achieving those objectives.
3. Following the Summit, this Assembly discussed Security Council reform in November last year. A report to review progress, as required by the Summit, was submitted by the President in December. Subsequently the issue was also deliberated upon in the Assembly's Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) in April this year. Informal consultations and promotion of different reform proposals, both on enlargement and working methods, have continued in various formats in parallel. New schemes/ideas, particularly on the issue of enlargement, have also been informally floated and tested.
4. This debate is a good opportunity to take stock of the progress made on the issue and to chart the course for the future.
5. Security Council reform is an issue of vital national interest to all UN Member States. It is not surprising that while decisions have been possible on other UN reform issues, we continue to search for agreement on the vital issue of Security Council reform. Indeed, Council reform has been under consideration for several years. To be effective and operational, Security Council reform should be the outcome of open and transparent consultations and negotiations and be accepted by consensus or the widest possible agreement. Any decision promoted through self-centered initiatives, artificial deadlines and preemptive vetoes will be divisive and likely to be still-born.
6. Security Council reform must be comprehensive. It should cover both its enlargement and working methods. Indeed, several smaller Member States have declared that improved working methods of the Council – greater transparency and accountability to the general membership – are more important for them than the issue of enlarged

membership. The proposal of the S-5 has evoked broad support. Within the Security Council also, consideration is being given to ways and means to improve its transparency and working methods. We welcome these developments. We hope that consultations on the S-5, and related proposals – including those suggested by Pakistan – will yield agreement on significant improvements in the Security Council’s working methods. These should be incorporated in the eventual decision for comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

7. Pakistan, and the UfC, fully endorse the view that the composition of the Security Council should be enlarged to make it more representative. Such greater representativeness will not result merely from adding a few self-nominated “new powers” as additional permanent members of the Security Council. Indeed, these powers themselves argue that the decisions of the Council lack legitimacy because of the overwhelming influence of the existing 5 permanent members. But, they offer the counter-intuitive solution – to add more permanent members in the Council. Without veto rights, such permanent membership is unlikely to change the power realities in the Council. Even if it does so, the vital national interests of the rest of the UN’s membership will continue to be unrepresented and therefore ignored in the work and decisions of the Council’s new and enlarged oligarchy. It will not make the Council more democratic or representative.

8. Moreover, the new “power realities” of our world, sixty years after the establishment of the United Nations, are more complex. These realities are not merely the emergence of four or five new powers on the world stage. There are, in fact, over a score or more States which are today in a position – politically, militarily, and economically – to contribute more fully and actively to the maintenance of international peace and security. For instance, the self-nominated candidates for permanent membership do not include the two largest troop contributors for UN peacekeeping operations. All such States deserve more frequent representation on the Security Council.

9. The “new realities” also encompass the emergence of a host of smaller States, which make up the vast majority of the UN’s membership. Their adequate representation on the Council is essential, not only to reflect and preserve their national interests, but to bring their perspective – which is often more closely aligned with the principles of the UN Charter than those of larger States with specific national interests and objectives that often cut across the Charter’s principles and purposes.

10. The UfC’s proposal for reform of the Security Council, which has been once again eloquently outlined by the representative of Italy, and other UfC members, constitutes an honest effort to secure a genuinely representative enlargement of the Security Council; an enlargement that could reflect the world’s new realities in all their complexity. Our proposal would make it possible for each region to devise its own arrangements to ensure the representation of the large, medium and small States in an enlarged Security Council. It could accommodate the representation of regional and sub-regional groupings of States. This flexibility to accommodate the different and specific circumstances of each region and sub-region is the principal virtue of the UfC’s proposal.

11. On the other hand, we understand the African position that seeks not permanent members but permanent seats for the African region. This is more in concert with the UfC

proposal of enabling the regions to determine their own representation on the Council. We are ready to work with Africa and member states of other regions to promote an equal and non-discriminatory approach for all regional groups with regard to their representation on the Council.

Mr. President,

12. One of the prime reasons for the stalemate on Security Council reform is the lack of serious and constructive negotiations. We have of course discussed and deliberated this issue in debates and statements, but mostly as a monologue, while maintaining our respective positions. The much needed dialogue has been missing. The UfC therefore favors a constructive, inclusive and consensus approach to find a non-divisive solution based on the principle of equal participation of all Member States, be they big, medium or small in size.

13. There are areas of agreement on which we can build:

- (i) The need for greater transparency and accountability in the working methods of the Council;
- (ii) The need for enlarged membership, within a range that is widely accepted;
- (iii) The need to reflect the new global realities and to secure equitable representation for all UN Member States in the Security Council;
- (iv) The legitimate aspirations of various regions for a more equitable representation and role in the Security Council.

14. Let me stress again: the UfC's approach is constructive; it is flexible; it seeks to promote the common interest, not the national interests of a few States; it seeks consensus or the broadest possible agreement; it is consistent with the basic principles and spirit of the UN Charter.

Thank you.