



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY MR. FAZLI ÇORMAN,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE 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, 5 December 2008)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me thank you for re-convening the Open-Ended Working Group on Security Council Reform. As you would recall, our Delegation has emphasized on various occasions the importance that we attach to the work of this body to prepare and facilitate the intergovernmental negotiations.

In this vein, we have supported the proposal earlier made by Mexico and South Korea on scheduling several additional meetings of the Working Group prior to these negotiations.

It is also in this spirit that we welcome the workplan that you have proposed for the Open-Ended Working Group in the coming months. This, we believe, will allow the Working Group to address the framework and modalities of the intergovernmental negotiations, as called for in Decision 62/557 of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

We are pleased that the implementation of this decision is now underway. Pursuant to your request contained in your letter dated 24 November 2008, we look forward to having a fruitful discussion today on the framework of the intergovernmental negotiations. At the same time, however, we find it rather difficult to separate modalities from the framework of the negotiations. Therefore, today we would also like to briefly touch upon the modalities, in the expectation to have a more thorough discussion on them at the next meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group to be held in January 2009.

Mr. Chairman,

It is our strong conviction that an open, inclusive and transparent process, guided by clear rules and procedures is essential for the success of the reform process. Hence, we support the contents of the non-paper presented today by Spain and Argentina on the procedures and principles that could form the basis of the intergovernmental negotiations. We believe that the non-paper includes very useful elements regarding the objectives, guiding principles and terms of the negotiations.

As regards the objectives and the guiding principles of the intergovernmental negotiations, Turkey remains fully committed to the early reform of the Council that will render the Council more democratic, representative, accountable and transparent. This objective will continue to guide our efforts in every stage of the reform process.

The non-paper introduced by Spain and Argentina lays down various important principles for the negotiations, including the sovereign equality of all Member States, equitable geographical representation, accommodation of the interests of all membership, and increased representation of the traditionally under-represented Members, such as small- and medium-sized states and landlocked countries. Compliance with these principles, in our opinion, is crucial for the successful completion of the reform process. We encourage all Delegations to consider and support these principles.

Mr. Chairman,

Even though we will soon start the intergovernmental negotiations in the informal plenary of the General Assembly, it might be beneficial not to completely phase out the Open-Ended Working Group following the initiation of the intergovernmental negotiations. We are of the opinion that the Working Group could still be a very useful forum even during these negotiations.

More specifically, the continued work of the Open-Ended Group could help the Member States to reach a common understanding on the procedural aspects of the intergovernmental negotiations. We believe that this could increase the prospects of the widest political acceptance of a negotiated solution by the Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude by reiterating Turkey's continuing support for the Security Council reform. We believe that, with good faith, mutual respect and flexibility to be demonstrated by all sides, we could bring this prolonged process to a successful outcome. As always, you may rest assured of our full cooperation, support and flexibility throughout this process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.