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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Zhang Yesui,  
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations  
at the Second Meeting of Intergovernmental Negotiations on  
Security Council Reform: the Issue of Veto**

~~16~~ March 2009  
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Mr. Chairman,

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank you for convening today's meeting.

The Security Council decision making mechanism, including the "veto power", was the outcome of historical development. It was established by the founders of the United Nations after taking stock of the causes of the two world wars in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and drawing lessons from the failure of the League of Nations. The mechanism not only follows the principle of "unanimity of permanent members", but also confers an important role on non-permanent members. This ensures that no substantive decision of the Security Council can be made without sufficient support of its non-permanent members. The veto power was initially put in place to ensure that the Security Council could play an effective role in maintaining international peace and security. With the change of times, consensus among all its 15 members has been given top priority in the decision making process of the Security Council. This significantly contributes to the successful implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

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As a developing country among the permanent members of the Security Council, China always fulfills in a serious and responsible manner its sacred responsibilities entrusted by the Charter of the United Nations. In Security Council's decision making process, China has all along based its voting position on whether it is in keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, whether it is conducive to maintaining international peace and security, and whether it serves the fundamental interests of the Member States, especially the developing countries.

China adopts a prudent and responsible attitude in exercising its veto power. Since China resumed its legitimate seat in the United Nations in 1971, it has seldom used its veto power at the Security Council. China always believes that before a decision is made by the Security Council, there should be sufficient consultation among its members. The Council should strive to take action by consensus and avoid rushing for vote on draft resolutions on which members still have disputes. We hope that the Security Council will improve its working methods to maintain its unity and promote its authority and efficiency.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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