

**STATEMENT BY MR. FAZLI ÇORMAN,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE OPEN-ENDED
WORKING GROUP ON SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM
(New York, 19 January 2009)**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by thanking you for convening the Open-Ended Working Group on Security Council Reform. This is a very timely opportunity to address the modalities and negotiables of the intergovernmental negotiations that will commence soon, as provided in Decision 62/557 of the General Assembly.

During the previous meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group, our Delegation emphasized the significance of this body to prepare and facilitate the intergovernmental negotiations. As we move closer to these negotiations, we remain steadfast in our opinion that an open, inclusive and transparent process, guided by clear rules and procedures, is essential for the success of the reform process. In this context, we have found the most recent meetings of the Group particularly useful in preparing the ground for these negotiations.

Mr. Chairman,

The Working Group, at its previous meeting, addressed the framework of the intergovernmental negotiations. At that meeting, our Delegation extended its support to the non-paper presented by Argentina and Spain on the procedures and principles that could form the basis of these negotiations. The non-paper included very useful elements regarding the objectives, guiding principles and terms of negotiations. We are particularly pleased that the Delegations of Canada and Malta have incorporated these terms and principles into the paper entitled “Security Council Reform Negotiations: Elements for a Decision by the General Assembly on Framework and Modalities”. We believe that the principles and procedures contained in the paper are indispensable for the successful conclusion of the reform process. Although many of these principles speak for themselves, let me briefly elaborate on some of them:

Respect for the sovereign equality of Member States, simple as it may sound, is crucial to ensure a democratic process and a level playing field whereby all Member States, large or small, developed or least-developed, will be represented on an equal footing. It means that the positions of the smallest, least-developed and under-represented Members will carry as much weight as that of the others.

The principle of equitable geographical representation is a corollary of the diversity and pluralism of the contemporary international community. It means that the enlarged Security Council will have to observe a geographical balance and that no particular region or group will be discriminated against.

Ensuring full ownership of the reform through full accommodation of the interests of all Member States and regions will increase the prospects of representation of historically-marginalized and under-represented members at the Council.

Achieving a negotiated solution that can garner the widest political acceptance by Member States, well above the required two-third majority, will lead the enlarged Security Council to further its legitimacy and credibility, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the Council.

The conduct of negotiations on an agreed agenda and the the principle of “single undertaking”, that is, “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”, will instill predictability, fairness and confidence into what could otherwise be a very complicated process.

Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation therefore lends its full support to all the principles and procedures enshrined in the document presented today by Canada and Malta. We encourage all Delegations to favourably consider and support these elements. We also hope that these principles and procedures could be duly reflected in the results of the consultations that will be presented to the General Assembly by the end of this month.

Mr. Chairman,

We are confident that under your able guidance and competent chairmanship, this prolonged process of reform has now a greater propensity for success than ever before in the past fifteen years.

Thank you.