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**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UN,  
AT 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  
19 JANUARY 2009**

Mr. Chairman,

In the three months since the adoption of decision 62/557, the Working Group has met three times in order to comply with the said decision. We have discussed the matter of OEWG generally, we have discussed our own different and unique understanding of frameworks, and we are now attempting to discuss 'modalities'. In other words, we have complied with decision 62/557.

2. Whether we believe that the discussions we have had over the course of these months have contributed towards facilitating the intergovernmental negotiations that we are to begin by the end of February 2009, is something we have yet to see. In all honesty, I see very little. Though little it may be, any contribution would be useful if it is meant to facilitate our negotiations towards reforming the Security Council.

3. What my delegation would have preferred is to focus our discussions on the approach that we should take when we begin the intergovernmental negotiations. In what manner do we begin negotiations, and which issue do we first address? These are the questions for which we need to provide answers.

4. Malaysia believes that there should be a clear direction on the work of the intergovernmental negotiations, with targeted deadlines in the taking up of issues. There are many positions and proposals on the table, as well as the five key issues which the intergovernmental negotiations will need to take up – the categories of membership, the question of the veto, how far we want to be guided by the principle of regional representation, the size of the Council, its working methods, and the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly. All will need to be addressed by the intergovernmental negotiations. With so many items on our collective plate, we will need to determine what needs to be taken up first and the time required to discuss the matter. Otherwise, we will again being drawn into yet another “open-ended process” with no end in sight.

Mr. Chairman,

5. We have an opportunity to carry through the reforms necessary in order to bring the Security Council into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and taking into account the expanded membership of the United Nations since the last enlargement of the Security Council in 1965. We have a chance of

seeing through those reforms within our lifetime. Resolutions 61/561 and 62/557 have given us that.

6. My delegation foresees that there would be many occasions when our resolve would be called upon to make compromises in order for meaningful progress. There cannot be proposal after proposal on the table as to what the enlargement of the Security Council should be like. Compromise on all proposals, we believe, is therefore necessary. Only in this way can we hope to achieve widest possible political acceptance as we have agreed in 62/557.

7. For Malaysia, if necessary, we are ready to make these compromises. But despite this, we are clear in what we want of the reform of the Security Council: more democratic, more representative and more effective. In a nutshell, we want an enlarged Security Council with balanced representation and ultimately no veto power, and a working method that is transparent and inclusive.

8. At this juncture, allow me, Mr. Chairman, to reiterate Malaysia's commitment to the process, and to actively participate in the coming intergovernmental negotiations on this important subject.

Thank you.