



PHILIPPINES

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STATEMENT
of
H.E. Ambassador Hilario G. Davide, Jr.
Permanent Representative of the Philippines
To the United Nations, New York
At the
Meeting of the Open-Ended
Working Group on Security Council Reform
5 December 2008

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving the floor to the Philippines.

I commend you for organizing this meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to expedite the completion of its task mandated in paragraph (c) of General Assembly Decision 62/557 adopted on 15 September 2008, and for submitting to us through your letter of 24 November 2008, a **work plan**. This **work plan** will help guide OEWG along a brighter course to come up before the first day of February 2009 the framework and modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations which should commence not later than 28 February 2009 as directed in paragraph (d) of the Decision. I wish to reiterate what I said in my statement on 18 November 2008 at the General Assembly plenary joint debate on Agenda item 9 on the Report of the Security Council and Agenda item 111 on the Question of Equitable Representation and on Increase of the membership of the Security Council and Related Matters that while the submission by the OEWG of its report under paragraph (c) is not a condition *sine qua non* to the commencement of the intergovernmental negotiations in paragraph (d), the OEWG should not make this an excuse for failing or refusing to comply

with its duty. It should work hard enough to comply with its duty, otherwise it would blemish itself with a failure and go down in history in ignominy.

Let me just put on record my few comments/observations on the **work plan**. Only one day – i.e., today, 5 December - is set for the discussion on Framework. On the basis of our experience in the previous meetings of the OEWG, I doubt if we can achieve much in one day, unless, of course, repetitions of what had been said before in the previous meetings by some Member States would be considered another level of achievement or a mark of improvement.

As to modalities, the **work plan** assigns for the purpose the whole month of January 2009. The same month is assigned to discussions on the results of the consultations. Also, the submission by the Chairman of the OEWG on the results of the work of the OEWG is scheduled on any date in January 2009 plus the first day of February 2009.

It would have been much better if the schedules presented by Mexico and the Republic of Korea were simply enhanced in the **work plan** by indications of specific or determined dates. As I said, one day is not enough for Framework. Two or more meetings may be required with the dates therefor now specified or fixed. We can calendar such additional meetings next week.

Also, the dates of the meetings to take up modalities should have been specified so that each one of us can block our calendars for the purpose and give them utmost priority. In short, a more specific calendar of activities or program of work would be most helpful for the OEWG to complete its work within the period prescribed in paragraph (c) of Decision 62/557.

All things being considered, I still believe that the submission by the Chair of even a very **informal preliminary working paper** or **draft** incorporating a draft of the proposed framework and modalities as I recommended at the second OEWG meeting last 17 November would definitely expedite the completion of the work of the OEWG and would be more productive of positive concrete results. This strategy would shorten the process as, for one, our minds would be focused on what appear in black and white – and which we even may already have in mind in the first place. For another, our task would at least be limited to either putting in some new elements not found there, or striking out any of the proposals deemed unacceptable. At the end

of the day, the OEWG would be ready to submit before the deadline the report on framework and modalities with specific recommendations.

I wish to recall that also at that meeting, I even expressed the hope on the possible submission of the **informal preliminary working paper** or **draft** before 30 November or on 21 November 2008, a date the President had earlier set, if memory serves me well, for the informal plenary of the General Assembly based on the theory that such informal plenary under paragraph (d) of the Decision can be convened at any time after 15 September 2008, but before 28 February 2009.

And now on the subject for today based on the **work plan** – the Framework. I wish to reiterate what I had asserted during the second meeting of the OEWG on 17 November that framework means the parameters within which intergovernmental negotiations must be confined; and paragraph (d) and the elaborations in the succeeding paragraph (e) of Decision 62/557 already stipulate or lay down in broad outlines the parameters of the Framework. I respectfully submit that what this logically leaves to the OEWG is for it to make a practical, simplified, more orderly and accurate presentation of the details, by topic or subject matter - or a further subdivision thereof - to ensure smooth deliberations or discussions thereon. For instance, and only by way of example, the five key issues referred to in #2 of paragraph (e), to wit: categories of membership, the question of the veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Council and working methods of the Security Council, and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly may be treated as the principal topics. Then, the positions or proposals of Member States and regional groups, as well as those found in the reports of the OEWG on its work during the 61st and 62nd sessions, if found falling within these key issues must be so accordingly classified thereunder. If not, another category of issues may be considered. In this regard, to hasten the faster classifications of issues, Member States may be urged to resubmit their proposals or positions as soon as possible, but not later than 15 November 2008.

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As to **modalities**, the **informal preliminary working paper** may include a logical and systematic strategy or procedure on how the intergovernmental negotiations may proceed or be handled to effectively and efficiently expedite the deliberative process to reach consensus or approval of the negotiated reform proposals.

In this connection, since the informal plenary of the General Assembly is a bit unwieldy, the modalities may consider its break-up into such number of subcommittees as may correspond to the five key issues, or additional categories if deemed necessary. The subcommittees may be chaired by a Vice-President of the General Assembly, and each may be composed of the remaining Vice-Presidents distributed equitably according to Regional Groups and with one or two additional members from each of the Regional Groups as may be recommended by said groups. Each group shall hold consultations on the key issue assigned to it, and shall submit to the informal plenary a report, with recommendations, not later than 15 April 2008. It shall meet as often as may be necessary to beat this deadline. The subcommittee reports shall then be taken up in informal plenary of the General Assembly in May and June 2009.

Then the final draft of the consolidated report based on the subcommittee reports and containing the results of the intergovernmental negotiations in the informal plenary and garnering the widest political acceptance by Member States must be completed and submitted by the end of July 2009.

To close, Mr. President, may I move that these recommendations be seriously considered.

I thank you.