



# PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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8 EAST 65th STREET – NEW YORK, NY 10021 – (212) 879-8600

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REMARKS

BY

AMBASSADOR ABDULLAH HUSSAIN HAROON  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

IN

THE INFORMAL PLENARY MEETING OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM

New York,  
19 February 2009.

Remarks by Ambassador Abdullah Hussain Haroon, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, in the informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly on Security Council reform – 19 February 2009

1. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and in particular the President of the General Assembly for guiding our work on the crucial issue of Security Council reform.
2. The commencement of inter-governmental negotiations today in accordance with Decision 62/557 is an important landmark in our collective pursuit of an equitable and comprehensive reform of the Security Council. I congratulate you and all member states for the spirit of cooperation and understanding that has enabled us to build consensus on taking this process forward towards a “negotiated” solution to this sensitive and intractable issue.
3. This willingness to find a negotiated solution is a significant shift from the divisiveness of the past. It offers an opportunity for a breakthrough, for a reform that is no longer hostage to the ambitions of a few, but that would accommodate the interests and positions of all member states, and promote the larger objectives of the United Nations Organization, thus enhancing its unity, effectiveness, credibility and legitimacy.
4. Pakistan takes particular pride that together with members of the Uniting for Consensus and many other countries, we have been in the forefront of advocating a reform of the Security Council, which is to be achieved through negotiations and widest possible consensus. We are therefore most eager to engage in this process and are sincerely committed to its success.
5. In that regard we welcome the letter of 18 February of the President outlining a work plan and agenda of meetings for the first round of negotiations. We understand and support the President’s desire to build trust and achieve progress by maintaining the integrity of the process of negotiations. It was with the objective of ensuring a smooth and effective process that we had supported the various constructive proposals including that by Canada and Malta made in the Open Ended Working Group on the framework and modalities in order to prepare and facilitate intergovernmental negotiations. In our view the principles contained in these important proposals should continue to guide and facilitate our work in the coming months.
6. Although a fuller understanding on the terms and modalities of negotiations would have been preferred, we note that clarity on some important points has been provided in the President’s letter of 18 February. It recognizes for example the informal nature of the “informal plenary” which has the general practice of no official record and no decision, something which distinguishes it from the formal plenary only where rules of procedure are in effect and where decisions can be taken. The mandate of the informal plenary as per Decision 62/557 is to garner the widest possible political acceptance of member states on a negotiated solution and it would be somewhat premature at this stage to say as to how that determination would be made which would move the process to the decision making stage. Mr. Chairman, you may wish to provide more clarity on this aspect. Our logical understanding is that decisions cannot be taken piecemeal and will have to be on a

consolidated proposal or comprehensive package conforming to the agreed objective of a comprehensive reform.

7. We thank you for outlining the agenda for the first round covering the 5 key issues listed in Decision 62/557. We have no problem following this sequence, although we feel that from the point of view of negotiations, the discussion could have been more productive if we were to start with size of an enlarged Council. Some would argue that the working methods could have been taken up first since there is a lot of agreement on this cluster. Perhaps, it would be a good idea to have a different sequence in the second round of negotiations the structure and agenda for which we hope would be agreed through consultations. As for the proposed agenda, we feel that the issues of size and working methods may require adequate time and dedicated sessions. In any case, irrespective of the sequence, it is clear that all these key issues are closely inter-linked and they cannot be detached, discussed or decided upon in isolation. Hence the need for a comprehensive approach and the vision of a package of reforms that will encompass all these key issues in the form of a single undertaking.

8. Mr. Chairman, success would depend on a commitment by all sides for genuine and good faith negotiations. We believe that the negotiations should be inclusive and open to all and any proposals including new proposals that member states and groups may present during this process. The proposal made by Philippines is one such example, and which we would be considering in our discussions.

9. On our part let me assure you of Pakistan's active and constructive participation in the negotiations. Our proposals and contributions, let me add, will be consistent with the objectives of a more democratic, equitably representative, transparent, effective and accountable Council. Our positions will conform to the principles of sovereign equality of states and equitable geographical distribution. We shall work for a reform model that is responsive to the substantial increase in the number of developing countries in the UN membership since the 60s. We would therefore advance in particular the legitimate interests of the vast majority of small and medium states to serve as members of the Council through allocation of seats to correspond to their specific requirements. We would prioritize regional interests over individual interests, through accommodation of positions of all member states and regional and other groupings including in particular Africa and the OIC. We would seek to build consensus within and between regions in order to achieve a stronger and more effective Security Council in the interest of all.

10. Let me thank you for chairing this important work. We are confident that you would take the process forward in an open and consensual manner. We wish you all the success.

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