

(Translation)

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

4 March 2009

Mr. President,

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

China always maintains that Security Council reform should give top priority to increasing the representation of developing countries, especially that of African countries, and providing greater opportunity for more small and medium-sized countries to participate in the activity and decision-making of the Security Council. The composition of the Security Council should truly reflect the principle of equitable geographical distribution and take into account the representation of different civilizations and cultures. Security Council reform is a complicated multilateral process, which requires all Member States to seek the broadest consensus through patient and democratic consultation, so as to find a solution that accommodates the interests and concerns of all parties.

Mr. President,

The issue of category is an important component of Security Council reform. A variety of categories have emerged in solutions put forward by countries. This shows that serious disputes still exist among Members States over the

issue of category and parties are yet to reach the broadest consensus on a solution. Under the current situation, seeking new approaches is the way forward if we are to break the stalemate and reach consensus. We hope parties will adopt a flexible and pragmatic mindset, exhibit wisdom and creativity, and work toward the same goal through consultation. Some new solutions raised by a few Member States recently contain inspirational ideas on the issue of category. I am sure that as the negotiations move ahead, more Member States will come up with new solutions and approaches that deserve our serious consideration and study.

Mr. President,

At the recent OEWG meetings and General Assembly informal plenary sessions, many Member States emphasized the importance of pushing forward Security Council reform in a comprehensive and integrated manner. Our understanding is that the division of Security Council reform into five categories of issues by the work plan is only a way of organizing the meeting under General Assembly decision 62/557 for the convenience of discussion. More and more Member States have realized that the five categories are interrelated, and the issues of size, category and regional representation, in particular, are closely linked. For instance, some solutions maintain that the category issue should be approached from the perspective of regional representation. All the issues involving Security Council reform should be resolved through a package solution. This will also ensure that the immediate interests of the Member States are guaranteed in the entire process of reform.

Mr. President,

Security Council reform is a major issue bearing on the long-term interests of the United Nations and the immediate interests of the Member States. In the face of constantly emerging new threats and challenges, we need a strong and united UN. We sincerely hope that the Member States will build broad consensus and reaffirm commitment to collective security through Security Council reform. The Chinese delegation will continue to work with other parties toward this goal.

Thank you.