



STATEMENT
OF
THE STATE OF QATAR

DELIVERED BY

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BEFORE

The Meeting of the
Open-Ended Working Group on
the Question of Equitable Representation and
Increase in the Membership of the Security Council
and Related Matters

NEW YORK, 5 DECEMBER 2008

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency the President of the General Assembly on the success he helped achieve in Doha this week at the International Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development and welcome you back to New York. I thank you for calling for this meeting, which contributes to the preparation of the general framework of the negotiation process on the reform of the Security Council.

We would like to express our support for your efforts to vigorously pursue the issue of Security Council reform, and follow through with the progress achieved during the sixty-first and sixty-second sessions. In particular, we support your way of assisting Member States to make this process a success in order to guarantee that we will be able to present the results of these consultations to the informal session of the General Assembly no later than 1 February 2009, because what we really need at this stage is to move into solid and substantive action in order to prepare and facilitate the intergovernmental process on the Question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council and the related matters.

Mr. President,

It is encouraging that this year we took off to a good start under your wise leadership in the first and second meetings of the Open Ended Working Group on 11 and 17 November last, and we need continued determination, political will and a spirit of constructive cooperation and flexibility to meet our goals, building on what has been achieved so that we move to the substantive stage of the process.

Mr. President,

As regards the reform of the representation in the Security Council, if the increase of the membership of the Security Council is to satisfy better regional distribution, then we, as part of the Arab world, reiterate our position that calls for a permanent Arab seat on the Council in addition to as many as two non-permanent seats depending on the number of additional seats to be eventually added to the Council. The great expanse of the Arab World from east to west, from the Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean is simultaneous with international influence of that important region of the world in international affairs in economic, political, security and peacekeeping terms.

Of course, a necessary condition for any arrangement to expand the membership of the Security Council to reflect the expanded membership of the United Nations and to cope with the changing international circumstances, is for that arrangement to be derived from the positions and proposals submitted by the Member States which they have expressed through their groupings in this regard. The comprehensiveness of any submitted proposal through the inclusion of those positions will guarantee that no hurdles will be faced during the substantive negotiations. Therefore, there needs to be flexibility in order to forge from the different interests and views of all Member States a consensus arrangement to be reflected in the documents that will be negotiated and the framework of the negotiations, which have

to include the proposals made by Member States. In the event conditions and criteria are specified for reform or the increase in the number of permanent members, those conditions and criteria should not be chosen selectively and *a priori* so that they apply to predetermined countries, because this would affect the credibility and objectivity of such conditions.

In this regard, we stress that the Permanent Members are doubly responsible by virtue of the mandate given to them by the UN Charter which allows them to influence the final decision to reform the Security Council, which requires their favorable vote on the reform according to Article 108 of the Charter. They are also responsible by virtue of the institutional memory they possess concerning the work of the Council. Therefore, their constructive contribution in this negotiation process will be much appreciated.

Mr. President,

Although the increase of the membership is receiving the greatest spotlight, the framework of the Intergovernmental Process should not overlook the procedural side of reform and modernization. We have recently concluded a two-year term in the Security Council in 2006-2007 where we have witnessed first-hand the issues that need improvement in the modalities of the work of Council with a view for the effective and fair implementation of Article 24 of the UN Charter, which specifies the types of questions to be taken up by the Security Council, and also Article 25 which leaves no doubt that the outcome of the work of the Council should be within the limits of the Charter too. We will discuss these issues in details during the forthcoming consultations.

We would like to use this forum to reiterate our previous calls for increased transparency in the work of the Council including reconsideration of the format of "informal consultations" because the Council's being representative of the International Community in the field of international peace and security requires a limitation of any exaggeration in secrecy in the work of the Council.

On the other hand, improvement is required in the liaison with the general membership whose interests as a whole the Council is supposed to protect. These important issues were included in the recommendations of the Security Council Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, which has achieved good progress in 2006 and 2007 under the Chairmanship of Japan and Slovakia respectively and with active involvement by my country's delegation. The most important recommendations by the Working Group are included in the two notes by the UNSC President no. S/2006/507 and S/2007/749, which can come in handy in our present work.

On the other hand, although we recognize that the Security Council is a political body, we note that the its outcome documents input into, and affect, international law, and therefore, the work of the Council should be improved through the involvement of specialized legal experts from the Secretariat in many of the important issues on its agenda.

Thank you.