



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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Permanent Representative

Informal Meeting of the Plenary on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Related Matters

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Mr. President,

1. First of all, I thank you for convening today's meeting. We are hopeful that the forthcoming process will guide us toward a solution that will render the Security Council more democratic, inclusive, representative, transparent, efficient, and accountable. We commend the impartiality and fairness with which you have discharged your duties and continue to count on your leadership to steer us toward this noble common goal with a renewed sense of urgency.

Mr. President,

2. It is with this spirit of optimism that my delegation welcomes the stated work plan and schedule of meetings put forward by you. We believe your proposal lays down a solid framework for the way forward. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your written presentation of January 29 on the results of consultations of the Open-ended Working Group.
3. At the same juncture, my delegation would like to confirm our understanding of and seek clarification on several points addressed in your letter circulated on Feb 18 appended to the agenda. First, page 2 of the letter states that "When the time comes to take action, we will move to a formal meeting of the General Assembly, whereupon the rules of procedure of the General Assembly will take effect." My

delegation would like to stress that in such an event, on the question of equitable representation on an increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters, resolution 53/30 of 1998 will rightfully apply, taking precedence over the rules of procedure in the matter of decision-making, thereby requiring an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the Members. Further, we should bear in mind that the unanimously adopted Report of the OEWG A/61/47 stipulates in its annexed Report of the facilitators the need to choose a reform formula “that can garner the widest possible political acceptance by the membership, and in any case well above the required majority of the General Assembly.”

4. Second, I would like to emphasize the importance of treating these issues and seeking agreement on them as a whole, or in a single undertaking, given their close and intrinsic interrelatedness. This notion of single undertaking is a firmly established principle in major international negotiations, especially in international norm-making processes such as the workings of the ICC and UNCLOS. In trade negotiations at the WTO to the NPT Review Conference as well, this principle of single undertaking prevails. In the long term, piecemeal or partial solutions will not serve the interests of the wider membership and may, in fact, only lead us wayward. In this regard, dealing with each of the five key issues one at a time, as suggested by you for the practical organization of our work, should not be misconstrued as to suggest a delinking, or departing from the principle of single undertaking.
5. In addition, time schedule should be managed in a flexible way without artificial deadlines on each of the agenda items, ensuring the Member States ample opportunity to explore every possible option or possibility. It should thus be stated that in light of the inherent linkage between all key issues, all Member States will reserve the right to express their views on any of the issues they deem relevant and necessary at any given time in a flexible manner. Of course, every effort will be made to adhere to the work plan as closely as possible and to “focus on specific parts of our mandate so as to maximize the chances of success” as requested in your letter. Similarly, my delegation believes that dealing with the issue of size and working methods together in a single session may not be optimal, as we run the risk of detracting from the singular importance of each of these issues.
6. Third, regarding the basis for the negotiations outlined in paragraph (e) of decision 62/557, we hope the positions and proposals of Member States will be actively voiced and presented during the first round of negotiations, laying the groundwork for intensive negotiations to follow in the second round. We invite all Member States to carefully assess the solutions for reform which will best address their concerns and interests, and also to submit specific proposals.

7. Fourth, we would like to draw your attention to decision 62/557 which envisions the continued role of the OEWG after the launch of intergovernmental negotiations, including its mandate to report on its work at the end of the 63rd session of the General Assembly. We hope the OEWG will continue to contribute to the negotiation process as necessary.
8. Lastly, while we should certainly strive to attain concrete results, such progress should not be at the expense of a careful and thorough consideration of all aspects of the reform process. Our desire to see genuine negotiations should not be marred by any unilateral action, such as putting a resolution to vote prematurely or in the absence of the widest possible political acceptance as a matter of principle.

Mr. President,

9. My delegation looks forward to discussing these positions and proposals in a mutually respectful and productive manner. We assure you of our willingness to exercise flexibility in finding a solution that could be acceptable to and supported by all Member States. Thank you.