

SC Reform Negotiations: Elements for a Decision by the GA on framework and modalities

Pursuant to Decision 62/557 of the General Assembly, the following are suggested elements for a draft General Assembly decision on the guiding principles and terms under which intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform will be conducted.

I. PREAMBLE

- i) Recalling its previous resolutions and decisions relevant to the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council.
- ii) Mindful of Chapter XVIII of the Charter of the United Nations and of the importance of reaching general agreement as referred to in its resolutions 48/26 of 3 December 1993 and 53/30 of 1 December 1998 and its decision 61/561 of 17 September 2007, as well as the ratification of any amendment to the Charter as stipulated in Article 108.
- iii) Recalling Decision 62/557 of 15 September 2008 which mandated the OEWG to address, [no later than February 1, 2009], the framework and modalities in order to prepare and facilitate intergovernmental negotiations which are to commence in informal plenary of the General Assembly [not later than February 28, 2009].

II. OPERATIVE

- 1) Decides that intergovernmental negotiations to be conducted in informal plenary of the General Assembly will be governed by the following principles and procedures:
 - a) Respect for the sovereign equality of Member States;
 - b) Ensuring equitable geographical representation;
 - c) The objective of making the Council more democratic and equitably

representative, to enhance its transparency, efficiency and effectiveness and accountability to the membership;

- d) Ensuring full ownership of the reform through full accommodation of the interests of all Member States and regions, particularly those which have been historically under-represented;
- e) The objective of achieving a negotiated solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States, well above the required two third majority;
- f) The process shall be open, inclusive and transparent, guided by objectivity and impartiality and held in good faith and mutual respect. All discussions shall be open to all Member States;
- g) The negotiations shall be comprehensive, covering and open to all issues and aspects of Security Council reform including inter alia increase in membership and improvement of working methods;
- h) The negotiations shall be based on an agreed agenda;
- j) The principle of “Single Undertaking” shall apply: every item of the negotiation is part of a whole and indivisible package and cannot be agreed separately (“nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”);
- k) The negotiations shall be conducted in accordance with the general practice of informal plenary of the General Assembly.