

*The Permanent Mission  
of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the United Nations*



البعثة الدائمة  
للمملكة المغربية لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT

BY

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THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

ON THE

OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE  
REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

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5 DECEMBER 2008

**Mr. President,**

Allow me at the outset to thank you for this new opportunity to continue our exchange of views in the Open Ended Working Group in charge of this issue of Security Council Reform. The African Group appreciates the high level of priority that you devote to this issue and to that of the Democratization of the United Nations.

We hope that today's meeting of the Working Group will allow us to work together towards the definition of the framework of the negotiations that would lead us to an ambitious and inclusive reform of the Security Council.

Our common concern is to clear the ground in order to allow for the launch of well targeted intergovernmental negotiations, oriented towards precise objectives.

**Mr. President,**

Security Council reform is at a crossroads, and represents a strategic necessity bearing in mind the changes witnessed on the international scene and the challenges that our Organization confronts.

The Group of African States attaches a great deal of importance to this Question that it considers as part of the *Aggiornamento* and the overhaul of the UN. The legitimate aspirations of Africa must be heard because the continent represents more than the quarter of UN membership and is the second largest contributor of Blue helmets after Asia. A historic injustice has deprived Africa from its historic right to be permanently represented in the Security Council, since 1945. Time has come to address this iniquity.

Allow me to reiterate to this august Assembly the constant African position that was articulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Syrte Declaration of July 2005, according to which Africa should be allocated not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right of veto and also five non-permanent seats respectively. It will be incumbent on Africa to select its members of an enlarged Security Council.

**Mr. President,**

Through decision 62/557, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly, on September 15, 2008, the Member States have decided to take a step forward towards the next stage regarding Security Council reform and to launch the Intergovernmental Negotiations during the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly. We seize this occasion to welcome the efforts of the President and his facilitator, Ambassador Zahir Tanin, that have spared no effort to preserve the spirit of this decision and to apply it to the letter.

Today's meeting is held in accordance with the paragraph c) of decision 62/557. Therefore, the Working group will have a clear mandate to examine the framework capable to prepare and to facilitate the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of the equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security council and other related matters.

The Group of African States takes note of your decision to devote a time table for the Open Ended Working Group for the coming months, the objective being for the President to present the results of his consultations to the General Assembly in an informal meeting, at the latest on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Henceforth, we need to maintain the current momentum and to direct it towards constructive discussions.

**Mr. President,**

The Group of African States would like to reiterate that its Permanent representatives are ready and duly mandated by their Heads of State and Governments to participate in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the basis of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Syrte Declaration. According to paragraph d) of decision 62/557, the framework of the Intergovernmental Negotiations shall be an informal meeting of the Plenary of the GA.

We are left with less than eight weeks before the end of January 2009, supposedly to be the deadline for the presentation of the results of your consultations, to the General Assembly. Needless to underline that time is running short, and that our upcoming works should be marked by the objectivity and the constructive quest of the optimal conditions for the launch of Intergovernmental Negotiations. The African Group remains mobilized in attaining this objective and is animated with a strong will to succeed. The Group also reiterates its continuous support to your efforts.

I thank you.