

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

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

We appreciate the efforts made by the Task Force which has provided a summary of past developments. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on how to advance the process in light of the report of the Task Force. For the time being, we see little promise and no new ideas on the issue of enlargement and will refrain from repeating our position on this topic. Given the lack of direction and dynamic in the enlargement discussion, we believe it is time to focus our energy on the area of working methods, where progress is both necessary and feasible.

As is well known, we are a member of the S-5 group. More than ever, we firmly believe that improving the working methods of the Council, irrespective of the developments in the area of enlargement, is indispensable to make the Council's work more accountable, inclusive, transparent and legitimate. This will enhance the quality of its decision-making process and therefore impact positively on its credibility and legitimacy.

We are therefore very pleased to find working methods included and identified as one of the short-term achievables. Nevertheless, we cannot agree with all the conclusions contained in the report of the Task Force, because it does not fully take into account the work done in the past few years. Likewise, a negotiating process on the basis of the Five Facilitators report of 2007 would set us several steps back with respect to the issue of working methods. The single most important development on this issue was the adoption of Presidential Note 507 in July 2006. The measures contained in that note were taken by the Council on its own initiative and require no action from the General Assembly. Much rather, we need a review of the implementation and application of these measures during the two years that have elapsed since. At the same time, we must also look at additional measures needed to further improve working methods – measures which the S-5 already advocated for when the Council adopted Presidential Note 507. This is in keeping with the nature of reform of working methods which is a process rather than a supposed one-time event – such as the elusive Charter amendment that would take care of the enlargement of the Council.

We hope that the Council will be interested in engaging in a dialogue along those lines and that the membership will show a strong and informed interest in such a process. We will continue our engagement in the OEWG or in other GA plenary formats and look forward to your leadership in this respect.

I thank you, Mr. President.