



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 September 2008

Excellency,

I have the honour to forward to you the final text of the Draft recommendations of the *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* for its adoption tomorrow morning, Monday, 15 September 2008. The attached draft reflects the suggestions made by Member States and constitutes a balanced and fair compromise among all the positions expressed by Member States.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Stgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

IV. Recommendations

23. The Open-ended Working Group decided to recommend that consideration of the item be continued at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly. The Working Group, recalling Assembly decision 61/561 and the progress made during the sixty-first and sixty-second sessions, recommends to the Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

“The General Assembly,

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,

Mindful of Chapter XVIII of the Charter of the United Nations and of the importance of reaching general agreement as referred to in resolution 48/26 of 3 December 1993, in resolution 53/30 of 1 December 1998 and in decision 61/561 of 17 September 2007 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council as well as the ratification process of any amendment to the Charter of the United Nations as stipulated in its article 108,

Taking note of the seven principles presented by the President of the General Assembly to serve as guiding principles for the advancement of the Security Council reform (A/62/PV. 51):

“(a) Takes note of the report of the 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 on its work during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly;

“(b) Notes with appreciation the Chairperson’s initiative and efforts in the process of a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, as well as the work done by the Vice-Chairpersons;

“(c) Decides, building on the progress achieved so far, in particular during its sixty-first

and sixty-second sessions, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, to continue immediately to address within the Open-ended Working Group the framework and modalities in order to prepare and facilitate intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council. The Chairman of the Open-Ended Working Group will present the results of these consultations to an informal plenary session of the General Assembly, no later than December 31, 2008;

“(d) Also decides, taking note of the results achieved so far in the Open-ended Working Group, and building on the progress achieved so far, in particular during its sixty-first and sixty-second sessions, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, to commence intergovernmental negotiations in informal plenary of the General Assembly during the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, but not later than January 31, 2009, based on proposals by Member States, in good faith, with mutual respect and in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council, seeking a solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States;

“(e) Also decides that the following form the basis for the intergovernmental negotiations:

i) The positions and proposals of Member States, regional groups and other Member States groupings;

ii) The five key issues: categories of membership, the question of the veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Council and working methods of the Security Council, and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly;

iii) The following documents: report of the Open-ended Working Group on its work during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly; General Assembly decision 61/561; and the report of the Open-ended Working Group on its work during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly;

“(f) Decides also that the Open-ended Working Group, should continue to exert efforts during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly aimed at achieving general agreement among Member States in the consideration of all issues relevant to the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council, taking into account the progress achieved from the forty-eighth to sixty-second sessions of the Assembly;

(g) Decides that the Working Group should submit a report to the General Assembly before the end of its sixty-third session, including any agreed recommendations.”