

Security Council Reform

Background

In accordance with decision 62/557, adopted on 15 September 2008, Member States commenced intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

With decision 63/565, passed on 14 September 2009, Member States decided to “immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly” during the sixty-fourth session as mandated by General Assembly decision 62/557.

With decision 64/568, passed on 13 September 2010, Member States decided to “immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session as mandated by General Assembly decisions 62/557.”

At the outset of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the President of sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Joseph Deiss, appointed His Excellency Mr. Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations.

64/568. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

At its 121st plenary meeting, on 13 September 2010, 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, in particular its decisions 62/557 of 15 September 2008 and 63/565 of 14 September 2009,

- (a) Decided to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session as mandated by General Assembly decisions 62/557 of 15 September 2008 and 63/565 of 14 September 2009, building on the progress achieved during its sixty-fourth session, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, while noting with appreciation the initiatives and efforts of the President of the General Assembly and the Chair, including the preparation of the text reflecting the positions of and proposals submitted by Member States, with a view to an early comprehensive reform of the Security Council;
- (b) Decided to convene 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 during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly if Member States so decide;
- (c) Decided to include in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council".



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 October 2010

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to Decision 64/568 adopted on 13 September 2010 by the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly under its agenda item 119 on the "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters."

Member States will recall that the General Assembly decided to, *inter alia*, "immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session as mandated by General Assembly decisions 62/557 of 15 September 2008 and 63/565 of 14 September 2009, building on the progress achieved during its sixty-fourth session, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, while noting with appreciation the initiatives and efforts of the President of the General Assembly and the Chair, including the preparation of the text reflecting the positions of and proposals submitted by Member States, with a view to an early comprehensive reform of the Security Council."

In accordance with the above-mentioned decision, I have the honour to inform you that I have appointed His Excellency Mr. Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Vice-President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, to chair the intergovernmental negotiations on my behalf.

I would like to thank Ambassador Tanin for accepting this responsibility and trust that you will continue to extend your full cooperation and support to the process.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Deiss".

Joseph Deiss
President of the General Assembly

All Member States and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 October 2010

Excellency,

In my opening statement at the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on 23 September 2010, I emphasized the urgent need to reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in global governance. This also requires the continuation of our reform efforts within the Organization.

In the course of the general debate, many States highlighted the importance of UN reform and in particular reforming the Security Council. I was struck by the overwhelming number of calls to move decisively forward on this critical issue.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform Member States that I intend to convene, in accordance with General Assembly decision 64/568 of 13 September 2010, a meeting of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly on Thursday, 21 October 2010, at 3 p.m. in Conference Room 3 (NLB). I look forward to hearing your views in particular on how to move the process forward.

I also wish to recall in this context my letter of 1 October 2010 and thank His Excellency Mr. Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Vice-President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, for accepting to work with me on this important issue.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Deiss', written in a cursive style.

Mr. Joseph Deiss
President of the General Assembly

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



په ملگرو ملتوکی
د افغانستان اسلامی جمهوریت
دایمی نمایندگی - نیویارک

Permanent Mission of the Islamic
Republic of Afghanistan to the
United Nations

نماینده گی دایمی
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
در ملل متحد - نیویارک

24 November 2010

Excellency,

Following our productive meeting of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform on 21 October 2010, I am herewith, as a Chair impartial to positions, but partial to progress, pleased to provide further guidance to Member States on the path to early reform of the Security Council.

During the meeting of 21 October, I was delighted to note the widespread agreement among Member States that the second revision of the text indeed serves as the vehicle to move the reform process forward. As pointed out by most Member States, the text continues, however, to contain redundancies, overlaps, and numerous areas where editorial changes are needed. For that reason, the President of the General Assembly, in his closing remarks, recommended that the membership continues to work on the negotiation text.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform Member States of my decision to convene a first exchange of the sixth round of intergovernmental negotiations in informal plenary on 14 December. This exchange will revolve around all chapters of the negotiation text. While Member States are, as always, welcome to voice their opinions on any matter they deem relevant, in order to build on the fifth round, in which a number of Member States offered concrete suggestions on how to rationalize the text, I would, however, encourage Member States to contribute by suggesting concrete language that could create a leaner text. Let me underline, that Member States could choose to distribute such suggestions on paper in the room, while using their interventions to briefly illustrate them. I of course continue to make myself available to any Member State, or groups thereof, and in particular those with positions reflected in the text, that would want to discuss any concrete contributions that they may have.

In order to further stimulate this membership-driven process, I invite Member States, in their efforts to continue their editorial work, to draw inspiration from the organizational add-on, which was circulated on 27 August 2010, as a stepping-stone towards a leaner negotiation text. For example, during the 14 December exchange, the Member States that wish to make use of this optional tool could propose language for the different bullet points that make up the add-on, or language for new bullet points altogether.

At the conclusion of this round, I intend to distribute a third revision of the text, which will of course reflect proposals made. As is usual practice in this house, Member States are, and will remain, the masters of their own positions. Amendments will ultimately only be applied with the agreement of the Member State, or States, whose language is affected.



په ملگرو ملتو کې
د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
دایمی نمایندگی - نیویارک

نماینده گی دایمی
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
در ملل متحد - نیویارک

**Permanent Mission of the Islamic
Republic of Afghanistan to the
United Nations**

In conclusion, it is my sincere hope that, building on the substantial progress achieved thus far, and in line with the relevant resolutions and decisions, including the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, decisions 62/557, 63/565 and 64/568, this structure will allow this open text to continue to evolve in a fair, balanced, comprehensive and membership-driven way, towards a solution that can garner the widest possible acceptance by Member States.

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

Zahir Tanin

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations

Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council