



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 February 2009

Excellency,

I have the honor to recall Decision 62/557 adopted on 15 September 2008 by the sixty-second session of the UN General Assembly under its agenda item 122 on "Question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters," and in particular its paragraphs d and e, which state:

- "(d) Also decided, taking into consideration the results achieved so far in the Open-ended Working Group, and building on the progress achieved thus 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 General Assembly, but not later than February 28, 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 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) Further decided that the following formed 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;*

All Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations
New York

- (iii) *The following documents:* report of the Open-ended Working Group on its work during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly;¹ 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;²

In undertaking my responsibility as President of the General Assembly to take the implementation of General Assembly Decision 62/557 forward, my sole concern rests with the integrity of the process and the attainment of decisive progress. Accordingly, I am herewith, ahead of the next meeting of the informal plenary on 19 February 2009, outlining the work plan as already announced during our successful first meeting of the informal plenary on 29 January 2009. As also announced to Member States on that occasion, the first round of the intergovernmental negotiations will consist of meetings on the five key issues, in strict conformity with subparagraph ii of paragraph e of Decision 62/557. While Member States are free to express their views on any matter they deem relevant, through this work plan I am inviting Member States to in a comprehensive fashion focus on specific parts of our mandate, so as to maximize the chances of success. Also in strict conformity with paragraph e of Decision 62/557, subparagraphs i and iii will constitute the substantive underpinning of the meetings. Let me remind Member States that document A/62/47, designated in subparagraph iii as part of the basis for the intergovernmental negotiations, contains, in summary format, the options presented by regional groups and major interest groups, as well as new inputs and reaffirmed views. The meetings as scheduled below, following the exact order as found in Decision 62/557, will provide Member States with the opportunity to flesh out the substantive underpinning and show the necessary flexibility. H.E. Mr. Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, who will chair the Intergovernmental Negotiations on my behalf, will use all means at his disposal, including oral statements and letters concerning the individual meetings, to guide Member States along this path. Also, if Member States so wish, in the absence of an official record, he will provide an overview under my auspices. When the time comes to take action, we will move to a formal meeting of the General Assembly, whereupon the rules of procedure of the General Assembly will take effect. I strongly urge Member States to use the current window of opportunity to make decisive progress, through intergovernmental negotiations "in good faith, with mutual respect and in an open, inclusive and transparent manner [...] seeking a solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States," towards achieving the objective set by our leaders in paragraph 153 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome³:

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 47 (A/61/47).*

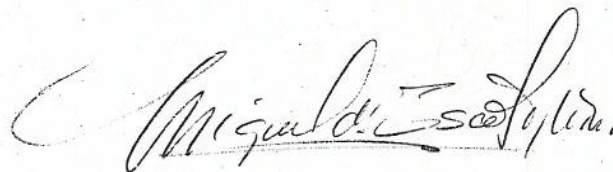
² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 47 (A/62/47).*

³ A/RES/60/1.

"We support early reform of the Security Council - an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations - in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions."

Date:	Agenda:
4 March 2009	Categories of membership
March 2009	The question of the veto
March 2009	Regional representation
April 2009	Size of an enlarged Council and working methods of the Security Council
April 2009	The relationship between the Council and the General Assembly
May 2009	Second round

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



Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann