



INTERVENTION BY

H.E. ZAHIR TANIN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

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

AT AN INFORMAL PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 April 2009

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

1. Let me open today's meeting with a couple of short remarks. With the first round of our Intergovernmental Negotiations drawing to a close, I want to offer a compliment to all delegations for their active and interactive participation. What is more, you have acted and reacted, as 62/557 prescribed, in good faith and with mutual respect, translating these words into works.
2. All this hard work has already laid a solid foundation for the second round. But let us not get ahead of ourselves. Not while an issue of such paramount importance remains to be dealt with, namely the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly, two vital organs of our world body.
3. In May, well before the second round commences, you will receive another letter on our further implementation of Decision 62/557 and of the Work Plan, along with the overview prescribed therein.
4. But in the meantime, the adage remains: first things first, first round first. Successfully reaching the end of this round, while also reaching out across the aisle at every opportunity – that is the immediate challenge. Today, before further digesting the results of our productive exchanges and further investing in the relationships with your fellow delegations, you are to focus on another relationship. There seems to be very little that they cannot accomplish, if the Security Council and the General Assembly join forces as partners in peace and prosperity. Let's see if we can give them some good relationship advice. The nineteenth-century French poet Marceline Desbordes-Valmore compared a good relationship to being like two chapters in the same book. If true, that's good news, because at the very least the Council and the Assembly already are two chapters in the same book: the Charter.

Thank you.

Closing remarks by H.E. Zahir Tanin,
Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations in New York,
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.

Informal plenary of the General Assembly, UNHQ New York, 20 April 2009.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

1. Thank you for all your wise words on the substance and for all your kind words directed towards the Chair. Facilitating this process has been a pleasure and a privilege so far and I look forward to continuing our partnership for reform in the second round.
2. As I said in my opening remarks, well before that round commences, you will receive another letter on our further implementation of Decision 62/557 and of the Work Plan, along with the overview prescribed therein.
3. According to an age-old saying about theatre pieces, the second act is always the best. It does not need to bother with introductory elements, setting up locations and characters, but can move straight into the meat of the story, before the resolution of its plot lines later on in the play. Let us during this second act, also referred to as “rising action”, rise to the occasion – just like we have done during the current stage. Thank you.