



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

24 MARCH 2009

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

1. It is a pleasure to see you back for another session of our Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform. The topic at hand today is of course regional representation, key issue number three. Last week, Member States once more received a letter of straightforward content, firmly rooted in GA Decision 62/557 and the President's Work Plan. A letter to help them prepare for this part of the negotiations, especially when it comes to the substance.
2. On the procedure, I don't think I need to remind anyone of the three minutes or the second sequence of interventions – by now, you are all very familiar with how we go about these meetings.
3. But I will keep reminding you of the paramount importance of showing flexibility and of doing so sooner rather than later. Today already marks the halfway point of the first round of our negotiations. Between now and our next meeting on April 9, a score of world leaders will converge on London in an effort to revamp the

world economy. Our peace and security institutions cannot stay behind. The Security Council cannot stay behind. Today, the word instability most of all has an economic ring to it, summoning the image of stock prices jumping up and down. But tomorrow, depending on the way of the world, it could be associated with peace and security again. We need to be fully equipped at the international level to deal with not just incomes falling down but also with peace falling apart. That is why, in the words of the President of the General Assembly, a better Council cannot wait until tomorrow, if we want to have a better tomorrow.

Thank you.



CLOSING REMARKS

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31 MARCH 2009

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

1. I think I represent the views of all regions in stating that this has been an excellent exchange. I thank all delegations for making the debate more than the sum of its parts. Let us retain that synergy for our 9 April exchange on the fourth key issue as defined in GA Decision 62/557, namely size of an enlarged Council and working methods of the Security Council. For scheduling reasons, our subsequent meeting on the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly will take place on April 20 instead of April 21 as previously announced.

Thank you.