



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

7 April 2009

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

1. "Everything will be all right - you know when? When people, just people, stop thinking of the United Nations as a weird Picasso abstraction and see it as a drawing they made themselves."
2. Memorable words by Dag Hammarskjöld, appointed Secretary-General of the UN exactly 56 years ago today. After all this time, we are still trying to create a United Nations in which people, just people, can recognize themselves. Our current effort to redraw, to reform the Security Council so that it reflects today's world, is a part of that endeavour. I would even say its centerpiece.
3. Now in April, these negotiations were successfully launched in February and gathered considerable momentum in March. After today, only one key issue will be left to discuss before we march on towards the second round, namely the relationship between the Council and the Assembly. Today's discussion revolves around the size of an enlarged Council and working methods of the Security Council, the fourth key issue as enumerated in GA Decision 62/557. To help you prepare, I last week once again circulated a letter of straightforward content, firmly rooted in that same decision. Now I know that today's subject matter is vast. But I also know that your ability to convey concise messages in three minutes is unlimited. Because while the UN itself should not resemble a Picasso painting, its working methods should, with discussions that abstract from less relevant details and highlight the essential – the common ground. If we conduct our work in that fashion, I am sure, everything will be all right.

Thank you.



CLOSING REMARKS

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1. After productive exchanges on the first four key issues, only one is left for us to address. As I stated in my opening remarks, you have generated considerable momentum. To sustain it, new steps forward will be necessary in the second round. But first things first. Let us bring the current round to a successful conclusion by keeping our eye on the ball and by taking a good look at the relationship between the Council and the Assembly. I look forward to seeing you all back on April 20.

Thank you.