

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Office of the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly presents its compliments to all Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations and has the honour to attach a letter dated 16 November 2009 from the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and related matters.

The Office of the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to all Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York
16 November 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long tail.

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



Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

16 November 2009

Excellency,

With reference to the 13 October letter of the President of the General Assembly, as well as the intention expressed in his 12 November statement to "chart a way forward for our work this Session that takes us closer to achieving our objective," I am herewith, as a Chair impartial to any of the positions yet partial to progress, providing guidance to Member States on the path to early reform of the Security Council. In this regard, I have the honor to recall consensus decision 63/565 adopted on 14 September 2009 by the sixty-third session of the UN General Assembly under its agenda item 111 on the "Question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters", through which the Assembly decided to:

"...immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as mandated by General Assembly decision 62/557 of 15 September 2008, building on the progress achieved during its sixty-third session, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, while noting with appreciation the initiative and efforts of the President of the General Assembly and the Chairman in the process of a comprehensive reform of the Security Council."

Consensus decision 62/557 defined the basis of the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations, which continue to be governed by the modus operandi as collectively embraced by Member States during the successful 19 February 2009 launch of the intergovernmental negotiations, to consist of the following:

- 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;*



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- 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

Given that over the course of three rounds of negotiations, Member States have already looked at the five key issues set out in the abovementioned subparagraph ii from virtually all possible different angles, the next step in the strict and good faith implementation of the negotiation mandate is to focus more on subparagraph i, namely the positions and proposals of Member States, regional groups and other Member States groupings.

The first exchange of the fourth round will take place on 8 December 2009, and will revolve around all the positions and proposals by Member States on the table by now and by then. Although Member States are, as always, free to express their views on any issue they deem relevant, they are encouraged to reflect on their own positions and proposals and on the positions and proposals of their peers. Furthermore, Member States are encouraged to examine these matters in light of the five key issues and the interconnections between them.

After the end of this exchange, the second exchange of the fourth round will revolve around areas of convergence.

Throughout these and other exchanges, Member States can continue to invigorate the intergovernmental negotiations by showing increased flexibility and by formally and informally reaching out to each other. Thereby, the process is set to achieve a higher degree of concreteness, with compromise ever more materializing on paper.

As Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations, I will continue to promote the interactive nature of our meetings.

All the while, Member States may find inspiration in the documents listed in the abovementioned subparagraph iii, in A/63/960, and in the progress achieved in general during the 63rd session.

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).

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**

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