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DATE: 2 August 2007

TO / A: Communications Office

FROM / DE: Margie Kam, Officer-in-Charge  
General Assembly Affairs Branch, DGACM

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Please fax the attached letter to all Permanent Missions and Permanent Observers to the United Nations as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3 August 2007

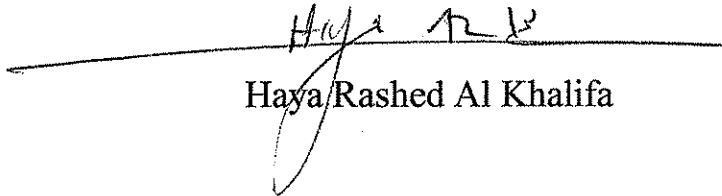
Excellency,

As indicated at our last informal meeting on 19 July 2007, we need, at this stage, to consider the issue of continuing the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council in the upcoming 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly, so that the momentum created during this session could be maintained.

I have, for your information, attached the draft report to be submitted for translation and issuance as a document of the Working Group in all UN official languages.

It is my intention to convene a formal meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Wednesday, 5 September 2007, to consider and adopt the draft report to the General Assembly.

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

  
Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

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

**Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of  
Equitable Representation on and Increase in the  
Membership of the Security Council and Other  
Matters related to the Security Council**

**Draft Report** Submitted by the Chairperson

**I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 48/26 of 3 December 1993, the General Assembly decided to establish an open-ended working group to consider all aspects of the question of increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council.
2. The Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council began its deliberations in January 1994. The Working Group submitted progress reports to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth to sixtieth sessions. At those sessions, the Assembly extended the mandate of the Working Group.
3. On 23 November 1998, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/30 in connection with the agenda item of the Working Group entitled "Majority required for taking decisions on Security Council reform".
4. In the United Nations Millennium Declaration, Heads of State and Government resolved, in respect of ongoing deliberations on Security Council reform, to intensify their efforts to achieve comprehensive reform of the Council in all its aspects (see General Assembly resolution 55/2, annex, para. 30).
5. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome of 16 September 2005, Heads of State and Government expressed support for early reform of the Security Council and recommended that the Security Council continue to adapt its working methods (see General Assembly resolution 60/1, paras. 153 and 154).
6. Following the deliberations of the Working Group, the General Assembly, in its decision 60/568 of 11 September

2006, decided that the Working Group should continue its work and should submit a report to the Assembly before the end of the sixty-first session, including any agreed recommendations. The present report is submitted pursuant to that decision.

## **II. Sixty-first session of the General Assembly**

7. The issue of the reform of the Security Council continues to be among those issues addressed at the annual general debate of the General Assembly. Many Heads of State and Government and other high-level representatives of Member States expressed the views of their Governments on the issue during the general debate of the sixty first session of the General Assembly, held from 19 to 27 September 2006.

8. Member States also expressed their views on the reform of the Security Council when the General Assembly discussed the item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters" (item 111) on 11 and 12 December 2006 (see A/61/PV.72-75).

## **III. Proceedings of the Open-ended Working Group during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly**

### **A. Organizational matters**

9. The President of the General Assembly, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa (Bahrain), served as Chairperson of the Working Group.

10. Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz (Chile), Ambassador Mirjana Mladineo (Croatia), Ambassador Andreas D. Mavroyiannis (Cyprus), Ambassador Frank Majoor (Netherlands), and Ambassador Ali Hachani (Tunisia), were appointed as Facilitators by the Chairperson, on 8 February 2007, to interact with all Member States and to report back to her on the outcome of their consultations by the end of March 2007.

11. Later in the process, the Chairperson also appointed Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz (Chile) and Ambassador Christian Wenaweser (Liechtenstein) to carry the consultation process forward on the basis of the report of the Facilitators.

12. The abovementioned Ambassadors chaired a number of informal meetings and conducted informal consultations with individual and groups of countries.

**B. Meetings, informal meetings and consultations of the Working Group**

13. At its 1st meeting, on 8 February 2007, the Chairperson announced the appointment of the Facilitators and held general exchange of views.

14. At the same meeting, the Chairperson proposed five themes for discussion by the Working Group as follows: "The size of an enlarged Security Council", "The categories of membership", "The question of regional representation", "The question of the veto", and "The working methods of the Security Council and the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly".

15. During the inter-session of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, the Facilitators conducted extensive informal consultations with various individual and groups of delegations. They also convened a number of informal meetings of the Working Group.

16. From 20 to 23 February 2007, the Facilitators chaired separately six informal meetings discussing the five themes proposed by the Chairperson. The Facilitators also jointly convened an informal interactive panel discussion on all 5 themes on Tuesday, 13 March. A report on the discussions at the informal meetings and the succeeding informal consultations was submitted to the Chairperson on 19 April 2007, and circulated to all Member States on 20 April 2007 (See Annex I).

17. At its 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> informal meetings, on 3 and 4 May 2007, the Working Group discussed the report by the Facilitators.

18. At its 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> informal meetings, on 19 July 2007, the Working Group discussed the follow-up report submitted to the Chairperson and circulated to all Member States on 26 June 2007 (See Annex II).

19. At the -- meeting, on -- 2007, the Working Group considered its draft decision (A/AC.247/2007/L.1) and draft report to the General Assembly (A/AC.247/2007/L.2) submitted by the Chairperson.

### C. Adoption of the report of the Working Group

20. At its --- meeting, on --- 2007, the Working Group considered and adopted the present report (A/AC.247/2007/L.2).

### IV. Recommendations

21. At its -- meeting, on --- 2007, the Working Group concluded its work for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. The Working Group decided to recommend that consideration of this item be continued at the sixty-second session of the Assembly, building upon the work done during previous sessions and with a view to facilitating the process of reaching general agreement bearing in mind the need to complete Security Council reform as an integral part of the ongoing United Nations reform process. To that end, the Working Group recommends to the Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

“The General Assembly,

“Recalling its previous resolutions and decisions relevant to the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council,

“Having considered the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council, which was established pursuant to its resolution 48/26 of 3 December 1993, on its deliberations during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly,<sup>1</sup>

“Bearing in mind the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000 adopted by Heads of State and Government<sup>2</sup>, in which they resolved, in respect of reform of the Security Council, to intensify their efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects,

“Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome of 16 September 2005, in which Heads of State and Government expressed support for early reform of the Security Council and recommended that the Security Council continue to adapt its working methods:

“(a) Takes note of the report of the Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council on its work during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly;<sup>1</sup>

“(b) Notes with appreciation the Chair’s initiative to stimulate an active discussion relating to the comprehensive reform of the Security Council by the Working Group;

“(c) Urges the Working Group to continue to exert efforts during the sixty-second session aimed at achieving progress in the consideration of all issues relevant to the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council;

“(d) Decides that the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council should be considered during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly so that further concrete steps may be achieved;

“(e) Also decides that the Working Group should continue its work, taking into account the progress achieved during the forty-eighth to sixty-first sessions of the General Assembly and drawing on the experience of the sixty-first session, as well as the views to be expressed during the sixty-second session, and also taking into consideration the discussion on the process of implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome;

“(f) Further decides that the Working Group should submit a report to the General Assembly before the end of the sixty-second session of the Assembly, including any agreed recommendations.”

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty first Session, Supplement No. 47 (A/61/47)*.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2.