Excellency,

As explained in detail in my letter dated 29 December 2011, this spring I convened a series of five exchanges as part of the eighth round of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform, so that there could be an exhaustive exchange of views about each of the Member State initiatives circulated in my letter dated 9 September 2011 and re-circulated on 29 December. As the series of five meetings is now completed, I wish to thank you, the Member States, for your active participation. I was pleased with the increased level of engagement and interaction which emerged from this series of meetings.

As a logical and straightforward follow-up to this, I am pleased to announce a meeting on 2 July aimed at collectively drawing conclusions from our exchanges about the initiatives and, based on this, charting the path forward for these membership-driven intergovernmental negotiations. At the start of this meeting, I will give the authors of each of the five initiatives an opportunity to share what they have learned from the series of meetings, and if and how they intend to operationalize their own initiative. I encourage the wider membership to also share with all delegations their conclusions regarding the viability of the different initiatives as well as, based on this, their ideas regarding the way forward.

As Chair, I am certain that with the continued support of the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Nassir Al-Nasser, for which I am very grateful, and with your active participation, we will continue to move forward in line with decision 62/557 toward a solution which garners the widest possible political acceptance. I remain impartial to any position, yet partial to progress.

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

Zahir Tanin  
Permanent Representative 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 Security Council