



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Andreas D. Mavroyiannis,
Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations
at 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,
New York, 10 April 2008**

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor and for convening this meeting. Thank you also for circulating all the input you have received since you initiated the overarching process last December; it is positive that so many member states have submitted feedback and it is important that this feedback has been made available to everyone.

In response to your call made during the 14 December 2007 meeting of the open-ended working group, many discussions have taken place in various configurations, reflecting the vibrant interest this issue has always attracted. These discussions, *inter alia*, elicited a contribution that I addressed to you on behalf of a number of representatives on 20 March 2008.

Before I refer to the said letter and its annex and outline some suggestions on how to move forward, I should clarify that the input submitted in the form of this letter aimed to build on progress achieved during the 61st session of the General Assembly and to provide direction regarding future developments.

1. The annex to our letter was prepared in response to your call to member States to form an overarching mechanism to try to bridge their positions on the issue of SC reform. It was processed by a group of representatives in their personal capacity taking into account well-known positions held by States and groups of States, the extent of their flexibility and the realm of what is feasible to achieve.

2. This group of drafters was guided by its vocation to help advance a difficult issue on the basis of their own cumulative experience and expertise. The objective was to formulate a document that could serve as a basis for intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, taking on board the core positions from across the spectrum in an attempt to bridge them.

3. The draft comprises an array of "*negotiables*", that is parameters that must be discussed in good faith, without preconditions and without prejudice to the original position of any member State. Simultaneously, and perhaps most importantly, the draft does not preclude the pursuit of any position, nor does it exclude any negotiation

outcome. While member States can, as in any negotiation and as a matter of principle, try to satisfy their positions to the maximum extent possible, they would have to reconcile themselves with the idea that this can only be the in the course of the negotiation and not *a priori*.

4. The effort of the drafters to reflect the main concerns of all stakeholders has produced an outcome that enables everyone to partly recognize their positions in it but which, while fully reflecting the position of nobody, does not preclude any element of established positions. The objective has been to construct a text that focuses on what is feasible, considering how sensitive the issue is and how diverse the positions among member States are. The only ambition of the text and its drafters was to facilitate pragmatic and result-oriented discussion.

5. I will not dwell on the substance of the draft in question. Its content would be subject to negotiation if it is diagnosed that there is sufficient willingness to convene negotiations. I would however like to clarify that it addresses comprehensively the issue of Security Council enlargement and extensively the issue of its working methods. It is not a compilation of positions that are known to us, as a document of that nature would fail to surmount the obstacle reached in our discussions. It identifies areas of convergence that attempt to shift attention from divisive elements to existing common ground.

6. Regarding procedure however, certain points should be stressed as this is a critical juncture in the process:

a. We have ascertained repeatedly that reform of the Security Council is a shared goal. We must avoid more theological discussions over the issue and focus on generating concrete developments.

b. We now possess the necessary tools and a climate conducive to substantive negotiations. A swift launch of negotiations under your leadership is sought, in formal and informal configurations as required and in accordance with the established negotiating practices at the United Nations.

c. We consider the occasion of this meeting of the open-ended working group a good opportunity to be informed of the shape and form your guidance will take as regards the timing and modalities of the negotiations as well as with respect to the mandate of their coordinator.

7. In anticipation to the launch of negotiations, we consider counterproductive a discussion over how to discuss. We must focus on substance and in doing so, avoid arbitrary modifications to the carefully grafted input before us. We must not forget that determining the content of the end result of the negotiating process is the exclusive right of sovereign member States.

Thank you, Mr. President.