



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**H.E. Ambassador KIM Hyun Chong**

**Permanent Representative**

**Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Related Matters**

**10 April 2008**

**New York**

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Mr. President,

1. I would first like to thank you for convening this meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representative on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Related Matters. I commend and support your leadership to advance the process of Security Council reform. I also support your initiative to establish the Task Force to play a catalytic role in an inclusive, yet transparent manner.

Mr. President,

2. Since the last meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on 14 December 2007, Member States have engaged in efforts to identify the elements of the framework and modalities that can serve as a basis for negotiations on Security Council reform. Uniting for Consensus (UfC), which the Republic of Korea belongs to, has also actively engaged in consultations to address this important issue in the spirit of mutual accommodation and respect.

3. As a result, UfC sent a letter to you on 5 March 2008, which contains its position on the framework for further consultations and negotiations. In this letter, we proposed that the Open-ended Working Group should build on the progress made so far, in particular the work that the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly completed on Security Council reform. In addition, we stressed that in order to lay the groundwork for successful negotiations, it is critical that an agreement should first be reached on the framework and modalities for such negotiations. This will enable us to move into the next stage of the negotiating process by eliminating misunderstanding and confusion over the future process among the members. In this regard, my delegation notes the recent letter addressed to you from the African Group, which signalled their similar approach in moving forward in this manner.

Mr. President,

4. My delegation believes that the seven principles you personally laid out following the last debate on 14 December 2007 will serve as valuable guidelines to move this process forward. The Republic of Korea believes that the Open-ended Working Group is the appropriate forum in which to conduct consultations and negotiations on Security Council reform. Furthermore, Member States also agreed during the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly that the Open-ended Working Group is the legitimate place to discuss Security Council reform.

5. Attempts to establish a separate forum for consultations and negotiations outside of the Open-ended Working Group, without the proper mandate of the Membership, are inconsistent with the agreement reached at the last session of the General Assembly. My delegation can not and will not recognize any draft text or action which is taken unilaterally outside of the Open-ended Working Group. The Open-ended Working Group should first carry out consultations on the framework and modalities, and then further identify and reach consensus on the negotiables.

6. I share your belief, Mr. President, that Member States should refrain from taking steps which could serve to undermine the current momentum, and that further action must allow the Membership to reach consensus on all aspects of Security Council reform, in particular, on the issues of the Council's composition and its working methods. To this end, we should avoid any unilateral proposal or initiative that might force divisive and potentially damaging negotiations among Member States.

7. As you aptly pointed out earlier, Security Council reform is an ongoing process. I fully share your notion that any agreement should therefore be reached stage by stage, before moving on to the next phase, on the basis of consensus.

Mr. President,

8. My delegation believes that Security Council reform is worthwhile only if it is consistent with the fundamental principles of transparency, efficiency, accountability, and representativeness. As expressed in the UfC's letter, addressed to you, Mr. President, the reports submitted by the Facilitators gave a good summary of the positions and proposals of all sides that lead to consensus. We believe that these reports could be points of convergence that would serve as a basis for inclusive negotiations.

Mr. President,

9. The Republic of Korea has consistently supported Security Council reform. I am confident that through your leadership and with the support of the Task Force, that the Open-ended Working Group can engage in constructive and inclusive consultations that will lead to tangible and comprehensive reform. We are willing to work constructively with all Member States and groups during the current session of the General Assembly.

Thank you.