

Statement by Mr. N K Singh, Member of Indian Parliament on agenda item 30 ,
"Report of the Security Council" at the 66th session of the UN General Assembly
on 8 November 2011



Mr. President,

I am honoured to address the General Assembly on behalf of my country on the Annual Report of the Security Council.

I thank the Permanent Representative of Portugal for presenting the Security Council's annual report for the period from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011. I would also like to thank the delegation of Germany for their efforts in preparing the "Introduction" section of the report.

I would also like to place on record our appreciation for the delegation of Nigeria for convening an informal meeting with Member States last month for the preparation of the report.

Mr. President,

In our view, the report of the Security Council is an important means for facilitating interaction between the most representative organ of the United Nations and its most empowered brethren. The UN Charter itself bestows on the report a profound gravitas as is evident from the fact that there exists a separate provision mandating such a report, rather than clubbing it with the provision for reports from other UN bodies.

It is, therefore, imperative that the annual report of the Security Council inform, highlight and analyze the measures that it has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security during the reporting period.

The membership of the General Assembly has repeatedly requested that this report be more analytical and incisive rather than a mere narration of the meetings of the Security Council. It is important the General Assembly be aware not only of what decisions were taken, but also the rationale, efficacy and impact of the Council's decisions, in terms of crystallized take-aways for the membership of the General Assembly.

In this context, it is important that the annual report, and monthly reports annexed to it, mention the important points made by the briefers in the meetings of the Security Council as well as the views expressed by the members of the Security Council. Points of convergences, as also those of divergences, should stand out from these reports so that the wider membership is able to understand the dynamics as well as the rationale of the decision-making in the Security Council.

Unfortunately, the present report too continues to be a statistical compilation of events, a bland summary and listing of meetings and outcome documents. It fails to mention even the strands of different views expressed in the Security Council that led the Council to action or otherwise.

I would still like to give some credit where it is due. The report that is before this Assembly has gone some distance to address some issues mentioned in Operative Paragraph 10 of the resolution adopted by the 65th UN General Assembly on "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly" concerning the quality of the annual reports. It is our expectation that the Council will continue to take steps to make further improvements in the analytical quality of its reports.

Mr. President,

The General Assembly will benefit from an assessment of the multiple dimensions of the issues concerning international peace and security often in a wider geopolitical context that were before the Security Council during the relevant period.

Equally, it would be of immense value if the analysis is not merely an ex post facto rendition of the sequence of events, but contains elements of an ex ante nature that could create an enabling environment for robust handling of the varied situations. Further, even while analysis of economic and social issues fall within the domain of the ECOSOC, we feel that nothing prevents the Council from developing the necessary wherewithal and undertake rational analysis and objective assessment to be able to completely grasp the security implications of socio-economic challenges of an international character.

In the view of my delegation, the practice of dispassionate analysis of such episodes, processes and ex ante prognosis would do a world of good for the Assembly, the Council, the ECOSOC and their inter-relationship.

Mr. President,

My delegation has held for a long while that the existing lacunae in the report are a manifestation of the underlying problems of representation and working methods of the Council, which remain opaque and non-inclusive. The report, this year too, continues to be a statistical compilation of events, a summary and listing of meetings and outcome documents. Since the Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters will be discussed under a separate agenda item this afternoon, my delegation will then make a more detailed statement.

For the time being, suffice it to say that there is no other option but to recognize that the real solution not only for a more credible, legitimate and representative Council, but even for a more thorough report lies in the comprehensive reform of the Security Council, including expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories, and its working methods.

Nonetheless, Mr. President, let us recognize that this year we have made important changes. Changes in terms of altering the format of discussion with the forenoon being devoted to the report of the Security Council and the afternoon to the wider reforms of the membership of the Security Council are welcome. I think this is a useful departure. This is a useful format and it would be the expectation of my delegation to build on the progress which we have achieved and it is, therefore, with hope and expectation that we look forward to the altered discussion and we look forward to reflecting some of these suggestions in the subsequent report of the Security Council and the subsequent deliberations of this General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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