

Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda item 30: “Report of the Security Council and Agenda item 117: “Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council”, at the Joint debate of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General assembly on November 15, 2012

Mr. President,

I am honoured to address the General Assembly on behalf of my country on the Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council.

At the outset let me place on record the Indian delegation’s appreciation for the commitment you have shown towards this important issue.

We welcome the re-appointment of the highly experienced and wise Ambassador Zahir Tanin of Afghanistan as Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations.

His letter of July 2012 which captured the main elements of the eighth round of intergovernmental negotiations that were held during the previous General Assembly session as well as the recommendations contained in the letter are worthy of consideration in depth during the current GA session.

Therefore, we call upon Ambassador Tanin, through you Mr. President to convene a meeting of the intergovernmental negotiations as soon as possible.

We would also like to associate ourselves with the L.69 statement delivered by Ambassador Raymond Wolfe of Jamaica.

Mr. President,

India played an important role in ensuring that the process of intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform was initiated and has played an active role in the deliberations ever since its commencement in 2009.

The current state of play in these negotiations was ably summed up by the Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries in their joint press statement of 25 September 2012. They stated and I quote, “An overwhelming majority of member states voiced support for an expansion of the Security Council in both categories of membership, permanent and non-permanent.”

Further, “The Ministers expressed the view that the strong support for an expansion in both categories should be reflected in the negotiation process among member states and called for the drafting of a concise working document as the basis for further negotiations, in line with the recommendations of the Chairman.”

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the calls made by the G4 Foreign Ministers and express the determination of the Indian delegation to work towards the realization of these ends in the intergovernmental negotiations during the current GA session.

Mr. President,

India is also a member of group of developing countries called the L69. This Group has been most vocal and articulate in expressing the fervent desire among the membership for early reform of the Security Council to make it reflective of contemporary reality and also acknowledge the manifold changes that have taken place in the world since the Council was created in 1945.

It is therefore not at all surprising that the convergences between the L69 and the African Group are increasing day by day.

You have heard Ambassador Raymond Wolfe clearly express the L69 Group's position on the question of the veto. Let me reiterate that we support African aspirations for permanent membership with the veto.

Also there is considerable convergence among the wider membership on other aspects.

We have not yet heard one dissonant voice in respect of enhanced representation for Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Caribbean region, WEOG states as well as an exclusive non-permanent seat for the SIDS.

The reformed Council is expected to have a size in the mid-twenties.

Finally, the membership also wants the Council to continually improve its working methods and see the General Assembly transforming itself into the chief deliberative, legislative, policy-making and representative body of the international community.

Mr. President,

Let me reiterate in conclusion that India is of the view that reform and expansion of the Security Council are essential if it is to reflect contemporary reality. Such an outcome will enhance the Council's credibility and effectiveness in dealing with global issues. Early reform of the Security Council must be pursued with renewed vigour and urgently enacted.

Let me assure you and the rest of the UN membership of our willingness to remain constructive on all issues on the table in the months to come and urge other delegations to do likewise.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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