



Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

No:

شماره :

Date: 16 July 2009

تاریخ :

Excellency,

In strict conformity with the Work Plan elaborated by the President of the General Assembly and embraced by Member States during our successful 19 February launch of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform, I am herewith, after the second round's conclusion, providing guidance to Member States on the path to decisive progress.

The second round consisted of 8 meetings as defined in paragraph 19 of the Overview. On 22 and 26 May, Member States took advantage of the 19th and 20th meetings of the informal plenary to address the general nature, agenda, timing and frequency of any review or challenge. The first cycle saw no less than 51 interventions, followed by 1 in the second. On 11 and 12 June, Member States took advantage of the 21st, 22nd and 23rd meetings of the informal plenary to address the composition of the Security Council, comprising the intertwined key issues of size, categories of membership and regional representation. The first cycle saw no less than 73 interventions, followed by 9 in the second. On 22 and 23 June, Member States took advantage of the 24th, 25th and 26th meetings of the informal plenary to address the Council's functions and powers, voting and procedure, comprising the intertwined key issues of the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly, veto and working methods. The first cycle saw no less than 54 interventions, followed by 6 in the second.

This round, conducted by Member States in good faith, with mutual respect and in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, has evinced the potential for further decisive progress during this GA session towards achieving the objective set by world leaders in paragraph 153 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹:

"We support early reform of the Security Council – an essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations – in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions."

¹ A/RES/60/1.



**Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

At the present stage, Member States are encouraged to undertake their unique responsibility for fully unlocking that potential and to take advantage of the reflection period of the summer hiatus by reaching conclusions about their own positions and by reaching out informally to both their likeminded and non-concurrent peers at both the New York and the capital level. The Overview, which, with the well-known caveat of its paragraph 2, through its paragraphs 14- 17 continues to reflect the principal options for reform, can serve as a source of inspiration for much-needed further concreteness and convergence, building on the current oral and written proposals.

After consideration of the five key issues one by one during the first round and then through two exchanges on, respectively, the key issues under composition (paragraph 14 of the Overview) and on the key issues of paragraphs 15-17 of the Overview during the second, the logical entry-point into the third round is one exchange on all the five key issues together (paragraphs 14-17 of the Overview), scheduled to take place at the end of the reflection period on August 27. Regarding the subsequent exchanges, it was argued on the one hand that the third round should revolve around what has commanded the most support from delegations speaking up during the meetings so far, namely the model with an expansion in both current categories including its different varieties, and on the other hand around what needs to be further explored, namely the intermediate model including its different varieties. As a Chair impartial to any of the positions yet partial to progress, I am pleased to accommodate both these separate requests in light of their conduciveness to the process, with an exchange on the former model scheduled for September 1 and on the latter for September 2. Given our common purpose to, in an open process, build on rather than repeat the outcome of previous exercises, with a view to our September 2 exchange I would like to draw your attention to annex IV of document A/61/47, defined in subparagraph iii of paragraph e of Decision 62/557 as part of the basis for the Intergovernmental Negotiations. After these three exchanges, Member States can expect to receive another letter from the Chair outlining the Membership-driven remainder of the third round, during which our lodestar 62/557 will continue to shine brightly.

As was the case during the first and the second round, as Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations, I will continue to promote the interactive nature of our meetings. Member States will thus again be given

په ملگرو ملتوکی
دافغانستان اسلامی جمهوریت
دایمی نمایندگی - نیویارک



نماینده گی دایمی جمهوری
اسلامی افغانستان
در ملل متحد - نیویارک

**Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

the opportunity to intervene twice, so they can react to and reciprocate the flexibility shown by their peers, but are also again urged to be concise and to limit their interventions to no longer than three minutes.

While, apart from interaction, both the first and the second round were characterized by an intense interest within the membership, I call for an even wider active participation during the third round. Security Council reform is everybody's business and getting down to business with a solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance requires the largest possible number of delegations to speak out. In the words of the President of the General Assembly: "Each and every one of us stands to gain. Peace and security cannot be maintained by a Security Council that is out of date and out of touch. Let our reform effort therefore not run out of time: a better Council cannot wait until tomorrow, if we want to have a better tomorrow."

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

Zahir Tanin,

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic 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 Council.