



BRAZIL

**Statement by
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to the United Nations**

**"Question of equitable representation on and increase in the
membership of the Security Council and related matters:
introduction of draft resolution A/59/L.64"**

(check against delivery)

Mr. President,

I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/59/L.64 on behalf of the following co-sponsors: Afghanistan, Belgium, Bhutan, Czech Republic, Denmark, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Maldives, Nauru, Palau, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Ukraine and Brazil, as well as of the co-sponsors which have joined the initiative since last Thursday July 7, namely Marshall Islands, Lithuania.

At the outset, I express our sincere thanks to you, President Jean Ping, for convening this timely debate and commend your outstanding leadership in conducting the General Assembly's work at its 59th session, and, in particular, the preparatory process for the September Summit.

Mr. President,

As we approach the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations, the membership as a whole shares a sense of urgency in promoting its effectiveness in all areas, and particularly in the field of the maintenance of international peace and security. Awareness of the need for change is especially pronounced among all of us.

The co-sponsors are keenly aware that the consideration of this draft proposal by the 191 members of the United Nations constitutes a historic step in multilateral diplomacy. Its provisions would significantly strengthen this world Organization, and truly reform the Security Council – the main organ entrusted by the Charter with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Accumulated experience acquired since the founding of the United Nations demonstrates that, in the eyes of our peoples, the realities of power of 1945 have long been superseded. The security structure then established is now glaringly outdated. In order to effectively carry out its functions and powers, the Security Council needs to undergo a thorough reform, which includes an expansion of the category of permanent members, in order to bring it in line with the contemporary world.

Such a reform will ensure a better response to the evolving nature and characteristics of threats to peace, as well as a more systematic and effective compliance with its decisions.

Representativeness and equitable participation must be clearly reflected in the Security Council's composition. Only through an updated observance of these principles will the legitimacy of the decisions of the Council be ensured.

Mr. President,

Draft resolution L.64 aims at the expansion of the membership of the Security Council to reflect new realities. As expressed in the draft, this would shape a balance of forces capable of enhancing the Council's responsiveness to the views and needs of all Member States, in particular developing countries, and of ensuring the adoption of improved working methods.

It objectively establishes the required mechanisms to achieve such an outcome, which include making full use of the democratic and universal decision-making processes of the General Assembly. It also determines future consideration of the question of the veto, and foresees a review of the Council's effectiveness and composition fifteen years after the entry into force of the changes proposed.

As is widely known, our draft builds upon a proposal put forward by the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and reiterated by the Secretary-General in his report "In Larger Freedom", and allows for enhanced participation of all regional groups in the Council's composition.

The group of co-sponsors comprises countries rich and poor, large and small, islands and land-locked States, as well as a permanent member of the Security Council.

In preparing the draft, the co-sponsors engaged in open, transparent and extensive dialogue with all member States of the UN, both in New York and in capitals. The result reflects the broadest possible scope of views on the matter, indeed, the views of those that strive for a

genuine, meaningful reform of the Security Council, and in that spirit constructively participated in the process.

Our draft is being presented to the General Assembly in time for decisions to be taken before September. Its submission after the conclusion of two major summit meetings allowed Countries in both Africa and the Caribbean to carefully ponder the pros and cons of the proposed expansion.

We have been greatly encouraged by the fact that the African Heads of State, speaking with one voice at Sirte, have taken a stand so similar to ours, as well as by the St. Lucia CARICOM Heads of Government meeting, in which a significant number of those States indicated that they are inclined to support the proposal.

Mr. President,

The purpose of establishing a more balanced composition of the Security Council can only be realized through a democratic expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent member categories. This is achieved by means of the selection of the new permanent members by the General Assembly, in order to redress the current situation and ensure permanent representation for developed and developing countries alike.

Moreover, the addition of new permanent members selected by the General Assembly establishes a direct link of accountability between the new permanent members and the general membership. The envisaged review mechanism constitutes an additional guarantee to that effect. Promoting substantive and meaningful structural changes to the Security Council will also result in a revision of its practices and working methods.

Taking a decision on this draft means putting underway a process that will no doubt give tremendous impulse to multilateralism and to democratization of international relations, as well as bring about a more balanced and efficient Security Council.

It is a process that, once started, will be owned by the entire UN membership.

Mr. President,

As the United Nations prepares for the convening of the September Summit, it has become increasingly evident that security and development are interconnected in a manner that does not allow for progress in one area without consistent advances in the other.

A more comprehensive, updated definition of present-day threats confronting mankind is essential to ensure that the social, economic and human rights concerns of the peoples of the United Nations are duly taken into account as the UN advances towards more efficiently ensuring peace and security.

The ghastly threat of terrorist attacks, which once more have revealed in shocking manner the indiscriminate brutality and cruelty of this scourge, is another, and sadly recurrent, reminder of the need to update our threat perceptions and adapt appropriate structures to deal with them.

It is clear that the Council's future effectiveness is also contingent upon the permanent presence of major financial contributors and those who are most willing and able to contribute to the work of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

Criticism to our proposal, so far, has failed to realistically address the core issue of permanent membership. Restricting the expansion of the Council to the category of non-permanent members would not only mean the maintenance of the status quo, but also risk increasing the disparity in its composition. It would do nothing to correct its structural imbalances.

Some have also expressed that a proposal such as ours should be subject to a unanimous decision, a claim the true objective of which is plain enough for all to see: simply to block the process. Our response is to let the General Assembly make use of its universal and democratic decision-making process, the same method by which Parliaments daily go about their business.

As for the argument that working to bring this issue to a conclusion – after twelve years of discussion – is somehow still premature, we can only consider it beguiling.

Mr. President,

I must emphasize the shared perception, among co-sponsors and beyond, that a successful conclusion of the reform of the Security Council, would enhance its legitimacy and representativeness, and constitute a most important boost to the strengthening of the Organization and towards ensuring a successful outcome to the September Summit meeting.

We are convinced that, both in substance and in procedure, our proposal effectively and unambiguously promotes, in a direct, concrete manner, a democratization of international relations under the aegis of the United Nations and facilitates the achievement of peace and security in full harmony with the observance of the purposes and principles of the Charter; a goal now within reach. An opportunity such as this one must not be missed.

Mr. President,

As I conclude, it is important to recall Secretary-General Kofi Annan's remark that no UN reform would be complete without a reform of the Security Council, and his recommendation for us to deal with this issue before September. Perhaps more than anyone else, he has been aware of the dire need to preserve and strengthen the United Nations as the only multilateral, universal

instrument for addressing and resolving the multifaceted and increasingly complex crises that affect humanity. Once more we will do well in heeding his advice.

I wish to ~~make~~ clear, in this regard, that we do not seek to impose a vote on this matter before it has been comprehensively discussed by the member States in this debate. As has been the case since the establishment of the G-4, ten months ago, and now with full participation of all co-sponsors, we stand ready to advance in the dialogue with all those groups that genuinely wish to promote the strengthening of this Organization, and of its capacity to deal with contemporary threats to peace and security.

As the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Germany, India, Japan and my own Country stated in London last Friday, 8 July: "Against the backdrop of the decisions of the recent Summit of the African Union in Sirte and the Caricom Summit in St. Lucia, the Ministers reiterated their readiness to continue dialogue with the African Union, Caricom, as well as co-sponsors of the draft resolution and the UN membership as large."

Putting this decision to practice, they met, at that occasion, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, in his capacity as a member of the core group of the follow-up mechanism on the reform of the United Nations established by the African Union, to review developments at the AU Summit in Sirte and to discuss prospects for common action in the immediate future with regard to the expansion and reform of the UN Security Council.

In presenting this proposal, the co-sponsors have taken a bold step that opens the way for real, meaningful change in this Organization. Let us all follow through in our determination to bring about a better world.

Thank you.

