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STATEMENT

by H.E. Mrs. Tiina Intelmann, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN

As Chairman of the Eastern European Group

At the 85th plenary meeting of the General Assembly

On the report of the Secretary-General "In Larger Freedom"

New York, 6 April, 2005

Mr. President,

In my capacity as the Chair of the Eastern European Group I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Eastern European Group eligible for non-permanent membership of the Security Council.

I wish to thank you for convening this plenary meeting of the General Assembly to discuss the report of the Secretary-General "In Larger Freedom" under your chairmanship. We are committed to take an active part in this decisive stage of consultations and preparations in the lead up to the Summit in September 2005.

We join other delegations in expressing our appreciation to you for your continuous contribution to our reform efforts and to the preparation of the Summit. We are looking forward to a significant outcome at the Summit in September.

Mr. President,

We reaffirm our support to the Secretary General, to his role and leadership in promoting reform.

We would like to address an issue of importance to us, namely the reform of the Security Council. In his report, the Secretary-General urges Member States to consider the two options, Models A and B, or any other viable proposals and to take a decision on this issue. In this context, we would like to refer to the Letter of the States Members of the Group of Eastern European States eligible for non-permanent membership of the Security Council in response to the recommendations of the Highlevel Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change concerning the enlargement of the Security Council, dated 28 February 2005.

The member States of the Group of the Eastern European States, eligible for non-permanent membership of the Security Council, wish to re-emphasize that two models of the enlargement of the Security Council, as presented by the High-level Panel report and mentioned in the Secretary-General's report do not meet their expectations.

In this regard, these Member States of the Group would like to stress further that existing regional groups should be maintained.

These Member States reiterate their view, stated in the Joint position paper in May 1998 (UN document: A/52/47) that any increase in the non-permanent membership of the Security Council should ensure an enhanced representation of the EEG by the allocation to the said Group of at least one additional non-permanent seat in the enlarged Security Council. These Member States wish to remind the fact that, since 1991, the EEG has more than doubled its membership.

Mr. President,

These members of the EEG highly appreciate Secretary-General's recommendation to all members of the UN to make the Security Council more broadly representative of the international community as a whole and more effective. Therefore, we are confident that legitimate interests of the EEG will be fully taken into account in this crucial process.

I thank you, Mr. President,