

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz
Permanent Representative of Egypt
to the United Nations**

Before the General Assembly

**59th Session: Agenda item 53
Question of equitable representation on and increase in the
membership of the Security Council and related matters
Draft resolution contained in document A/59/L.67**

Please check against delivery

18 July, 2005

Mr. President,

My delegation is pleased to participate in the presentation of the African draft resolution on reform and expansion of the Security Council, which illustrate the vision and wisdom of the African leaders who arrived at this common position at the Sirte Summit held at the beginning of this month. By presenting this draft resolution, our leaders are indicating their willingness for effective contribution in meeting the aspiration of the international community through genuine institutional reform based on affirming the principles of justice and equality, and on the effective participation by all states, cultures and civilizations in the international collective work through the United Nations.

Despite the fact that African issues are dominating more than 60 % of the Security Council agenda, several practices and historical factors have deprived our continent of representation in the permanent category of membership in the Security Council, as well as its equitable share in the non-permanent membership of the Council. Thus, the time has come to redress such situation as we embark on a genuine institutional reform for our Organization, and for Africa to regain its legitimate rights with a view to enhance, both, the legitimacy and effectiveness of Security Council actions and resolutions, as well as the Council's capacity to address the new challenges and threats faced by the international community.

Africa, in its endeavours to reach here today, has taken several steps beginning in Mauritius in 1976, the launching point towards meeting our common objective, followed by the adoption of our first African common position in Harare 1997, which was recently re-evaluated and reformulated in the "Ezulwini Consensus". The "Ezulwini Consensus" is the basis upon which the Sirte Declaration, and this draft resolution before us, were adopted.

Our African solidarity, which is the foundation of all our common endeavours, has been, throughout the process, the guiding light to our objective. The "Ezulwini Consensus" was the result of mutual compromises by all African states, by those who supported models "A" or "B" alike. It painted an integrated picture of our common position, which is based on demanding two permanent seats, with all privileges and prerogatives enjoyed by the current permanent members, including the right of veto, in addition to five non-permanent seats, thus allowing all of our five sub-regions continued representation on the Council. Moreover, we have managed to institute solid foundations and guarantees for an expansion which will serve the interest of the whole of Africa. We have clearly emphasized, leaving no room for any doubt, the integrity of all elements in our common African position, with no exceptions.

No other regional group has managed to address the issue at hand in a regional context based on the principles of cooperation and solidarity, which are, in our view, essential in strengthening the democratic foundation upon which each region would select its own representatives in the Security Council. In contrast, Africa was the only region which addressed the regional dimension of the expansion of the Council with the view to strengthen the ties between the performance of new African members and the core issues of our continent, which dominate the Council's agenda, while taking into consideration the relevant provisions of the Charter mandating the election of the members of the Council by two thirds majority in the General Assembly.

As evident from the draft resolution before us, Africa was not solely considerate of its own demands and aspirations. We have presented an integrated vision of a just expansion of the Security Council in a manner which takes into consideration the interests of all geographic regions, and which guarantees a balanced representation of all civilizations and cultures in the expanded Council. In this context, Africa also has taken into consideration the just demands of the Non-Aligned Movement, as contained in the Final Document of the Durban Summit in 1998, by proposing the increase in the membership of the Security Council to no less than 26 seats. Furthermore, the African draft resolution reflected the link between the African aspiration on the one hand, and those of all four other regional groups of the United Nations, without necessarily undermining the right for each region to determine its own vision of what would serve its idea of justice and what would meet its interests.

In this context, Africa has initiated, through the Follow-up Mechanism established by its leaders in Sirte, a series of meetings and consultations with all regional and political groupings, as well as other stakeholders, with the objective to expand the basis for an inclusive agreement that would meet all of our interests, with no exceptions.

Mr. President,

The delegation of Egypt would like to align itself with the call made by Nigeria, in its capacity as the current Chairmanship of the African Union, for all Member States to support the African draft resolution, which presents a new dimension in the institutional reform process we are aspiring for. Among the main pillars of this draft resolution is the call for the elimination of the right of veto for all, current and potential permanent members of the Security Council alike, as an anachronistic and undemocratic practice which does not correspond to the spirit of our time. However, and until this objective materializes, Africa would insist, based on the principles of equality, justice and democracy, that all new permanent members shall enjoy the right of veto in equity with the current permanent members.

Mr. President,

The membership of the Security Council is a responsibility to be shouldered by those states which will be selected for such an honour. Thus, this type of membership must rely on an increasing capacity to effectively contribute to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. We must strive to correct the mistakes of the past and to ensure a balance between all regions and civilizations through the process of expanding the membership of the Security Council.

To this end, our shared responsibility will also lead us to work for the genuine reform of the working methods of the Security Council. A reform which will address malpractices, reaffirm the balance between the mandates of the principal organs of the United Nations and guarantee that the Security Council will remain a model for justice and equality, and a platform for an effective partnership in the formulation and implementation of a new collective security system.

Thank You.