

**Question of Equitable Representation in the Security Council
and Enlargement of Membership and Related Issues
Remarks by H. Exc. Mr. Jean-Marc de La Sablière**

(07/11/2005)

Mr. President,

My delegation thanks you for organizing the debate today on reform of the Security Council.

The debate, we feel, comes at the right time. And does so for at least two reasons.

First, our Organization has been examining the enlargement of the Council for several years already. Every stone has now been turned over, in particular since the intensive consultations among us launched by the report of the high-level panel last summer. Everyone knows, as the Secretary-General said, that the time has come to conclude the deliberations.

Especially as we are now moving into the final phase of preparations for the September summit. Thanks to the intensive collective work by the Assembly, under your leadership, our heads of state and government should be in a position to adopt measures by September in all areas--development, security, human rights, structures and management of our organization--that are, we hope, going to profoundly change the face of the United Nations.

Now, it goes without saying that Security Council reform is an important element in the overall reform of the United Nations. Everyone is well aware of the paramount role of the Security Council in regard to peace and security. This role, moreover, is growing. If one thinks about it, looking at the list of crises on the Council agenda, it is actually employed for the benefit of the most fragile and the most vulnerable regions or countries—or populations.

It is therefore indispensable to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council by ensuring that its composition better reflects the realities of today's world.

Mr. President,

To achieve this objective, France has maintained from the beginning that the Security Council needs to be enlarged in both categories of members, permanent and non-permanent. The number of permanents should be extended to other powers that are in a position to make a major contribution to world peace and security. In accordance with the Charter, we should also establish, in the case of non-permanents, a satisfactory geographic representation. Lastly we should ensure the equitable representation of Africa, including in regard to permanent-member category, which has fortunately, through its regional organizations, been able to establish a fruitful partnership with the Security Council in managing its crises.

Four countries—Brazil, Germany, India and Japan—whose individual aspirations we support, have introduced a draft resolution. This draft fully corresponds to the various imperatives I have just mentioned. It is moreover, as everyone knows, the result of lengthy and thorough consultations. I will add one obviously essential element: on sensitive issues, including the right of veto, the draft resolution includes appropriate provisions that are without ambiguity; on that basis, France is co-sponsoring the draft.

Mr. President,

I hope that the draft resolution meets with broad support when the principal authors put it to the vote.

Thank you for your attention.