



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR AMINU BASHIR WALI
AMASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 53:
(QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION AND
INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS)**

AT

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 18 July 2005

Mr. President,

On behalf of African Member States, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution A/59/L. 67 co-sponsored by the States listed in the document.

2. Africa's quest for membership of an expanded United Nations Security Council, in both the permanent and non-permanent – categories, has been expressed in the various contributions of African States to past debates, including the consultations initiated by you, Mr. President. Africa's position is based on the appreciation that this important organ has to adapt itself to the current realities, by reflecting principle of equity and balance in its composition, and competences. This could not be otherwise, given that the Council exercises primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security throughout the world. The Council shall therefore, gain in stature and win wider legitimacy of the international community for its decisions, if it is truly representative of all the membership.

3. At their recently concluded Fifth (5th) Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, in Sirte, Great Socialist Peoples Libyan

Arab Jamahiriya, African Heads of State and Government resolved to throw the weight of their political support behind current efforts of the international community to achieve that objective. Africa considers that now is the time most opportune to take a decision on this matter on which there have been several debates over the years. The issues are clear, the challenges obvious, and the opportunities enormous. The forthcoming High Level event, next September, will provide Member States an invaluable opportunity to rekindle hopes of mankind and confidence in the United Nations as our foremost multilateral body. Such a decision will also serve to convince critics of the Organisation that the Member States can rise above narrow interest and embrace the larger interests of the international community.

4. The foregoing points undergird the draft resolution, which, in its preambular paragraphs contain the following principles

- i. First, reaffirmation of commitment to the strengthening of the United Nations including the Security Council.

- ii. Secondly, the views of Member States should count on the decision to bring to fruition ideas on the reform of the Security Council.
- iii. Thirdly, the need for the Security Council to be more representative of the entire membership. This entails correction of the current inequity and imbalance in its composition.
- iv. Fourthly, the Security Council would be better placed to perform its primary responsibilities in maintenance of international peace and security when it is more inclusive.

Mr. President,

In the operative paragraphs, the resolution makes a strong case for the realisation of the foregoing objectives. It envisages a size for the Council that would neither weaken its cohesion nor erode the common will to defend, and advance the cause of international peace and security worldwide. It proposes a distribution of the seats, in the permanent and non-permanent category, in a manner that should ensure more representation by developing countries, whilst taking account of some key players with significant contributions to the advancement of the goals and objectives of

the United Nations. It seeks to invest, especially the new Permanent Members, with competences commensurate with their new responsibilities in an expanded Council. Finally, it proposes that there should be an amendment of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter to bring into effect the proposed expansion.

Mr. President,

The African Group considers the draft as balanced and tailored to meet the challenges of our time. It proposes gains for every region as recommended by the Report of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change, as well as of the Secretary General's report, entitled "In larger freedom." It also seeks to address the fundamental imbalance in the composition of the Security Council.

The instruction of African Heads of State is that the draft resolution should be submitted with a view to serving as a reference point for negotiation with other Member States and interested groups. Africa is, therefore, open to negotiations; but for negotiations to be productive, it goes without saying that the interlocutors must have some fundamental points of agreement bearing in mind the determination of Africa to rectify its present

position as the only region without representation on the Security Council in the permanent membership category. The co-sponsors, therefore, commend the draft resolution to Member States for consideration.

I thank you.