

**Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations**

New York UN, November 3rd, 2005
633 Third Avenue 29th Floor
New York NY 10017-6706

To all Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers of all Missions to
the United Nations

Excellency, dear colleague,

As you are aware, in the 2005 Summit Outcome Document Heads of State and Government have called for enlargement and adaptation of the working methods of the Security Council. They agreed that early reform of the Security Council is an “essential element of our overall effort to reform the United Nations, in order to make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent, and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions”. Moreover, it is recommended that the Security Council continue “to adapt its working methods so as to increase the involvement of States not members of the Council in its work, as appropriate, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work” (paragraphs 152-154).

As a contribution to the implementation of the Summit Outcome Document, we, a group of like-minded countries, have drafted a resolution on the working methods of the Security Council which we attach for your consideration. We look forward to engaging with all Member States in an exchange of views on this draft resolution. To this end, we intend to call an information session soon.

For most of the time, the majority of us will not be members of the Security Council. Yet we may be important contributors to the operations mandated by the Security Council, and are in many instances required to implement its decisions. A better structured relationship between the Security Council and the membership at large is thus crucial in order to promote transparency, information exchange, accountability and inclusiveness with the view to enhancing the effectiveness of the Security Council's decisions.

In our view, the issue of working methods has been neglected in our deliberations for too long, while in fact it deserves the same attention as the question of enlargement. The signatories of this letter are convinced that the adoption of this draft resolution would give impetus to a comprehensive reform of the Security Council and would lead to a stronger momentum for its enlargement. While we recognize and commend past efforts to adapt working methods by members of the Security Council, we conclude that results remain inadequate to the challenges we are confronted with today and the aspirations of the membership at large.

In our view, enlargement and working methods are better served if dealt with in parallel and complementary processes: enlargement, by whatever formula the General Assembly will decide, is a one-time decision resulting inevitably in a Charter amendment and the ensuing ratifications. Adaptation of the working methods will always be a process based on dialogue among the Council's members and between the Council and the membership at large, and does not necessarily lead to Charter amendments.

Our draft resolution is respectful of the competencies and roles for the General Assembly and the Security Council as foreseen in the Charter, and recognizes that the Security Council is master of its own procedures and working methods. The measures contained in the annex of our draft resolution are therefore recommended for mere consideration by the Security Council which is invited to report to the General Assembly on its deliberations. We hope that the enclosed resolution will stimulate a meaningful and productive dialogue on the implementation of the commitments of the September Summit.

We look forward to discussing this draft resolution in an open and constructive manner and hope for your support for early tabling and action on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Permanent Representative of Costa Rica



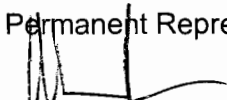
Bruno Stagno

Permanent Representative of Jordan



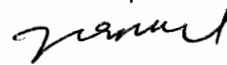
Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini

Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein



Christian Wenaweser

Permanent Representative of Singapore



Vanu Gopala Menon

Permanent Representative of Switzerland



Peter Maurer

Encl.

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The General Assembly

Reaffirming that the Member States of the United Nations have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on their behalf, as provided for by the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the provisions relating to the powers and functions of the General Assembly in matters pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular Article 11, Article 12, paragraph 1, Article 15, paragraph 1 and Article 24, paragraph 3,

Stressing the special responsibility of the Permanent Members of the Security Council to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter and to give their full support to the actions of the Organization aimed at maintaining international peace and security,

Noting with appreciation the work carried out by the Open-Ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council,

Acknowledging the significant steps taken by the Security Council to enhance inclusion and representation of the general membership,

Emphasizing the need for further measures to ensure accountability, transparency, inclusion, representation and legitimacy of the work of the Security Council, with a view to further enhancing its effectiveness,

Reaffirming its support for early reform of the Security Council as an essential element of the overall effort to reform the United Nations, as stated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document,

Acknowledging that efforts to improve the working methods of the Security Council promote a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, including the increase in its membership,

1. *Invites* the Security Council to consider the measures contained in the annex to the present resolution in order to further enhance inclusion, transparency, accountability and legitimacy of its work with a view to strengthening its effectiveness;
2. *Further invites* the Security Council to report to the General Assembly, by the end of its 60th session, on action it has taken pursuant to consideration of the present resolution.

Annex

Measures on Working Methods suggested for consideration by the Security Council

Relationship with the General Assembly and other principal organs

1. The Members of the Security Council should engage in an informal, interactive discussion on the annual report of the Security Council, when it is considered by the General Assembly.
2. The Security Council should submit periodically, in accordance with Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern, including on issues such as termination of peace-keeping operations, imposition of enforcement measures and other topics of relevance to the membership as a whole.
3. More substantive exchanges of views among the Security Council, the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council should be established on a frequent basis and as a standard operating procedure. The procedures governing this interaction should be disseminated to the larger membership.
4. Regular and timely consultations between Members and non-Members of the Security Council should be established as part of the standard operating procedures of the Security Council. The incoming Security Council President should hold a briefing open to the larger UN membership on the monthly forecast.
5. Where decisions by the Security Council are likely to require implementation by all Member States, the Security Council should ensure that the views of the Member States and their ability to implement decisions are taken into account in the decision-making process.

Implementation of decisions

6. The Security Council should explore ways to assess the extent to which its decisions have been implemented. To this end, the Security Council should establish lessons-learned groups tasked with
 - assessing whether Security Council decisions have been implemented,
 - analyzing obstacles to implementation and reasons for non-implementation,
 - suggesting mechanisms or measures on the basis of best practices aimed at enhancing implementation.

Subsidiary bodies

7. The Security Council's subsidiary bodies should include in their work, on a case-by-case basis, non-Members with strong interest and relevant expertise.
8. The Security Council should take steps to improve the quality and frequency of formal and informal reports on the work of all its subsidiary bodies.
9. The President of the Security Council and the Chairpersons of its subsidiary bodies should offer informal opportunities for other Member States to provide substantive input to their work.
10. The Security Council should give States confronted with special economic problems arising from preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council the opportunity to consult with the relevant Sanctions Committee on a timely, efficient, and substantive basis, in accordance with Article 50 of the UN Charter.
11. Where sanctions involve lists of individuals or entities, Sanctions Committees should establish procedures, reflecting standards of due process, to review the cases of those claiming to have been incorrectly placed or retained on such lists.
12. The Security Council should explore ways to increase the transparency of the work of its Sanctions Committees, *inter alia* by making summary records more widely and promptly available and by inviting affected non-Members to participate in its meetings, upon their request.

Use of the veto

13. A Permanent Member using its veto should explain the reason for doing so to the General Assembly within five working days after the relevant resolution was rejected in the Security Council.
14. No Permanent Member should cast a non-concurring vote in the sense of Art. 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter in the event of genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Operations mandated / carried out by the SC

15. The Security Council should ensure that all Member States are fully and promptly informed of all developments regarding its missions, including on budgetary aspects.
16. The Security Council should enhance consultations with troop-contributing countries (TCCs) and other States that are particularly affected or involved, at any stage of an operation involving particular risks for the deployed personnel.

Integration of new Members

17. The Security Council Affairs Division should be tasked with identifying best practices employed by Members of the Security Council to consult with non-Members with a view to incorporate these practices into the Security Council's Rules of Procedure and into briefings given to candidates for election to the Security Council as well as to newly-elected Members of the Security Council.
18. In order to facilitate the integration of newly-elected Members of the Security Council, the UN secretariat should prepare and disseminate a detailed briefing packet on the procedures, practices and work of the Security Council.