



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
SOUTH AFRICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT
BY**

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PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON AGENDA ITEM 53:

**“QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND
INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS”**

**UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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Check against delivery

Mr President,

We thank you for convening this meeting to afford African States the opportunity to introduce our draft resolution on Security Council reform to the United Nations membership. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr President,

The resolution presented today is the product of extensive consultations between the African countries and sets out the common African position on Security Council reform, as adopted by our leaders in Sirte earlier this month.

Africa seeks two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats in an expanded Security Council, as well as fundamental changes in the working methods of the Council to make it more transparent and accountable. The principle that underpins this resolution is the need to ensure Africa's effective representation in the Security Council, like all the other regions of the world. This is especially important at a time when African issues dominate the agenda of the Security Council.

Mr President,

We have reached a decisive phase in the decades-long debate on the reform of the Security Council. Member States now have an unprecedented opportunity to modernise the Council and to make it more representative of - and responsive to - the needs of all peoples. We believe that this is the time to begin redressing historical injustices in global governance and to give a voice to the billions of people in the developing world who are now excluded from the decision-making processes in the Security Council. It is also a time to close a chapter of history following two World Wars and to move forward in our quest for collective security by working together in a more inclusive, transparent and democratic manner.

If we fail to seize this opportunity, the credibility and legitimacy of the Security Council and the entire system of global governance will continue to erode, to the detriment of all. We believe that we have reached the point where public expectations for good global governance can no longer be deferred to some undetermined point in the future.

Mr President,

Africa views Security Council reform as an important and integral part of a larger reform process at the United Nations and beyond. We proceed from the fact that people in developed and developing countries alike aspire to live in dignity, free from want and fear. We are ready to fully engage all regions of the world in the work of the United Nations and to enlist their support for the progress of humanity.

I thank you, Mr President