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**Question of equitable representation on and
increase in the membership of the Security
Council and related matters:**

draft resolution A/59/L.64

**Statement by H.E. Sir Emyr Jones Parry
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
and Northern Ireland**

12 July 2005

Check against delivery

Mr President,

The British Government welcomes this debate on the important issue of Security Council reform. We have supported expansion of the membership of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories for some time. An enlarged and strengthened Security Council will be more representative of the UN's membership, and better able to meet the challenges of today's world, and, even with expansion, the ratio of Security Council to General Assembly members will be no more than it was 60 years ago.

We also want a Council which is more transparent, engages better with other UN bodies and consults more effectively with the wider membership. This greater openness will enable the Council better to perform its Charter responsibilities.

The Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, underlined the UK's long standing position, in his address to the General Assembly last September, in favour of permanent membership for India, Brazil, Germany and Japan. The UK also supports permanent membership for Africa.

The UK will therefore vote in favour of this resolution. But it needs to be made clear that the UK has never believed that the extension of the veto beyond the current five permanent members is a necessary feature of expanded permanent membership, nor would it be in the wider interests of the UN. The UK casts its vote with this in mind and will carefully scrutinise the necessary amendments to the UN Charter. Reforming the Security Council is an important aspect of adapting the UN to face the challenges of the 21st century. But it is only one aspect.

The work which you are leading, Mr President, in preparing substantial and ambitious outcomes for the September Summit, is essential. That meeting will be a vital rendezvous for the United Nations. At issue is no less than relaunching a reformed and revitalised UN, to meet the security, development and human rights needs of this new century:

- to tackle the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, thus ensuring freedom from want;
- to adopt and implement policies to ensure freedom from fear and the freedom to live in dignity;
- to build on the reform agenda which the Secretary-General is leading;
- to have institutions and organs capable of delivering these objectives.

Mr President, we must redouble our efforts, in support of yours, in the coming days and weeks, to achieve these ambitious and comprehensive outcomes. The United Kingdom will continue to do our utmost to contribute to that goal.