



The Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations
"Uniting for Consensus" – Focal Point

N. 2169

May 27, 2005

Excellency,

following our letter of May 25, please, find the enclosed elements for a decision on Security Council reform.

We believe that this proposal contains the appropriate elements to achieve the objectives of making the Security Council more democratic, equitably representative, transparent, effective and accountable.

First, the Uniting for Consensus proposal is equitable and fair. In increasing the size of the Council from 15 to 25, it does not discriminate between UN Member States. All are eligible for election/re-election in accordance with the principle of sovereign equality.

Second, it is representative. It will enhance the ratio of non-permanent to permanent members from 2:1 to 4:1. It will also increase the opportunity for larger representation of the developing countries.

Third, it is flexible. While it provides for enlarging the Council by adding 10 "non-permanent" or elected seats, it entrusts the 5 regional groups with the authority to determine their own specific arrangements with regard to their representation on the Council. Each regional group could decide whether it wishes to be represented continuously, frequently or periodically by certain States from their regions. In this way, the specific decisions of the existing regional groups such as the African Group could be respected. Other interested constituencies, such as the Arab Group, the OIC or the CARICOM, etc. could work out their own arrangements to ensure adequate representation. Such "variable geometry" in the representation of regions would also serve to better reflect the new and emerging political realities than a rigid formula.

H.E. Jean Ping, President of the General Assembly.

CC: H.E. Kofi Annan, Secretary General.
All the Permanent Representatives and the
Permanent Observers to the United Nations.

Fourth, it enhances accountability through the provision of election/re-election and rotation where applicable.

Fifth, it is realistic. The provisions included in the proposal could secure the support of a vast majority of UN Member States. Thus, the proposed Charter amendments have a real chance of being ratified soon after their adoption.

Sixth, it can evoke the "broadest possible agreement" and thus prevent a political division among Member States on the issue of Security Council expansion.

Last but not the least, it is simple. The proposal envisages the direct approval of Charter amendments. It would not need to go through a complex, uncertain and un-chartered process of adopting a framework resolution, selecting new permanent members and then approving a Charter amendment. Thus, this decision could become operational sooner and form part of the larger UN reform process.

We look forward to exchanging comments and inputs in the course of the consultation process led by the President of the General Assembly

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration,



Aldo Mantovani
Charge' d'Affaires a.i.

**Elements for a decision
on Security Council Reform**

to be incorporated in the final Outcome Document

To achieve the objectives of making the Security Council more democratic, equitably representative, transparent, effective and accountable, the following elements could be the basis for a consensus decision by the General Assembly:

Decision to adopt Charter amendments

1. *Decides* to adopt the following amendments to the Charter and to submit them for ratification by the Member States of the United Nations. (res. 1991 A/XVIII)

Enlarged Composition

2. *Decides* that Article 23, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Charter of the United Nations will read as follows (amendments underlined):

“1. The Security Council shall consist of twenty-five Members of the United Nations. France, the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America shall be permanent members of the Security Council. The General Assembly shall elect twenty other Members of the United Nations to be non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution.

2. The non-permanent members of the Security Council shall be elected for a term of two (or three) years. In the first election of the non-permanent members after the increase of the membership of the Security Council from fifteen to twenty-five, five of the retiring members shall continue for one more year. Retiring members may be eligible for immediate re-election subject to the decision of their respective regional groups”

Distribution of Seats

3. *Decides* that, in order to implement the above paragraph, the twenty non-permanent members of the Security Council shall be elected according to the following pattern: six from African States; five from Asian States; four from Latin American and Caribbean States; three from Western Europe and Other States; two from Eastern European States (res. 1991 A/XVIII)

Role of Regional Groups

4. *Recommends* that each of the five existing geographical groups (identified above) elaborate arrangements for optimal use of its allocated seats, including criteria and

¹ The status of regional groups may need to be defined in the UN Charter,

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arrangements for re-elections and rotation, and an equitable sub-regional representation, as appropriate.

New Majority Required for Security Council decisions

5. *Decides* to amend also Article 27 paragraphs 2 and 3 and Article 109, paragraph 1, of the Charter to require the affirmative vote of 15 of the 25 members of the Security Council².

Working Methods

6. *Calls* for the consideration of the Security Council's working methods, in a transparent, inclusive and accountable manner, including in particular:

- Restraint on the use of the veto,
- Procedures to guarantee transparency in decision making, accountability in performance and access to information including open briefings and interaction with all interested parties.
- Consultation, cooperation and adequate exchange of information with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Access and better participation of non-Member States of the Security Council in the work of the Security Council.

- Adoption and circulation of formal rules of procedure.

Ratification of Charter Amendments

7. *Calls upon* Member States to ratify the above amendments, in accordance with their respective constitutional processes, by XXX, 2007. (res. 1991A/XVIII)

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it a report on the status of the process of entry into force of these amendments to the Charter, at its Sixty-first regular session.

² Regarding paragraph 3 of article 27, the requirement of the concurring votes of the permanent members is not amended.