



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 December 2005

Implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome
Review of Progress on Security Council reform

Excellency,

As you may recall, paragraph 153 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome stated the following on Security Council reform:

“We support early reform of the Security Council - 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. We commit ourselves to continuing our efforts to achieve a decision to this end and request the General Assembly to review progress on the reform set out above by the end of 2005.”¹

I have endeavored to conduct the work of implementation and follow-up of the 2005 World Summit Outcome in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. I have also expressed the hope that we should address each item on its own merits and in a manner conducive to overall progress in the reform process.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

¹ A/60/1, paragraph 153

Security Council Reform was addressed by a great number of speakers in the General Debate of the General Assembly on 17–23 September 2005.

In my letter to Member States of 30 September on follow-up and implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome I stated my preparedness to listen to all interested parties regarding the continued efforts to move the important issue of Security Council reform forward.

On 10-11 November 2005, the General Assembly considered agenda item 9 *Report of the Security Council* and item 117 *Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters*. This debate was the first formal opportunity for the membership to discuss Security Council reform since the World Summit and the General Debate. In my introductory remarks, I invited Member States to consider this matter in light of paragraph 153 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Seventy-one delegations participated in the debate and discussed Security Council reform in all its aspects, including issues related to the expansion and the working methods of the Council.

The debate reconfirmed widespread agreement that there is a need to expand the Security Council with a view to making it more broadly representative and, at the same time, that enlargement of the Council's membership should contribute to its efficiency and effectiveness. However, the debate also showed that views remain divergent with regard to modalities for enlargement. Differences of view remain *inter alia* as to the size of the Council and the categories of its expanded membership.

At the 2005 World Summit, Heads of State and Government declared: “We recommend 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”².

During the General Assembly debate on 10-11 November, delegations reaffirmed the importance of implementing this recommendation. Member States noted the steps taken by the Security Council over recent months and years to reform its working methods. They also expressed the view that there

² A/60/1, paragraph 154

was need for further measures to improve accountability, transparency and involvement of States not members of the Council in its work, with a view to increasing the effectiveness and legitimacy of its decisions.

In this context, many delegations welcomed the proposed text of a draft resolution entitled “*Working methods of the Security Council*” circulated informally by Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland. This text attracted substantial interest in this aspect of Security Council reform and has been the subject of continued informal discussions.

On 14 December 2005, a group of African countries tabled draft resolution A/60/L.41 entitled “*Reform of the Security Council*”. I have been in contact with the sponsors of this draft resolution, which is based on a mandate emanating from the African Union. We have agreed to continue to discuss how this matter can best be pursued to help achieve Security Council reform as well as contribute to the overall reform process of the United Nations with broadest possible agreement.

The general debate, the debate on 10-11 November, the five country initiative on working methods as well as the tabling of draft resolution A/60/L.41 have illustrated the continued strong interest among Member States in Security Council reform. The view that reform of the Security Council is an essential element of the overall reform effort of the organization is widely embraced.

Against this background, I strongly believe that discussions on Security Council reform should resume in 2006. I shall be available for consultations with Member States which are considering initiatives on Security Council reform as well as with other Member States.

I intend to convene 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 (OEWG)*” in the New Year. As you may recall, the General Assembly has recommended that the work of the OEWG should be continued in the sixtieth session of the Assembly, building upon the work of previous sessions and with a view to facilitating the process of reaching general agreement.³

³ Supplement No. 47 (A/59/47), page 3

I encourage Member States to continue to engage in constructive dialogue on the important issue of Security Council reform. I am fully committed to pursuing the goal of Security Council reform as agreed at the 2005 World Summit.

In my continued work, I shall primarily be guided by ideas and contributions from Member States on the best way towards a reform of the Security Council which is equitable and effective and meets with broadest possible agreement.



Jan Eliasson