



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 June 2006

Excellency,

As you recall, at the 2005 World Summit our leaders stated their support for early reform of the Security Council as an essential element in our overall effort to reform the United Nations. Against this background, a number of Member States have expressed their interest in addressing once again the important issue of Security Council reform at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

I have, through my Chef de Cabinet, consulted the regional groups, as well as individual Member States on this issue.

Through these consultations, I have ascertained that there is widespread support for the idea of holding such a meeting at an early opportunity, taking into account the workload of the General Assembly as well as the upcoming high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva. In view of this, it is my intention to convene a plenary meeting under Agenda items 117, "Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council" and 120, "Follow-up to the Outcome of the Millennium Summit" starting on Thursday, 20 July, at 10 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Eliasson".

Jan Eliasson

Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3 April 2006

Excellency,

In accordance with paragraph 153 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, I have reported on the “Review of Progress on Security Council Reform” in my letter of 19 December 2005. In that letter, I stated that discussions on Security Council reform should resume in 2006, and I indicated my availability for consultations with Member States which are considering initiatives on Security Council reform as well as with other Member States.

As you may recall, the General Assembly has decided that the work of 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) should be continued and submit a report to 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 (decision 59/566 of 12 September 2005).

In my letter of 20 January 2006, I informed you that Ambassador Paulette Bethel of the Bahamas and Ambassador Frank Majoor of the Netherlands had kindly accepted to serve as Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group. The Vice-Chairpersons have widely consulted with the Membership on issues related to Security Council reform, as well as on the prospective work of the OEWG.

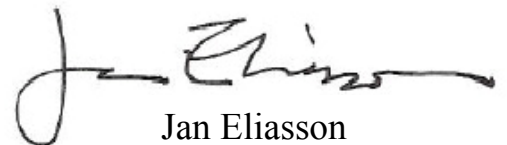
All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

I plan to convene a meeting of the OEWG on 20 April 2006. At this meeting, I will seek your endorsement for the appointment of the Vice-Chairpersons, and you will be briefed on the consultations they have held over the past few weeks.

Subsequently and in accordance with the mandate of the OEWG, a general exchange of views on all aspects of Security Council reform will take place. More specifically, I would invite you to comment on developments since the general debate in the Plenary of the General Assembly on 10-11 November, 2005 on the Report of the Security Council and the Report of the OEWG.

I hope we could have a constructive and creative exchange of views enhancing our mutual understanding of the process towards reaching general agreement on this essential element of the reform agenda. I would also like to invite you to elaborate, during this discussion, on your views on the work of the OEWG in the weeks and months ahead.

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



Jan Eliasson



20 January 2006

Excellency,

As our work on the different reform tracks continues and intensifies, notably on the Human Rights Council, Development and ECOSOC reform as well as on Secretariat and Management reform, I write to you regarding some other areas of the 2005 World Summit follow-up.

As stated in my letter of 19 December 2005 on the “Review of Progress on Security Council Reform”, I intend to reconvene shortly 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)*”. For this purpose, I have asked Ambassador Paulette Bethel of the Bahamas and Ambassador Frank Majoor of the Netherlands to serve as Vice-Chairpersons of the OEWG.

I am pleased to inform you that Ambassadors Bethel and Majoor have kindly agreed to accept this responsibility. I have asked them to consult delegations with a view to preparing the basis of the work for the OEWG. I trust that you will give them your full support in their efforts.

I will revert to you with information on the informal consultations of the plenary on the United Nations environment work as well as on the counter-terrorism strategy.

Next week I shall be on official travel to Strasbourg and Vienna. I look forward to working with you again after my return to New York on 29 January.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Eliasson', written in a cursive style.

Jan Eliasson

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



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.”<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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”<sup>2</sup>.

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

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<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> 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