

12 December 2000

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Harri Holkeri,  
President of the 55th Session of the General Assembly,  
on the Appointments of Vice-Chairpersons for 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**

I have called this first meeting for the purpose of appointing the Vice-Chairpersons for our Open-ended Working Group. As many of you may be aware, I have been discussing with various regional groups and Member States in order to ascertain our Bureau for this very important Open-ended Working Group.

At this juncture I should like to pay tribute to both H.E. Ambassador John de SARAM of Sri Lanka and to H.E. Ambassador Hans DAHLGREN of Sweden. Both permanent representatives served with distinction as Vice-Chairpersons for the last two years. As many of you are aware, Ambassador Dahlgren has returned to his capital to assume new responsibilities. Both Permanent Representatives have devoted tireless efforts and valuable contributions to the work of this body and Ambassador Dahlgren and Ambassador de Saram deserve our most sincere recognition.

In this connection I should like to inform delegations that as a result of widespread and extensive consultations and discussions among Member States I have decided to appoint Ambassador John de SARAM of Sri Lanka and Ambassador Thorsteinn INGOLFSSON of Iceland as the two Vice-Chairpersons. Both have graciously consented to serve on the Working Group in this capacity.