

14 November 2007

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,
at the Joint Debate on Agenda Item 9 “Report of the Security
Council” and Agenda Item 122 on “Question of the Equitable
Representation on and the Increase in the Membership of the Security
Council and Related Matters”**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me, first of all, to avail myself of the opportunity to thank the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, Ambassador Marty Natalegawa, for the introduction of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly for the period of August 1st 2006, to July 31 2007, in his capacity as President of the SC for the month of November.

During the discussion of agenda item 9, “Report of the Security Council”, Member States expressed their appreciation for Indonesia’s role as the current President of the Security Council. However, some serious concerns were expressed regarding the report, in particular the lack of comprehensive evaluations of the various deliberations of the Council.

In order to preserve the balance between the main organs of this Organization, and to improve transparency and strengthen cooperation between the General Assembly and the Security Council many participants in the debate stressed the importance that in future the report should be more analytical and substantive.

This is why we have to pursue a course of revitalizing the General Assembly and reforming the Security Council simultaneously!

Excellencies,

I am particularly pleased to be able to state that we have had a very profound, above all comprehensive and fruitful discussion on the Security Council reform under agenda item 122.

It was a frank and effective dialogue, which provided valuable inputs for further deliberations of the General Assembly on this very important aspect of the United Nations overall reform agenda. It fully endorsed the notion that the reform of the United Nations system is one of the priority issues for the 62nd session of the General Assembly.

May I also dare to say, that the debate demonstrated the clear commitment of Member States to embark upon a new stage that offers the prospect of achieving the ultimate goal of comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

You have paved the way towards the objective of developing a framework to identify and reach agreement on the various negotiable elements which would then allow us to arrive at the point to begin intergovernmental negotiations.

In other words, the bridge between the results achieved during the 61st session and the way forward during the 62nd session needs to be constructed!

The pillars of the edifice called ‘intergovernmental negotiations’ must be set up as you have defined them during the debate that we are now concluding.

First, we must bear in mind that Security Council Reform is an integral part of strengthening the UN. It must therefore go hand in hand with the transformation of the wider United Nations system;

Second, prudent and principle oriented guidance by the President of the General Assembly is required, though it must be based on a joint venture with Member States in good faith and mutual respect.

Third, the way forward ought to be accomplished through an objective and transparent process to first identify the negotiables in order to then move to intergovernmental negotiations.

Fourth, the Open-ended Working Group should carry out consultations on the framework and the modalities for intergovernmental negotiations;

Fifth, further steps must contain components and notions that will allow the Membership to reach a general agreement on all aspects of Security Council reform, in particular on both the composition of the Council, and its working methods;

Sixth, the reform of the Security Council must accommodate the interests and concerns of all sides, especially those who are currently underrepresented; and,

Seventh, Member States should refrain from steps which could serve to undermine the current momentum and consensus to continue a process with the intention of achieving result oriented solutions.

Excellencies,

Let me briefly refer to some sparks which have characterized the debate over the last two and a half days.

Member States pleaded for a clear common sense that we all have a shared responsibility to achieve results. And, one can not agree more.

However, this will require our combined efforts based on pragmatism, political courage, mutual faith and respect, as well as flexibility and the political will to reach broadest possible agreement.

There were also requests to speed up the rhythm of the process. This again requires us to avoid the danger of doing things too hastily.

The speed at which we proceed should not be conditioned solely by the authority of the leadership, but rather by the political will of Member States.

On the way forward we should bear in mind that all the achievements so far are a result of our collective actions. Therefore, we cannot afford to undermine this collective political momentum by calculating to imbibe it with hesitation in order to derail or disrupt the process.

In concluding, I would like to stress that I will count very much on your support and cooperation in conducting the process during the forthcoming period.

We should all continue to work together in a spirit of constructive cooperation and tackle all the issues and tasks set up by the General Assembly in its decision 61/561 adopted on 17 September 2007, in order to faithfully fulfill its recommendations.

With this in mind, I will shortly communicate to Member States the outline of the follow-up process.

Thank you.