

STATEMENT BY MR. H K DUA, HON' BLE MEMBER OF INDIAN PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION DURING THE PLENARY MEETING ON AGENDA ITEM 122 – QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS AT THE 66TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 8 NOVEMBER 2011.

Mr. President,

I am honoured to address the General Assembly on behalf of my country on the Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters.



At the outset let me place on record the Indian delegation's appreciation for the commitment you have shown towards this important issue. You explicitly referred to it as being among the main priorities of your term. You also moved swiftly to re-appoint the highly experienced and wise Ambassador Zahir Tanin of Afghanistan as Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations.

We call upon Ambassador Tanin, through you Mr. President to convene a meeting of the intergovernmental negotiations as soon as possible.

We would also like to associate ourselves with the L.69 statement delivered by Ambassador Raymond Wolfe of Jamaica.

Mr. President,

India played an important role in ensuring that the process of intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform was initiated and has played an active role in the deliberations ever since its commencement in 2009. We supported the start of text-based negotiations in 2010 and have already stated our clear support for the third revision of the negotiation text.

We feel the logical next step is to narrow down the options in the third revision of the negotiation text and make it a two to three page document.

Mr. President,

India was among the originators of the initiative on a short resolution launched earlier this year calling for reform that includes expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of the Security Council and improvement on its working methods. The success of the on-going initiative is clear from the fact that an overwhelming majority of UN member-states have expressed their firm support for the same, including more than 80 delegations who have done so in writing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank delegations for their support for the initiative.

We believe that the strong support shown for an expansion of the Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership and for an improvement of its working methods should be considered as the basis for further discussion in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations.

Mr. President,

India is a member of two groupings devoted to early reform of the Security Council, namely the G4 and the L69. The positions of these two groups have a number of common elements with other groups and member-states who have made proposals on the subject. We are keen to enhance our convergences with such other like-minded groups during this General Assembly session, in particular with the African Group whose aspirations we support.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that India is of the view that reform and expansion of the Security Council are essential if it is to reflect contemporary reality. Such an outcome will enhance the Council's credibility and effectiveness in dealing with global issues. Early reform of the Security Council must be pursued with renewed vigour and urgently enacted.

Let me assure you and the rest of the UN membership of our willingness to remain constructive on all issues on the table in the months to come and urge other delegations to do likewise.

Thank you, Mr. President

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