

STATEMENT BY MR. BHUBANESWAR KALITA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ON AGENDA  
ITEM 29 – REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL; AND 119 – EQUITABLE  
REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS AT THE 65<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMEBR 11, 2010

Mr. President,

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



We thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for introducing the annual report of the Security Council for the period 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010. We would also like to thank the delegation of Nigeria for their efforts in preparing the "Introduction" section of the report.

My delegation would also like to place on record our appreciation for the delegation of Uganda for convening an informal meeting with Member States on 21 October for the preparation of the report.

At the outset, let me state that we align ourselves with the statement to be made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Jamaica on behalf of the L.69 Group on Security Council reforms.

Mr. President,

In our view, the report of the Security Council is an important means for facilitating interaction between the most representative organ of the United Nations and its most empowered brethren. The UN Charter itself bestows on the report a profound gravitas as is evident from the fact that there exists a separate provision mandating such a report, rather than clubbing it with the provision for reports from other UN bodies.

It is, therefore, imperative that the annual report of the Security Council inform, highlight and analyze the measures that it has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security during the reporting period.

The membership of the General Assembly has repeatedly requested that this report be more analytical and incisive than becoming a mere narration of events. It is important the General Assembly be aware not only of what decisions were taken, but also the rationale, efficacy and impact of the Council's decisions, in terms of crystallized take-aways for the membership of the General Assembly.

At the same time, however, let us give credit where it is due. I refer in particular to the resolution adopted by the 64<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly on "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly." Operative Paragraph 9 refers to the improvements that have been made in the quality of the annual reports and encourages the Council to make further improvements as necessary.

Like other delegations, we are of the view that while we may have covered a few yards, but we still have miles ahead of us.

Mr. President,

The UN membership must recognize that the lacunae in the report are a manifestation of the underlying problems of representation and working methods of the Council, which remain opaque and non-inclusive. The report, this year too, continues to be a statistical compilation of events, a bland summary and listing of meetings and outcome documents.

There is no other option but to recognize that the real solution not only for a more credible, legitimate and representative Council, but even for a more thorough report lies in the comprehensive reform of the Council, including expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories, and its working methods.

In this context, it is important to note that an overwhelming majority of member states have clearly expressed their preference for such a reform during the five rounds of intergovernmental negotiations held so far on the issue of reform of the Council.

Mr. President,

We are enthused by the fact that you have undertaken a number of quick and commendable steps thereby ensuring that the General Assembly remains faithful to the central directive of its Decision No.64/568 of 13 September, namely "to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session."

At the earliest instance, on 1<sup>st</sup> October this year to be precise, you re-appointed Ambassador Zahir Tanin as the Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations on Council reforms. And on 21 October you convened a meeting of the entire UN membership on this important issue.

My delegation welcomes these steps which reflect the resolve of the vast majority of the UN membership for achieving early reform.

These actions hopefully bode well for the process. There exists sufficient basis for optimism that, by the end of the current session of the General Assembly, we will be able to achieve concrete results on Security Council reform under your stewardship and guidance.

Equally, Mr. President, we are happy that with each passing day, countries and leaders around the world are publicly articulating their support for India's candidature as a new permanent member of an expanded Security Council. Most recently, India received affirmation of support from the US President Barack Obama. The Indian delegation takes this opportunity to thank the US side for this kind gesture. We also call on other nations to extend their valuable support to us.

We also hope that the UN Secretary General will complement your initiative and enthusiasm in the context of Council reforms. This issue, without doubt acquires salience in the coming year as the Secretary General prepares for his second term.

Mr. President,

In both our individual capacity, and as a member of two groupings devoted to early reform of the Council, namely the G4 and the L69, India would like to highlight certain salient features of the various proposals and positions as captured in the negotiation text.

First, the overwhelming majority of UN member-states have expressed their clear preference for expansion of the Council in both its permanent and non-permanent categories.

Second, on the size of the Council, there is convergence on the need for expansion from the current fifteen to a figure in the mid-twenties. Also, most of the positions have called for a mandatory review after a period ranging from eight to fifteen years.

Third, the G4 position on the 'question of the veto' is unambiguous and constructive. We stress the need for an outcome that ensures the democratization of decision-making within the Council. India is willing to engage with all concerned with an open mind on this key issue.

Fourth, India associates itself with the growing clamour for early reform of working methods of the Council.

Fifth, on the issue of regional representation, we lay great store by the principle of equitable geographical distribution. India supports a Charter-based distribution of seats that addresses the lack of representation of African, Latin American and Caribbean countries and the lack of adequate representation of Asian countries in the permanent membership; as well as the lack of adequate representation of developing countries, including least developed, landlocked countries and small island states in the non-permanent membership.

And finally, India calls for the General Assembly and the Security Council as two principal organs of the UN to respect each other's distinct roles, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, so as to secure the effective functioning of the UN as a whole.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we are both ready and willing to reach out to other countries and to work in close cooperation with them towards the goal of achieving urgent reform of the Council in keeping with the changing realities of the current times.

We need to shorten the negotiation text and then proceed whole-heartedly into real negotiations. This is the view of the overwhelming majority of the UN membership, besides being the only logical course of action for anyone even remotely committed to reform.

Let me assure you and the rest of the UN membership of our willingness to remain constructive and reasonably flexible 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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