



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7 October 2008

Excellency,

I am pleased to transmit to you the text of the decision as orally revised by the President of the General Assembly and adopted at the 122nd plenary meeting of the 62nd session of the General Assembly on 15 September 2008 under agenda item 122 (Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters).

The final text is to appear as decision 62/557 in the *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/62/49 (Vol.III))*, to be issued.

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

Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann

All Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations
New York

The General Assembly, recalling its previous resolutions and decisions relevant to the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council,

Mindful of Chapter XVIII of the Charter of the United Nations and of the importance of reaching general agreement as referred to in its resolutions 48/26 of 3 December 1993 and 53/30 of 1 December 1998 and in its decision 61/561 of 17 September 2007 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council, as well as the ratification process of any amendment to the Charter as stipulated in its Article 108,

Taking note of the seven principles presented by the President of the General Assembly to serve as guiding principles for the advancement of the Security Council reform,¹

- (a) Takes note of the report 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 on its work during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly;²
- (b) Notes with appreciation the Chairperson's initiative and efforts in the process of a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, as well as the work done by the Vice-Chairpersons;
- (c) Decides, building on the progress achieved thus far, in particular during its sixty-first and sixty-second sessions, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States to continue immediately to address, within the Open-ended Working Group, the framework, modalities of in order to prepare and facilitate intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council. The Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group will present the results of these consultations to an informal plenary session of the General Assembly, no later than February 1, 2009.
- (d) Also decides, taking into consideration the results achieved so far in the Open-ended Working Group, building on the progress achieved thus far, in particular during its sixty-first and sixty-second sessions, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, to commence intergovernmental negotiations in informal plenary of the General Assembly during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, but not later than February 28, 2009, based on proposals by Member States, in good faith, with mutual respect and in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, on the question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council, seeking a solution that can garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States;
- (e) Further decides that the following form the basis for the intergovernmental negotiations:
 - (i) *The positions and proposals of Member States, regional groups and other Member States groupings;*
 - (ii) *The five key issues: categories of membership, the question of the veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Council*

¹ See A/62/PV.51.

² To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 47 (A/62/47)*.

and working methods of the Security Council, and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly;

(iii) *The following documents:* report of the Open-ended Working Group on its work during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly;³ General Assembly decision 61/561 and the report of the Open-ended Working Group on its work during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly;²

- (f) Decides that the Open-ended Working Group should continue to exert efforts during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly aimed at achieving general agreement among Member States in the consideration of all issues relevant to the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council, taking into account the progress achieved from the forty-eighth to sixty-second sessions of the Assembly;
- (g) Also decides that the Open-ended Working Group should submit a report to the General Assembly before the end of its sixty-third session, including any agreed recommendations.”

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 47 (A/61/47).*