

Statement by Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at the Ninth Round of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the United Nations Security Council and other matters related to the Council in New York on June 27, 2013

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. At the outset, I would like to align myself with the G4 statement, delivered by Ambassador Luiz Alberto Machado, the Permanent Representative of Brazil, as well as with the statement made by Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves, the Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, on behalf of the L69 Group.

The position of India on the issue of reform of institutions of global governance, including the UN Security Council, in order to ensure that they reflect contemporary reality has been a matter of foremost importance to my country. It was in this spirit that India joined the unanimous consensus of the landmark Outcome Document adopted by our Heads of State and Government at the 60th anniversary of the United Nations in 2005. We have participated constructively in the nine rounds of inter-governmental negotiations held so far on the issue of “an early reform of the Security Council”, as instructed by our leaders in paragraph 153 of that Document.

It is therefore a matter of deep concern to us that despite the urgency expressed more than eight years ago, we have not been able to make concrete progress towards the objective set out for us in the Outcome Document. In our view, we need to address two major issues which are contributing to the current delay on this issue.

The first is a procedural issue. Despite the enthusiastic participation of member states of the United Nations during the nine rounds of inter-governmental negotiations on Security Council reform held so far, the momentum of our discussion has been stymied by the inexplicable slowdown of the process of our meetings. Indeed, this must be one of the rare Sessions of the General Assembly in which we have been allowed to participate in only one meeting during the previous nine months on such an important issue. We therefore call on you, Mr President, to find a way to get these negotiations back on track, by empowering Ambassador Tanin, the distinguished Chairman of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations, in whom we have the fullest confidence, to convene more meetings before the end of the 67th Session of the General Assembly.

The second issue is substantive. Here again, we are surprised that despite the fact that all of us in this forum have been given the opportunity to express our positions on such an important issue, we are still awaiting a concise working document containing these views. Member states have supported expansion in both categories of

membership of the Security Council. We therefore call on you, Mr President, to authorize the Chairman of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations to circulate such a concise working document without delay so that we can engage in text-based negotiations on such an expansion of the Security Council.

Having made these two points, Mr President, allow me to convey three observations which will help you to catalyze our work. Firstly, it should be recalled that we were requested by our leaders to conduct a review of the reforms of the Security Council mandated by them by the end of 2005 itself. Of course, we have missed this deadline by a considerable length of time. However, now that our organization is beginning to prepare to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations two years from now, the 2015 Summit should be taken as an outer deadline for the results of our work in this group to be reported to our leaders. Indeed, this would be only logical in terms of their expectations set out in the 2005 Outcome Document!

The second observation, Mr President, is that the world around us is changing very rapidly. In the most important area of the maintenance of international peace and security, which is the “primary responsibility” of the Security Council, the international community is facing challenges which could not have been foreseen when the United Nations was founded in 1945. These changes, caused by diverse factors, require us to address the issue of reform of the Security Council in a responsible, constructive manner. While acting under the provisions of the UN Charter in the 21st century, the reformed Security Council has to become, in the words of our Heads of State and Government, “more broadly representative, efficient and transparent” in order to “enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions”.

Thirdly, Mr President, we recognize that as members of the United Nations, which is the bedrock of the international legal system, we are constantly interacting on the basis of a delicate balance of rights and obligations. In a narrow sense, what we are advocating today is the give and take of text-based negotiations with regard to achieving such a balance in the reformed Security Council. In a broader sense, we have to be conscious of the fact that such a reformed Security Council is the arch-stone of a strengthened United Nations system, which is essential to implement the ambitious agenda of our organization in all areas of human endeavor, the so-called “global governance” agenda. In keeping with this sense of balance, we cannot applaud the progress made by us since 2005 in areas such as human rights, peace building, the democracy fund and women’s empowerment, while making no progress at all on the mandated “early” reform of the Security Council. Potentially, we fear that this lack of balance in implementing the vision of the 2005 Summit will jeopardize our aspirations for the 2015 Summit, and dilute the effectiveness of the United Nations itself.

It is our hope that, by recognizing the political implications of this issue, you will use our meeting today to propel us into a result-oriented process. This would be a befitting “legacy” to the United Nations!

Mr President, as has been very succinctly said by a well-known member of the National Speakers Association of the United States: *"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."*

Thank You.

Back To Security Council