



په ملگرو ملتو کی
د افغانستان اسلامی جمهوریت
دایمی نمایندگی - نیویارک

Permanent Mission of the Islamic
Republic Afghanistan to the
United Nations

نماینده گی دایمی
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
در ملل متحد - نیویارک

5 February 2010

Excellency,

Following our productive 19 and 20 January exchange, during which Member States united behind the need for a transparent text-based fifth round, I am herewith, as a Chair impartial to any of the positions yet partial to progress, providing guidance to Member States on the path to early reform of the Security Council.

In this regard, I have the honor to recall consensus decision 63/565 adopted on 14 September 2009 by the sixty-third session of the UN General Assembly under its agenda item 111 on the "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters", through which the Assembly decided to:

"...immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as mandated by General Assembly decision 62/557 of 15 September 2008, building on the progress achieved during its sixty-third session, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, while noting with appreciation the initiative and efforts of the President of the General Assembly and the Chairman in the process of a comprehensive reform of the Security Council."

Per consensus decision 62/557, the basis of the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations, which continue to be governed by the modus operandi as collectively embraced by Member States during the successful 19 February 2009 launch of the intergovernmental negotiations, consists of the following, enriched with the progress achieved during the sixty-third session in accordance with consensus decision 63/565:

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



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- iii. *The following documents:* report of the Open-ended Working Group on its work during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly;¹ 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

Over the course of the first three rounds of negotiations, Member States looked at the interconnected five key issues, as set out in the abovementioned subparagraph ii, from all possible angles. The fourth round first saw a focus on the positions and proposals of Member States as mentioned in subparagraph i and then on the points of convergence between them.

The next step in the strict and good faith implementation of the negotiation mandate is to now move towards transparent text-based negotiations, as universally requested by Member States. Since per consensus decisions 62/557 and 63/565 their positions and proposals are at the heart of the negotiation process, Member States can put the Chair in a position to put together a negotiation text by submitting in writing, by way of input, their positions and proposals with regards to all of the interconnected five key issues, in language that is fit for negotiation purposes. Member States should feel free to do as a member of group and/or on individual basis.

In strict conformity with decision 63/565, Member States are urged to reflect progress achieved in the texts they submit. In order for the negotiation text to be as up-to-date as possible, only substantive input, including conference room papers, submitted in writing so far during the fourth round (see attached documents³) and until March 5 will be taken into account for the negotiation text. The Member States that submitted the attached documents of course have the option to revise those texts in light of the second exchange of the fourth round and in light of this letter.

As the guardian of the transparency of these negotiations, I am establishing a consultative process through which I will make myself available to any delegation or group of delegations seeking to exchange views with me on the content and/or conduct of the enterprise ahead of us. This consultative process shall remain in place both before and after March 5, when I assume my responsibility as Chair to assemble the negotiation text.

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 47 (A/61/47)

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

³ Also attached is a letter received from the focal point for the Uniting for Consensus group on 13 January 2010.



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After its presentation, this open text – a paper of the Member States, by the Member States and for the Member States – will evolve in a membership-driven way, so as to blaze a trail towards early reform of the Security Council.

Zahir Tanin

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the
United Nations

Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable
representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and
other matters related to the Security Council

