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60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON REFORM  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 117: QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM 120: FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT

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**Statement by  
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Permanent Representative of Italy  
to the United Nations**

**NEW YORK, July 20<sup>th</sup> 2006**

*Check against delivery*

MR. PRESIDENT,

I WOULD LIKE, FIRST OF ALL, TO JOIN OTHER COLLEAGUES IN THANKING YOU FOR OFFERING US THE OPPORTUNITY, THROUGH THESE CONSULTATIONS, TO, HOPEFULLY, BE ABLE TO PUSH FORWARD THE AGENDA OF UN REFORM, ALSO IN THE FIELD OF A SECURITY COUNCIL COMPREHENSIVE REFORM.

I WILL FOCUS ON JUST A FEW REMARKS, ALSO IN MY CAPACITY AS UFC FOCAL POINT.

TIME IS RIPE, MR. PRESIDENT, IS RIPE FOR REFORM AND IS THEREFORE RIPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. UFC IS A STRONG BELIEVER OF THE NEED OF NEGOTIATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS THAT WE NEVER HAD. AND TIME IS NOW RIPE FOR A TRULY FRESH APPROACH. NOT AN EXERCISE THAT WILL PRETEND TO HAVE A FRESH APPROACH, BUT THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY WILL ONLY BE A WINDOW DRESSING EXERCISE. IF WE WANT TO SUCCEED, THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE PRAGMATIC, WITH FLEXIBLE POSITIONS, INCLUSIVE AND RESULT ORIENTED; WITH A BOTTOM UP APPROACH; PRESERVING, ALONG ALL THE PROCESS, AS WELL AS IN THE NON DIVISIVE SOLUTIONS THAT WE WILL BE SEARCHING AND HOPEFULLY AGREEING, THE OWNERSHIP OF ALL MEMBER STATES, BE THEY "MAIN PLAYERS", OR MEDIUM OR SMALL COUNTRIES. LET'S NOT FORGET, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, JUST THE SIDS ARE MORE THAN 20% OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

MR. PRESIDENT, IF THE POLITICAL WILL IS THERE; IF ALL OF US WILL REALIZE THAT, AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF FRUITLESS POSITIONING, TIME IS RIPE FOR AT LEAST ALLOWING FOR AN INCREMENTAL TYPE OF REFORM, A REFORM THAT SHOULD NOT PREVENT, IN THE FUTURE, FURTHER STAGES OF REFORM, BASED ON MORE ADVANCED AND INNOVATIVE PRINCIPLES (REGIONAL REPRESENTATION AS SUCH, FOR EXAMPLE); WELL, THEN I AM SURE THAT OUR COMMON ENDEAVOUR, WITH A WIN WIN APPROACH FOR EVERYBODY, COULD DEFINITELY AND FINALLY BRING US TO A BREAKTHROUGH, ALLOWING US TO FRUITFULLY ENGAGE IN A BRIDGE BUILDING PROCESS, ALL TOGETHER, TOWARDS A NON DIVISIVE AGREEMENT ON A COMPREHENSIVE REFORM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

AS FOR TODAY'S CONSULTATIONS I WILL HERE NOT REITERATE AND ILLUSTRATE, ONCE MORE, POSITIONS THAT AT THIS POINT ARE WELL KNOWN TO EVERYBODY. AS FAR AS UFC IS CONCERNED, MR PRESIDENT, ITS POSITIONS ARE ON RECORD SINCE JULY 2005 (DOCUMENT L68), WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY THE COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENTS OF AMBASSADORS ROCK OF CANADA, AKRAM OF PAKISTAN, AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES. THOSE PRINCIPLES AND THOSE POSITIONS

ARE VALID, AND STANDING, TODAY, AS THEY WERE ONE YEAR AGO. I WILL NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON THEM, AS I DO NOT WISH TO DUPLICATE WHAT OTHER COLLEAGUES WILL SAY.

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO HERE, MR. PRESIDENT, IS TO LAUNCH A **STRONG APPEAL** TO ALL THE MEMBERSHIP, TO ALL MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES, **TO FINALLY ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS**, WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE AND FLEXIBLE APPROACH.

I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE WISE, AND WOULD INDEED FAVOUR A RESULT ORIENTED APPROACH, TO REFLECT ALONG THE LINES INDICATED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN, SOME WEEKS AGO, IN HIS REMARKS DURING THE LUNCH THAT, THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, WE HAD ORGANIZED IN HIS HONOUR. THERE ARE THREE OPTIONS IN FRONT OF US, CONCERNING SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM:

1. **FIRST.** DO NOTHING, WHICH EVERYBODY WILL AGREE IS NOT AN OPTION.

2. **SECOND.** GO ON PURSUING WHAT WOULD BE, IN OUR VIEW, THE BEST MODEL OF REFORM, THE OPTIMAL MODEL. THIS APPROACH WOULD IMPLY, AS FAR AS SUBSTANCE IS CONCERNED, NO FLEXIBILITY IN OUR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS, OR JUST A MARGINAL FLEXIBILITY. WITH SUCH AN APPROACH, KOFI ANNAN TOLD US, THE RESULT WOULD BE THAT WE WILL GO ON DISCUSSING FOR OTHER 5,10 OR 15 YEARS. BUT THE FACT IS THAT WE NEED TO HAVE A SECURITY COUNCIL MORE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRATIC AND ACCOUNTABLE, THEREFORE WITH MORE CREDIBILITY AND AUTHORITY, NOW, NOT TEN OR TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW.

3. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE **THIRD OPTION**, IT IS TO SAY TO FOCUS, WITH A PRAGMATIC APPROACH, ON THE CONDITIONS, AND THOSE ELEMENTS, THAT WILL ALLOW US TO HAVE AN **EARLY REFORM**. MAY I RECALL THAT, FOR CERTAIN ASPECTS, IT WAS A KIND OF EARLY REFORM THE ONE TRADITIONALLY ADVOCATED BY THE NAM (AS FALL BACK POSITION). WHAT DOES THIS KIND OF REFORM IMPLY? IT IMPLIES THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE TO GIVE UP, TO ABANDON, WHAT WE CONSIDER SHOULD BE THE OPTIMAL REFORM; WHAT WE WILL HAVE TO DO IS TO TEMPORARELY SIDELINE, ON THE RADAR SCREEN OF OUR HORIZON OF POSSIBLE REFORMS, THOSE ASPECTS ON WHICH, AT THIS PARTICULAR GEOPOLITICAL JUNCTURE, IT HAS BEEN PROVED THAT WE CANNOT SUCCEED IN BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS THE MEMBERSHIP AT LARGE. AND FOR SURE WE CANNOT AFFORD THE LUXURY OF A DIVISIVE REFORM, THAT WOULD LEAVE BEHIND, AND DEMOTIVATE, ONE OR OTHER SECTOR OF THE MEMBERSHIP, THEREFORE WEAKENING THE ORGANIZATION. ON THE CONTRARY WE WILL HAVE TO STRENGTHEN, IN

EACH AND ALL OF US, THE FEELING OF PRIDE IN BELONGING TO, AND OWNING THIS HOUSE. THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR OWNERSHIP HAS TO BE THE BENCHMARK OF ANY REFORM, AND SPECIFICALLY ALSO OF A POSSIBLE EARLY REFORM, IF THE STRENGTHENING OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS WHAT WE ARE AIMING AT.

MR. PRESIDENT AND DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES, IF THERE IS ONE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE THAT SHOULD ALWAYS GUIDE US, IN OUR SEARCH IN GOOD FAITH OF A BREAKTHROUGH ON THE ISSUE OF SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM, THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD INDEED REFER TO THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD, ALSO IN THIS FIELD, THE OWNERSHIP, OUR OWNERSHIP, OF THIS HOUSE.

WE HAVE HERE A PRINCIPLE THAT HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED IN THE FINAL STATEMENT ADOPTED BY THE SPECIAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA (IT IS TO SAY THE LARGE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERSHIP, 132 COUNTRIES OVER 192), AT PUTRAJAYA/MALAYSIA, ON THE 29 MAY 2006, PAR. 24. I QUOTE "WE AFFIRM THAT THE SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF MEMBER STATES, AS ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, MUST BE RESPECTED, INCLUDING THROUGHOUT THE REFORM PROCESS... ANY ATTEMPT TO EXCLUDE SOME MEMBER STATES FROM CONTRIBUTING TO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES IN THE ORGANIZATION CONTRADICTS THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER OF THE CHARTER".

ALONG THE SAME TUNE WAS THE PRESS STATEMENT BY AMB. KUMALO, ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA, ON THE 26 OF APRIL. I'LL QUOTE JUST TWO LINES: "THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BELIEVE THAT THE RIGHT OF EVERY MEMBER STATE TO HAVE AN EQUAL SAY IN THE DECISION-MAKING OF THE ORGANIZATION MUST BE UPHELD".

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT IF THIS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE, BASED ON THE CHARTER, HAD TO BE APPLIED TO MANAGEMENT REFORM, IT WILL HAVE TO APPLY ALSO TO OTHER FIELDS OF REFORM. THERE CANNOT BE SELECTIVITY: WE LIKE THIS PRINCIPLE FOR MANAGEMENT REFORM, WE DON'T LIKE IT FOR SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM.

LET'S KEEP THIS PRINCIPLE AT THE CENTER OF OUR HORIZON WHEN, ALL OF US, WE WILL ENGAGE ON NEGOTIATIONS IN VIEW OF A COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM. AT THAT POINT OUR MOTTO, DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES, SHOULD BE "COURAGE, PRIDE, DREAMS, ACHIEVEMENTS". LIKE THE MOTTO OF THE MIGRANTS, IN THEIR QUEST, AND IN THEIR ENDEAVOURS, FOR A BETTER FUTURE AND A BETTER LIFE. PRECISELY WHAT THIS HOUSE IS ALL ABOUT.

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.