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**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**

Draft report

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1–6	2
II. Proceedings of the Working Group during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly	7–22	2
A. First session of the Working Group	10–12	3
B. Second session of the Working Group	13–17	3
C. Third session of the Working Group	18–21	4
D. Fourth session of the Working Group	22	4
III. Recommendations		4
Annexes		
I. General Assembly resolution 48/26 of 3 December 1993		6
II. General Assembly resolution 53/30 of 23 November 1998		7
III. Programme of work of the Working Group during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly		8
IV. Conference room paper submitted by the Bureau of the Working Group on the principal elements of the proposals listed in annex XI of the report of the Working Group (A/54/47) concerning (a) Decision-making in the Security Council, including the veto (sect. I), (b) expansion of the Security Council (sect. II), and (c) the periodic review of an enlarged Security Council (sect. III)		
V. Revised conference room paper submitted by the Bureau of the Working Group on the working methods of the Security Council and transparency of its work		

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 48/26 of 3 December 1993, the General Assembly decided to establish an Open-ended Working Group to consider all aspects of the question of increase of the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council (for the full text of the resolution, see annex I).

2. 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 began its deliberations in January 1994. The mandate of the Working Group was extended by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth through fifty-fifth sessions.¹ Reports on the progress of its work were submitted by the Working Group to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth through fifty-fifth sessions.²

3. On 23 November 1998, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/30 with regard to one of the agenda items of the Working Group, namely, "Majority required for taking decisions on Security Council reform" (for the full text of the resolution, see annex II).

4. On 8 September 2000, heads of State and Government adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, by which they resolved, inter alia, "to intensify our efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects" (see General Assembly resolution 55/2, para. 30).

5. On 10 September 2001, in its decision 55/503, the General Assembly decided that the Open-ended Working Group should continue its work and submit a report to the Assembly before the end of the fifty-sixth session, including any agreed recommendations. The present report has been prepared and submitted pursuant to that decision.

6. From 30 October to 1 November 2001, the General Assembly considered the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council (see A/56/PV.33-36).

II. Proceedings of the Working Group during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly

7. The President of the General Assembly, Han Seung-Soo (Republic of Korea), served as Chairperson of the Working Group. Ambassadors Thorsteinn Ingolfsson (Iceland) and Mignonette Patricia Durrant (Jamaica) served as Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group.

8. Meetings of the Working Group were chaired, when the Chairperson of the Working Group was not present, by one of the Vice-Chairpersons.

9. During the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Open-ended Working Group held four sessions, as follows: first session, 31 January 2002; second session, 11 to 15 March 2002; third session, 13 to 17 May 2002; and fourth session, 10 to 14 June 2002. A total of [XX] meetings were held during the four sessions, during which delegations made oral as well as written proposals related to the issues discussed. Reference was made to proposals and/or position papers

submitted during previous sessions and annexed to previous reports of the Working Group. All proposals remain on the table. The Working Group affirmed that the work of the General Assembly on Security Council reform should be conducted in conformity with the relevant Assembly resolutions, fully respecting the need for transparency and open-endedness.

A. First session of the Working Group

10. At its first session, on 31 January 2002, the Working Group adopted its programme of work (see annex III).

11. The Working Group agreed that it should, in the light of its discussions in preceding years, in particular its discussions in 2001, continue: (a) its consideration of cluster I issues, namely, issues arising under the second item (Decision-making in the Security Council, including the veto), the third item (Expansion of the Security Council) and the fourth item (Periodic review of the enlarged Security Council) of its programme of work; and (b) its consideration of cluster II issues, namely, issues arising under the first item (Working methods of the Security Council and transparency of its work) of its programme of work.

12. The Working Group agreed that cluster I and cluster II issues should continue to be considered by the Working Group in tandem, meaning that the Working Group should, in terms of time and emphasis, consider cluster I and cluster II issues in a similar and balanced manner.

B. Second session of the Working Group

13. At its second session, from 11 to 15 March 2002, the Working Group began its consideration at the current session of the General Assembly of cluster I and cluster II issues.

14. The Working Group's consideration of cluster I issues proceeded on the basis of annexes XIII and XIV to the report of the Working Group to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.³

15. The Working Group's consideration of cluster II issues proceeded on the basis of annex XVII to the report of the Working Group to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.³

16. On 13 March 2002, in response to an invitation from the Working Group, the then President of the Security Council, Ambassador Ole Peter Kolby (Norway), and the Permanent Representatives of seven additional members of the Security Council (Colombia, France, Ireland, Mexico, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) briefed the Working Group on steps taken by the Council with a view to ensuring greater openness and transparency in procedures.

17. Many members of the Working Group expressed the view that similar meetings of the Working Group involving members of the Security Council in interactive interchange of questions and views with members of the Group would be most welcome and useful and should be repeated in the future. At the close of the meeting, several members of the Working Group were still on the speaker's list, and

it was therefore decided to have a follow-up meeting with representatives of the Security Council at the May 2002 session.

C. Third session of the Working Group

18. At its third session, from 13 to 17 May 2002, the Working Group continued its consideration of cluster I and cluster II issues.

19. The Working Group's consideration of cluster I issues proceeded on the basis of the documents referred to in paragraph 14 above. Written proposals were submitted by Italy and Japan.

20. The Working Group's consideration of cluster II issues proceeded on the basis of the documents referred to in paragraph 15 above. Written proposals were also submitted in this connection by Italy and Japan. In addition, the Working Group discussed a statement by Grenada concerning the record-keeping practices of the Security Council secretariat.⁴

21. On 14 May 2002, as a follow-up to the 13 March 2002 meeting (see para. 17 above) and in response to an invitation from the Working Group, the then President of the Security Council, Ambassador Kishore Mahbubani (Singapore), and two members of the Security Council, Ambassadors Mikhail Wehbe (Syrian Arab Republic) and Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), attended the meeting of the Working Group in order to discuss additional questions raised by members of the Working Group at its 13 March 2002 meeting.

D. Fourth session of the Working Group

22. At its fourth session, from 10 to 14 June 2002, the Working Group continued its consideration of cluster I and cluster II issues.

[To be completed]

III. Recommendations

At its [XX] meeting, on [XXX] 2002, the Open-ended Working Group concluded its work for the current session of the General Assembly. It decided to recommend that consideration of this item be continued at the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, building upon the work done during previous sessions and with a view to facilitating the process of reaching general agreement. To that end, the Working Group recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

“The General Assembly, recalling its previous resolutions and decisions relevant to, and having considered 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, established pursuant to its resolution 48/26 of 3 December 1993, and mindful of the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000 adopted by heads of State and Government,⁵ in which they resolved, inter alia,

to intensify their efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Working Group on its work during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly;

(b) Welcomes the progress so far achieved in the consideration of the issues dealing with the working methods of the Security Council as provisional agreement has been recorded on a large number of issues, but, noting that substantial differences of view remain on other issues, urges the Open-ended Working Group to continue exerting efforts during the fifty-seventh session to achieve progress in the consideration of all aspects of the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council;

(c) Decides that the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council should be considered during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, and further decides that the Working Group should continue its work, taking into account the progress achieved during the forty-eighth through fifty-sixth sessions, as well as the views to be expressed during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, and submit a report to the Assembly before the end of the fifty-seventh session, including any agreed recommendations.”

Notes

¹ See General Assembly decisions 48/498, 49/499, 50/489, 51/476, 52/490, 53/487, 54/488 and 55/503.

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/48/47); *ibid.*, *Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/49/47); *ibid.*, *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/50/47/Rev.1); *ibid.*, *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/51/47 and Corr.1); *ibid.*, *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/52/47); *ibid.*, *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/53/47); *ibid.*, *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/54/47); and *ibid.*, *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/55/47).

³ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/55/47).

⁴ See *ibid.*, annex XXI.

⁵ Resolution 55/2.

Annex I

General Assembly resolution 48/26 of 3 December 1993

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/62 of 11 December 1992,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General, which reflected the views of a number of Member States on the agenda item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council",

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, especially Article 23,

Recalling further that the Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf,

Recognizing the need to review the membership of the Security Council and related matters in view of the substantial increase in the membership of the United Nations, especially of developing countries, as well as the changes in international relations,

Bearing in mind the need to continue to enhance the efficiency of the Security Council,

Reaffirming the principle of the sovereign equality of all Members of the United Nations,

Acting in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Mindful of the importance of reaching general agreement,

1. *Decides* to establish an Open-ended Working Group to consider all aspects of the question of increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Security Council;

2. *Requests* the Open-ended Working Group to submit a report on the progress of its work to the General Assembly before the end of its forty-eighth session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters".

Annex II

General Assembly resolution 53/30 of 23 November 1998

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

The General Assembly,

Mindful of Chapter XVIII of the Charter of the United Nations and of the importance of reaching general agreement as referred to in resolution 48/26 of 3 December 1993, *determines* not to adopt any resolution or decision on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters, without the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the Members of the General Assembly.

Annex III

Programme of work of the Working Group during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly*

1. Working methods of the Security Council and transparency of its work.
 2. Decision-making in the Security Council, including the veto.
 3. Expansion of the Security Council:
 - (a) Total size of the enlarged Security Council;
 - (b) Increase in the permanent membership (including issues of extension of the veto to the new permanent membership and permanent regional representation);
 - (c) Increase in the non-permanent membership (including the possibility of an increase, for the time being, only in this category of membership).
 4. Periodic review of the enlarged Security Council.
 5. Other matters.
 6. Report of the Open-ended Working Group to the General Assembly.
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* Previously issued as document A/AC.247/2002/CRP.1.