

62/557. Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

At its 122nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2008, 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 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 23 November 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, and 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.²²

(a) Took 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;²³

(b) Noted 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) Decided, 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 and modalities in order to prepare and facilitate intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council. The Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group would present

²¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Plenary Meetings*, 122nd meeting (A/62/PV.122), and corrigendum.

²² *Ibid.*, 51st meeting (A/62/PV.51), and corrigendum.

²³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 47 (A/62/47)*.

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the results of those consultations to an informal plenary session of the General Assembly, no later than 1 February 2009;

(d) Also decided, taking into consideration the results achieved so far in the Open-ended Working Group, and 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 its sixty-third session, but not later than 28 February 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 on 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 decided that the basis for the intergovernmental negotiations would be as follows:

(i) The positions and proposals of Member States, regional groups and other groupings of Member States;

(ii) The five key issues: categories of membership; the question of the veto; regional representation; size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the 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;²⁴ Assembly decision 61/561; and the report of the Open-ended Working Group on its work during the sixty-second session of the Assembly;²³

(f) Decided 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 during the forty-eighth to sixty-second sessions of the Assembly;

(g) Also decided 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.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/61/47).

²⁵ Decision 62/545, in section B.6 of the *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 49* and corrigendum (A/62/49 and A/62/49 (Vol. II)/Corr.1), vol. II, becomes decision 62/545 A.

²⁶ A/62/604/Add.1, para. 6.