



**STATEMENT**

**by**

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of Slovakia  
to the United Nations**

**68<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly  
Joint Debate  
on**

**Report of the Security Council: report of the Security Council (A/68/2);  
Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of  
the Security Council and related matters [items 29 and 123]**

**8 November 2013  
New York**

Mr. President,

- Allow me to start by appreciating the dedication and commitment of the President of the General Assembly **H.E. Ambassador John Ashe** for *advancing the issue of the Security Council reform*.
- I would like to congratulate **Ambassador Zahir Tanin** for his reappointment as *Chair of Intergovernmental Negotiations*.
- It is a proper occasion as well to appreciate the *work and report of the current President of Security Council* and to thank **H. E. Ambassador Liu Jieyi** for his statement.
- Undoubtedly, the work and responsibilities of the United Nations Security Council are enormous and, apparently, *the workload and demands are increasing*. We all have no doubts that both – permanent and non-permanent members - dedicate maximum efforts, manpower and brainpower to address the challenges with all complexity they deserve;
- The United Nations is a unique organisation. The real value is in *universality and inclusivity of all nations*. In two years we shall celebrate 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its creation. Three generations of politicians, diplomats were contributing *to create better world*. More stable, secure, democratic and sustainable. And the World has changed. Some issues were solved, some are persisting and new appeared.
- To address these new challenges the *United Nations has to look into the mirror of 21<sup>st</sup> century*. And we have to study the reflection from different angles, points, distance. In twilight and midnight.
- *Syria should serve as a broken mirror of distorted and distracted picture of reality*. Two years of Security Council inability to take a meaningful decision are alarming proof of the urgent need to overcome our differences, set aside our disagreements and look for innovative and creative decisions. *There is no quick fix*. But after 20 years of deliberations, the time is high to take the responsibility our citizens entrusted us. *It is time to craft concrete, meaningful proposals and later deliver results*.
- *Slovakia is fully committed* to working with all partners to continue negotiations on issues of modernizing the *work, working methods, composition, communications and effectivity* of the Security Council. We shall work and deliberate in good faith, with mutual respect, in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, *seeking a solution that can garner the widest possible consensus*.
- For the sake of speeding up the discussions, let me just briefly recap the already well-known *position of Slovakia* on the key issues and then make some *suggestions for way forward*:

- **First**, we believe in the necessity of adapting the Council to the geopolitical realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. **States capable of assuming global responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security should become eligible for filling the posts of new permanent members** of the Security Council. **But this is not about privilege - it is much more about responsibility, commitments and obligations** possible members are willing and ready to assume.
- If we would like to make a step forward, we **should not concentrate only on numbers**. We should listen to **substantial discussions of contenders, how they see their work and role in future Council**. Getting in, how they would improve the work they probably criticized, when being out.
- **Second** - **Equitable geographical distribution** of posts within the **non-permanent category** of the Security Council must be reflected and should embrace all regional groups in equal manner - **including the Group of Eastern European States**.
- **Third** - **The ideal goal is to get better representation as well as higher efficiency**. Thus, **the enlargement must not compromise its ability to function as defined in the Charter**. We need Security Council that is effective and does not shy away from taking difficult decisions. A Council, that ensures prompt and effective action when needed. We believe that in order to ensure that, **the enlargement of Council should be moderate and balanced**.
- **Fourth** - Slovakia **does not favour extending the right of the veto to new permanent members**. At the same time, a **due consideration should be given to the scope and the manner that the veto is being applied by the current Permanent Five Members**. Let me just recall the proposals made in the run up to the 2005 **Summit Outcome Document, in the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change** that called on "the permanent members, in their individual capacities, to pledge themselves to refrain from the use of the veto in cases of genocide and large-scale human rights abuses." This call has been repeatedly reiterated and recently intensified and we fully support it.
- Mr. President, having said this, it is now time **to move away from simple repetitions of our positions and start concrete negotiations** on the basis of those proposals that have so far garnered the widest support. We feel the G4 and L69 proposals enjoy such status. **But the only vehicle that may bring us to success is called compromise**.
- Let us look again at some **temporary/interim solutions: semi-permanent membership** with the definition of criteria and rules. Or let us give appropriate **attention to new initiatives as the code of conduct for the voluntary limitation of the use of veto**. May be some others ideas are on the way. To see forest, we should take a step or two from the tree.

- Mr. President, for the sake of urgency and meaningful agreement, in light of the above-mentioned, ***our position is not carved in stone***. Let me assure you, and all the partners, that Slovakia is ***open to all constructive proposals*** and considers them with ***maximum degree of flexibility and open-mindedness*** with the **main aim: to reach tangible results that *will finally allow us to adapt the Security Council to the realities and needs of the 21st Century***.

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