

-CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY-

STATEMENT

by

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**64th Session of the General Assembly
Joint Debate
on**

**Item 9: Report of the Security Council
Item 119: Equitable representation on and increase in the membership of
the Security Council**

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Mr. President,

It is a great privilege and honour for me to participate at today`s joint annual debate on two crucially important and interrelated agenda items dealing with the Report of the Security Council and with the issue of Equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council. We believe our fruitful discussion yesterday and today will provide further impetus for the upcoming continuation of the intergovernmental negotiations on the reform of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the annual Report of the Security Council contained in the document A/64/2. Its complexity, volume and continually increasing number of meetings are a worrying sign of the growing challenges in the area of international peace and security. We note with appreciation however, that yet again this year, the Security Council made more meetings opened to wider membership. As for the annual report as such, it offers a truly interesting and informative reading from the statistical point of view. Nevertheless, we do regret that inspite of repeated calls for more in-depth reporting, this year`s report again fails to provide us with a more analytical picture of the proceedings over the past 12 months. A more substantial and analytical reporting highlighting the areas where the Council was able to respond effectively and where, on the contrary, it failed to act, would be much conducive to a meaningful and effective consideration of the work of the Security Council, as well as to our ongoing intergovernmental discussions on its reform as we strive to make it a truly effective and credible organ.

This joint debate today provides us with excellent opportunity to consider effectively not just the report of the Council but also the ways how to improve its work as well as its relationship with the General Assembly also in the context of the overall Security Council reform process.

In this connection we welcome your commitment, Mr. President, to the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform and appreciate you entrusted Ambassador Tanin of Afghanistan to continue presiding over our deliberations on your behalf. We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ambassador Zahir Tanin for the able manner in which he has been guiding us through our complex deliberations and assure him of our full support in this uneasy task.

Mr. President,

At the 2005 World Summit, Heads of State and Government declared: *“We recommend that the Security Council continue to adapt its working methods so as to increase the involvement of States not members of the Council in its work, as appropriate, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work”*. We cannot reaffirm enough the importance of implementing this recommendation. Eventhough we particularly welcome the enhanced transparency and improved working methods of the Security Council over the recent years, it is indisputable that adapting the Security Council to the realities of the 21st Century calls for further measures. The questions of size and categories of membership has proven to pose the greatest challenge to our reform efforts. Therefore, as we continue with our deliberations, my delegation believes the time is ripe to start narrowing the scope of our negotiations and engage in a serious attempt aimed at defining concrete and precise parameters of the next steps. This means eliminating those proposals that do not enjoy sufficient support and elaborating further on those ideas to which majority of member states expressed readiness to consider favorably. As we move forward with the next round of

intergovernmental negotiations, it is essential we built on the positive momentum created so far and avoid having a new round of restating well-known positions. To facilitate our move towards more substantial and concrete deliberations, we would very much be in favor of having a negotiating document from the Chair to serve as basis of our next deliberations.

Mr. President, my delegation believes that states capable of assuming global responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security should become eligible for filling the posts of potential new permanent members of the Security Council provided that the right of the veto is not further extended. Rather the contrary, the veto must also be subjected to a serious reform as to the scope and the manner it is being applied. Eventhough we heard a majority of member states supporting the expansion of the Security Council in both categories, the inability to agree on this option resulted in a stalemate we have not been able to overcome in years. Any prolonged hesitation to act and reach tangible results in the reform of the Security Council will have further negative consequences on the overall reputation of the United Nations. To make this organisation truly trustworthy and relevant we have a duty to reform the Security Council without further unnecessary delay.

Therefore, in the spirit of compromise in our quest for effective solution, we believe the intermediate solution merits our serious consideration. The notion of a Review Conference makes any new formats temporary. Furthermore, in order to allow for the new members to truly get settled in their new roles and prove their capabilities without the stress of time of quickly approaching upcoming re-election or review, it is essential they remain in their seats at least for 10 to 15 years. This will inevitably prove to be a challenge for the prospective new permanent members that would be then subject to a review. If they stand up to this challenge successfully and earn the trust of the overall UN membership, they should go through another democratic election process for a permanent seat.

As for regional representation as such, it is essential to ensure equitable geographical distribution of posts within the non-permanent category of the Security Council. We believe, the regional group of Eastern European States needs to be allocated at least one additional non-permanent seat.

It is indisputable that the Council must become more representative. The enlargement, however, must not compromise its ability to function as the executive organ it is designed by the Charter. It is difficult to imagine a more serious threat to the United Nations than an inoperable Security Council. We believe that the number of members of the enlarged Council should not exceed 25.

Mr. President, in Art. 24 of the Charter, we, member states, conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and agreed the Council acts on our behalf. It is essential we all remember that when deciding on the size of the Council. Rather than make it ineffectively large for the sake of representation, we need to choose its representatives in such a way that we can fully trust them to act on behalf of us all.

Mr. President, as we have stated on numerous previous occasions, my country's primary goal in this process is to ensure a more effective and efficient Security Council truly able to act and deal with the increasing challenges we all face. Therefore Slovakia is open to all constructive proposals and considers them with utmost level of open-mindedness and flexibility.

Thank you , Mr. President.