



-CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY-

STATEMENT

by

His Excellency

MILOŠ K O T E R E C

**Permanent Representative
of**

**S L O V A K I A
to the United Nations**

**65th Session of the General Assembly
Joint Debate**

on

**Report of the Security Council
and
Equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security
Council**

**12 November 2010
New York**

Mr. President,

I wish to thank you for convening this highly relevant joint annual debate on two critically important items: the Report of the Security Council and the Question of Equitable Representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council. Discussing these two mutually interrelated items together is essential in strengthening the much desired cooperation between the General Assembly and the Security Council as it provides the general membership with a unique, once-a-year opportunity to review the hard work of the Security Council over the past 12 months, appreciate its accomplishments and assess areas where changes would contribute to its greater efficiency and relevance. I believe after today's prolific discussion, we come out with even better understanding each other's views and with even stronger determination to strengthen our concerted effort to bring our views closer if we seriously want to move forward towards a truly effective, credible and reliable Security Council.

Mr. President,

As for the report before us, I would like to first of all thank the President of the Security Council for the Month of November 2010, His Excellency Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom for introducing the report A/65/2 and commend the whole Security Council for the thorough assessment of its work. We particularly welcome the inclusion of thematic debates in the past years. Increasing number of meetings being opened to wider membership is particularly noteworthy since it gives the non-members much appreciated opportunity to follow more closely the urgent issues on the Security Council agenda. Equally, we value the new inter-active informal talks with member states during the preparatory stage of the report. We commend the Security Council for providing us with a highly informative and comprehensive report, albeit mainly from a statistical point of view. Having the hands-on experience of serving at the Security Council recently, my delegation understands that it is not feasible for the Council to compile a thorough political analysis of its proceedings and we would in no way want to see its independence threatened but there are few areas where we would appreciate to get more out of the report. For instance, the Council could elaborate more comprehensively on cross-cutting issues and link thematic issues to specific country situations, especially in those areas where the Security Council encounters greatest hardship in assisting with achieving lasting peace and security. It would be truly helpful to wider membership to understand for example the rationale behind Security Council decisions or see in the report the Council's own assessment of its successes and shortcomings. We appreciate though that the report contains information on the working methods and on the implementation of the Presidential note S/2006/507.

Mr. President,

The issue of the working methods brings me now to the second item before us today and that is the pressing Question of the Reform of the Security Council. Here I would like to first of all commend his Excellency, Ambassador Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, for his excellent leadership skills, tireless efforts and skilled manner in which he has been guiding us through our negotiations over the past two sessions. We welcome the fact that under his able stewardship we have reached a new stage of text-based negotiations. We have recently also been witnessed of movement in positions of some countries and my delegation truly believes that given our hard work over the past years on this issue the time is ripe to break the stalemate and start showing the world some tangible results. To achieve that we appeal to all delegations to show further flexibility and political will and start narrowing down the wide pool of proposals on the table. Eventhough we see merit in all of them, I reiterate our belief that we need to let go of those proposals that enjoy the least support and concentrate on those that stand solid chance of garnering the widest possible agreement.

Mr. President,

since the position of my delegation is well know on all five main areas of the reform process, let me just recap briefly on its main elements:

1) 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 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.

2) We believe the intermediate solution merits our serious consideration. At this moment, the concept lacks clarity and it seems to mean different things to different delegations. But we hear prevalent calls for the notion of a Review Conference, which would make any new formats temporary.

3) Furthermore, in order to allow for the prospective new permanent members to truly get settled in their new roles and prove their capabilities, it is essential they carry out their new responsibilities for at least 10 to 15 years. 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.

4) 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, some of the regional groups, including the Group of Eastern European States, needs to be allocated at least one additional non-permanent seat.

5) Mr. President, let me reiterate that in Article 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.

Mr. President,

for the sake of protecting the environment, this statement will be circulated to all Permanent Missions via email.

I thank you for your attention.