Statement by
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Before
the General Assembly

on
Agenda item 119 entitled
“Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and related matters”

New York, 12 November 2014
Mr. President,

First, let me to thank you for convening this important debate on agenda item 119, entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters".

My delegation greatly appreciated your opening remarks.

Allow me to congratulate Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica upon his appointment as Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations and express our commitment to work with him to ensure a comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

Let me express our deep appreciation for the great efforts done by the previous Chair Ambassador Zahir Tanin during past sessions.

I align myself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Iran and Kuwait on behalf respectively of the Non-Alignment Movement, and the Arab Group.

Mr. President,

Regarding the reform of the Security Council, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Algeria to this very important issue and state that we look forward to building on what has been achieved during the past session on the basis of General Assembly decision 62/557.

We are heartened that during the general debate of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, many Heads of State and Government and heads of delegation as well my own Minister of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed the need to reform the Security Council in order to make it more representative, democratic and legitimate.

We must all therefore continue to seek the goal of reaching an agreement on a reform model that takes into account the core values of the United Nations, namely, inclusiveness, democracy, accountability, equality and transparency.

Correcting the present imbalance in the composition of the Council with a view to making it into a more legitimate organ, primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, remains the collective responsibility of all Member States. We hope that this session will increase the pace for a more frank and lively debate, one that will be more flexible,
compromising and decisive and will generate the necessary political will that would lead to a reform of the Security Council, in accordance with the vision of our leaders at the 2005 World Summit.

Mr. President,

Algeria is a member of the African Union Committee of Tenth. On this basis, Algeria takes actively part to the promotion of the African Common Position and continues to engage in the intergovernmental negotiations aiming at correcting the historical injustice suffered by Africa as being the only continent not represented in the Security Council’s permanent-member category and underrepresented in the non-permanent category.

To that end, we urge the wider United Nations membership to work with Africa to urgently address this injustice. We are committed to building alliances in support of the African common position with diverse interest groups and Member States engaged in the intergovernmental negotiations, with a view to achieving reform of the Security Council.

Africa’s position is a continental aspiration, which we believe all Member States and other stakeholders are now very familiar with. In that regard, it is important to recall that in 1945, when the United Nations was formed, most of Africa was not represented, and when the first reform took place in 1963, Africa was represented but at the time not considered for inclusion in the permanent category. Circumstances have changed since then, and it is merely simple justice for Africa to be fully represented in all decision-making organs of the United Nations, particularly in the Security Council. Full representation of Africa in the Security Council, according to the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration, means, first, acquiring no fewer than two permanent seats, with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership, including the right of veto if it continues to exist. Secondly, Africa is claiming five non-permanent seats.

Mr. President,

We note with concern the lack of progress and concrete results during the ten rounds of the Intergovernmental Negotiations of the General Assembly. Despite that fact and in the spirit of our commitment to address the issue of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters, Algeria is ready to continue to engage in good faith and constructively in the Intergovernmental Negotiations process during this sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.
We also note that, in your letter of 10th November, you are encouraging Member States to move the process to text based negotiations. In that case, my delegation still considers that Rev.2 is a good basis for negotiations.

However, there is a need for a general agreement on what to do during the current session. This debate could help the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations to provide further clarification regarding his intent on how to proceed.

The reform of the Security Council should be addressed in a comprehensive, transparent and balanced manner.

In closing, let me assure you, Mr. President, of our full support and cooperation in order to make, under your chairmanship, more progress on the reform of the Security Council.

I thank you.