

**Statement by Ambassador Masood Khalid Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan  
to the UN at the Open-ended Working Group Meeting on the Question of Equitable  
Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Related  
Matters on 10 February 2003**

**Mr. President,**

We are debating yet again the question of the reform and expansion of the Security Council that has remained under discussion for a decade now. Since the positions of Member States on this complex issue are well-defined, any attempt to elaborate them again is not necessary here.

2. In brief, the consensus view of general membership is in favour of strengthening the Security Council by ensuring its representative and participatory character. We all agree that the principle of sovereign equality of all States must be the guiding principle as we seek to reform the Council. We also agree that this reform should be comprehensive and inclusive.

3. However, vast differences exist on core issues. The overwhelming sentiment is opposed to the discriminatory and undemocratic veto power. Granting special status or power to States is also considered anachronistic to the principle of sovereign equality and to the values which are the legal and moral basis of the Charter of the United Nations. Similarly, there is no agreement on the expansion in the permanent category while expansion in the non-permanent category is desired by a majority of member states.

**Mr. President,**

4. The comprehensive reform of the Security Council has to be undertaken in a manner that unites, not divides the general membership. It is the aspirations of the general membership and not the ambitions of a few that must drive the reform of the Council. In pursuing this reform, we see no justification for the creation of new centres of privilege or expansion of existing inequality at the cost of the central principles of sovereign equality which remains the foundation of international relations today. Our aim must be to strengthen the democratic, inclusive and participatory character of this World Organization. It is time to redress, not exacerbate, the anomalies and inequities of the past in the structures and processes of the United Nations, including the Security Council.

5. The General Assembly, the most universal and representative organ of the United Nations, has an obligation to advise and encourage the Security Council to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security with great effectiveness, openness and consistency. To this end, the General Assembly should recommend the following measures to the Security Council and its Members:

**One:** The improvements made in the Council's working methods should be codified as recommended by the Secretary General in his report.

**Two:** Rule 48 of Security Council's Provisional Rules of Procedure should be adhered to in letter and spirit. Closed meetings and informal consultations should be kept to a minimum, as the exception they were meant to be.

**Three:** A compendium should be drawn up of resolutions, conflicts and disputes where the Security Council has been unable to secure implementation of its own resolutions, with a view to taking remedial action.

**Four:** The Security Council may undertake a thorough consideration of how the provisions of the Chapter VI of the Charter can be fully utilized and the roles which the Council, the Secretary General or other UN bodies could play in more actively pursuing the pacific settlement of conflicts and disputes.

6. Finally, Mr. President, we believe that the Open-ended Working Group remains the only appropriate forum to continue to address this issue in a transparent manner in accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly. My delegation would like to assure you of our full support and cooperation as you guide our deliberations on this issue of vital importance to all Member States.

**Thank you, Mr. President**