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General Assembly
64th Session

**Report of the Security Council &
Question of equitable representation on and
increase in the membership of the Security
Council and related matters**

Swiss Statement

presented by
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Mr. President,

We thank the Security Council for the submission of its **annual report** and welcome its presentation to the General Assembly. This report is an important element in the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly, for it provides the basis for an institutionalized dialogue between these two bodies. We also welcome the informal exchange offered to non members of the Security Council by Uganda, Vietnam and Austria, as well as the constructive and valuable discussion of Council members with the S-5. This said, as in previous years, we regret that the report falls short of our expectations, both in terms of substance and process.

As for **substance**, we are still waiting for a report that would be more analytical and thus pertinent for the general membership. We are of course aware of the difficulties involved in producing a report which goes beyond a simple compilation of the Council's activities and meetings. Nevertheless, we believe that there is significant room for improvement. There is for example a lack of highlighting the linkages between thematic, regional and country-specific issues. Summaries of debates are often incomplete and do not accurately reflect the discussions. And there is in particular a lack of analysis of the challenges the Council faces as well as of its assessments and the rationale for its decisions during the reporting period.

One option for improving the substantive content of the report could be to include the analytical summaries of the 12 Presidencies. Another option could be to introduce an element of "lessons learned" into the report on specific issues the Council has been dealing with. This is a point the S-5 have been repeatedly making. In this context, I would like to mention that Switzerland is commissioning a short paper which will be looking at UNMEE as a case-study for the Council's interaction with a peacekeeping mission, and which we will be happy to make available once it has been completed.

In terms of **process**, there is a need to involve the general membership in a more interactive way and at an earlier stage during the process of drafting the Council's

annual report. There have been informal meetings in order to give non-members of the Council an opportunity to express their views. This should be done in a more systematic manner and well before the finalization of the report. Another option to be explored could be an open debate in the Council at an early stage of the drafting process.

Why do we need more analysis and transparency? Many Member States are major troop or financial contributors. All Member States are under the obligation to implement coercive measures. Implementation without participation in decision-making at least requires transparent information. We owe this to our national political constituencies and our national legislatures, as we have to explain to them where the tax-payers' money is being spent.

Mr. President,

With the beginning of intergovernmental negotiations on **Security Council reform** in an informal plenary of the General Assembly, we have now reached a new stage in the consideration of this issue. Our assessment, however, is rather sober. While we have a new format for the discussions, we have still made no major substantive progress.

Positions on **enlargement** remain to a large degree entrenched. Switzerland is convinced that the "intermediate model" is the only realistic option that currently has the potential to break the deadlock. It does not prejudice the final outcome of the reform effort, but allows us to advance one step forward. In our view, it is therefore high time to start a serious discussion of the concrete parameters of this model. If we are not capable of more flexibility, we will remain stuck in the current impasse.

Mr. President,

Switzerland, together with its partners of the S-5, will continue to focus as a priority on the issue of reforming the **working methods of the Security Council**. Progress in the area of working methods has to take place in any scenario, whether we can

agree on an expansion of the Council or not. We have repeatedly highlighted this here and also in direct discussions with the members of the Security Council.

In this respect, we highly appreciated the invitation by the Japanese Chair of the Council's Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions for a very substantive and frank exchange of views with Council members in July and would welcome an early follow-up.

Our ideas for improving the working methods are contained in the S-5 reflection paper which was circulated in April. They focus on transparency and access, efficiency and implementation, rule of law, use of the veto, peacekeeping operations as well as accountability and relations with the General Assembly. We hope that this paper could inspire changes that the Security Council makes in its practice as well as contribute to a comprehensive resolution on Security Council reform.

The best way to develop working methods is to assess what has worked in the past and why decisions of the Council are often insufficiently implemented. I have already mentioned the study we are commissioning on UNMEE. We are also supporting a project that is monitoring how Security Council Resolution 1325 is being incorporated into the Council's overall work.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I wish to underline that further improvements of the Council's working methods are in the interest of Council and non-Council members alike. Not only would they secure more transparency and a better inclusion of all Member States in the Council's work; they would also serve the Council's interest by conferring greater authority upon its decisions and thus contribute to strengthening the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Thank you