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**Intergovernmental negotiations
on The Reform of the Security Council
Debate on “Working Methods” Informal Plenary**

Swiss Statement

presented by
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Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations

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Mr Chairman

Let me just introduce on behalf of my country and our partners in the S-5 our views on working methods of the Security Council.

Only a few countries will have direct benefit from an enlargement of the Security Council, but all member states, and in particular small states, would profit from improved working methods of the Council. Working methods should thus form an integral part of a comprehensive reform of the Security Council. Any reform that neglects working methods remains incomplete. Switzerland, together with the other members of the S-5, will continue to engage on substantive working methods improvements and will work towards the inclusion of strong language on working methods in a comprehensive resolution on Security Council reform.

Mr Chairman

During the last decade, member states have been confronted with an ever increasing amount of Security Council decisions, notably on peacekeeping and sanctions, with important financial, legal and security implications for each UN member state. If the Council expects member states to be real partners in the sharing of this burden, it should be ready to become more transparent, accessible and accountable to non-members and further enhance the adherence to standards of rule of law and due process in its decision making. Only then will the increased amount of decisions be met with enhanced implementation of such decisions by all member states.

Contrary to decisions on the enlargement, improvements in the area of working methods are most likely not subject to Charter amendment and can be pursued in an ongoing process of constant evolution, consistent application and implementation, independently of progress in the negotiations on enlargement.

Switzerland welcomes the support of member states for the measures contained in the S-5 draft resolution A/60/L.49 of 2006. The Security Council responded to the draft resolution by adopting Presidential Note S/2006/507, a significant achievement that was welcomed by the S-5 and many others as a step in the right direction. In addition, the Council has agreed to further improvements contained in document S/2007/784 in the annex to the letter dated 31 December 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Slovakia addressed to the President of the Security Council.

However, the implementation of the two documents (S/2006/507 and S/2007/784) and the application of the measures contained therein have been selective and inconsistent. To improve implementation of such measures, the Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions should be mandated to review the implementation of S/2006/507 and S/2007/784, in consultation with interested member states, and elaborate a set of measures to be presented to the Council. In addition, regular open debates on the issue may improve implementation.

Mr Chairman

The open debate of the Security Council on the implementation of S/2006/507 in August 2008 was milestone for our interaction with the Council. But we also continue to believe in the need for the Security Council to engage with the GA. The S-5 submits today another set of measures for consideration. It is, in fact, partly an update of the S5 draft A/60/L.49 of 2006, combining old and new reflection elements and by no means intending to be comprehensive. In the paper, we focus on

- Transparency and access
- Efficiency and implementation
- Rule of law
- Use of the veto
- Peacekeeping operations
- Accountability and relationship with the GA
- Relationship with regional arrangements and agencies

Under each heading you will find several concrete proposals which we submit to your consideration.

This paper is complementary to our previous efforts. It does therefore not contain a complete list of all the measures needed to enhance the legitimacy, accountability and transparency of the Council's work. The paper is meant for reflection by the UN membership and the members of the Council in particular. It could both inspire changes that the Security Council makes in its practice and contribute to those parts of a comprehensive resolution on Security Council reform that deal with working methods. We are looking forward to discussing our ideas with all of you.

Thank you.