



ALGERIA

**Statement by Ambassador Youcef Yousfi,
Permanent Representative of Algeria on behalf of the African Group
on the agenda items 117 “question of equitable representation on and
increase of the membership of the Security Council” and 120 “follow
up to the outcome document of the Millennium Summit”**

Plenary of the General Assembly

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Mr. Chairman

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African group.

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this plenary meeting devoted to the important topic of reform of the Security Council. This gathering provides us indeed with the opportunity to restate the African common position on the reform of this body as outlined in the Ezulwini consensus, contained in the Sirte Declaration and reaffirmed by Khartoum and Banjul Summits. But first at all, I would like to underline some of the guiding principles to our approach;

1- The reform of the Security Council is an important and integral part of the wider reform process of the United Nations.

2- In order to enhance the legitimacy of the Security Council, its effectiveness and its capacity to address the threats and challenges to international peace and security, the reform must be comprehensive in addressing both the expansion of its membership and the improvement of its method of work and decision making so as to achieve greater transparency and accountability.

3- Africa is determined to redress the historical injustice of being the only continent lacking a representation in the permanent member category of the Security Council and to ensure its legitimate right to be fully represented in all decision-making organs of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council.

Coming to the elements of the African common position, It is worth noting that the Ezulwini consensus clearly stated that full representation, as far as Africa is concerned, means:

- no less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and the privileges of permanent membership, including the right of veto;
- five non permanent seats that is to say two additional seats for Africa;
- the selection of Africa's representatives in the Security Council as well as the question of the criteria for the selection should be the responsibility of the African Union.

In the spirit of achieving these objectives while contributing to carry out a reform of the Security Council based on the principles of democracy and equitable representation of all geographical regions, the African group has tabled draft resolution A/60/L.41 during the current session of the General Assembly.

On that basis, the African group is ready to engage in a constructive dialogue with the whole membership in order to achieve a reform of the Security Council that meets Africa's legitimate aspirations as well as those of other regions, reform that, preferably, enjoys consensus.

I thank you.