

**OPEN DEBATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE MEASURES SET OUT IN THE  
NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/2006/507)**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF THE S5-GROUP**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

I have the honour to speak today on behalf of the S-5 group (Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland). We very much appreciate this opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the Council on its working methods. The S-5 are of the view that the decisions of the Security Council are particularly effective when they are genuinely made on behalf of the membership of the United Nations, as stipulated by the UN Charter. We have therefore consistently worked to encourage improvements in the working methods of the Council, in particular in the areas of transparency, access and inclusion. We continue to believe that working methods are both an indispensable part of comprehensive reform of the Security Council and part of an ongoing discussion within the Council itself. Holding open debates on this topic on a recurrent basis is certainly a very good approach. We therefore commend you for this initiative and thank you for capably steering the work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation.

Mr. President

The S-5 group has been active for more than four years and tabled a draft resolution in the General Assembly in 2006. That resolution was never acted upon by the Assembly, in particular because the Security Council adopted, at that same time, its Presidential Note 507. We welcomed the adoption of that note, but also expressed the view that additional and more far-reaching measures will be needed to achieve the goals of legitimacy, transparency and accountability, as reflected in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (paras. 153 and 154 of A/RES/60/1). So while we welcome this opportunity to talk about the implementation of Note 507, we will also address issues that go beyond the contents of that note, as the Council itself has done in its own practice.

Mr. President

The open debate on working methods held by the Council in August 2008 resulted in no formal outcome, but certainly generated some recommendations on the

implementation of Note 507. Most of them have not been followed in the 18 months since. Generally speaking, implementation of Note 507 has been slow, partial and inconsistent. We appreciate the efforts carried out in the framework of the IWGD to make implementation more consistent and effective and look forward to tangible results within the current year. The S-5 will continue to reach out to the Council to make constructive and positive contributions to the improvements of working methods, both formally and informally.

Mr. President

With regard to transparency, it is generally recognized that the **annual report** of the Security Council is a central channel of communication between the Council and the rest of the membership. It is an opportunity for constructive dialogue and accountability. The annual report therefore figures prominently in Note 507 (paras. 56 to 60 of the annex) – even though the relevant parts are mostly repetitions of previous agreements. We have engaged with the Council members as well as with the President of the General Assembly to discuss possible improvements in the preparation and consideration of the report. We are very grateful for the open and positive conversations we have had in this regard. The following are some of the main recommendations that came out of those discussions:

- Holding informal consultations during the preparation and before the adoption of the annual report. Such consultations have been organized in the past two years by VietNam and Uganda. They offer a good opportunity to discuss in particular the *introduction* of the annual report – its only part where political analysis can find a place.
- Holding a public meeting or an open debate of the SC when the report is adopted. This would allow for more transparency, and the verbatim record could be taken into account when the report is discussed in the General Assembly. The last such meeting was held in 2002.
- Making constructive use of the monthly evaluations prepared by each Council President.

- Illustrating linkages between issues dealt with in the report, in particular between country situations and thematic issues. The report should further address some important cross-cutting issues directly (e.g. peace and justice).
- Including a chapter on the improvement of working methods of the Council: It is often argued that the Council is the master of its own procedures and therefore of all matters related to working methods. There is therefore no better place than the annual report to inform Member States about relevant developments. In the past, the report has provided no substantive information.
- Providing more information on the work of the Informal Working Group on Documentation. Due to its informal nature, the IWGD is the Council's only subsidiary body that does not produce its own annual report. More information on its work could be provided both in the framework of the annual report and ideally on the website of the Council.

We will continue to proactively engage with Council members and the President of the General Assembly on these ideas and hope that concrete improvements can be achieved in the course of this year.

Mr. President

The work of the subsidiary bodies is becoming ever more intense, complex and important. At the same time, access to their proceedings or to information thereon continues to be very difficult. We therefore attach particular importance to the implementation of measure 46 in Note 507, which asks subsidiary bodies to seek the views of Member States that have a particular interest in a topic under discussion. We strongly welcomed the opportunity to meet, as the S-5, with the IWGD at the end of July 2009 and were very encouraged by the open exchange of views at that meeting. In connection with the work of the 1267 Sanctions Committee, we welcome once again the adoption of resolution 1904 in December 2009. This resolution brought about significant changes in the delisting regime of the Council, including the establishment of an Ombudsperson. We hope that the

appointment process can be finalized soon and that the Ombudsperson can start working as soon as possible.

Mr. President

The format of meetings of the Council is a key element of access and therefore highly relevant to the S-5 agenda. The Council has been quite creative in developing new formats that allow non-Council members, concerned parties or organizations to participate, such as “informal interactive discussions”, “informal interactive dialogues”, or the “Kosovo Model”. Taken together with older formats, such as Arria formula meetings, there is a wide range of mechanisms available to enhance access and transparency. We continue to believe that briefings by senior UN officials should also be made accessible to all Member States, without prejudice to the format of subsequent consultations. We also see potential in the format of specific meeting configurations, similar to what the PBC has practiced with quite some success over the past years. This could allow the inclusion of non-members in the Council’s deliberations. Regarding access, the S-5 is concerned about the impact of the renovation of the UN Headquarters on the interaction of Council members with the wider membership, other concerned parties and the media. The temporary conference room arrangements should not lead to a new wall of secrecy, but should rather be taken as an opportunity for members to seek innovative ways to interact with interested parties.

I thank you.