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Statement

by

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At

**THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE PLENARY ON THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF
EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE
COUNCIL**

New York, Tuesday April 10, 2012

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Mr Chairman,

Thank you for convening this meeting to discuss the African Common position on Security Council reform. Uganda aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone and Coordinator of the Committee of Ten, on behalf of the African Group. We would like to highlight a few additional points.

Mr Chairman,

Discussions about reforming the United Nations Security Council have been held since the Council came into being almost 67 years ago. However, not much has happened since, but what is clear is that the need to reform the Council continues to be of utmost importance and interest to member states.

Given the Charter responsibilities of the Security Council and the quest for its reform, for such a long time, this process has remained a deeply political issue for many Member States. Uganda is convinced therefore, that political commitment and will is required to make reform possible in order to achieve a more representative, equitable, democratic and effective Security Council. This matter has remained at the top of the agenda of the African Union for a while now, as enunciated in the '*African Common Position*' because of its crucial role in peace and security on the continent.

Mr Chairman

What has emerged from the negotiations held thus far is that there have been a range of proposals and negotiables in all the five clusters of reform. Africa has been consistent in calling on a focus on all of them, because of their interconnectedness in bringing about a comprehensive reform of the Security Council. In addition, Africa has reiterated its readiness to work with all states and groups to achieve a reformed, more representative and accountable Council.

It is my delegation's expectation therefore, that our exchanges and negotiations in the days to come will provide an impetus for change and move this process forward. Together, we must endeavor to achieve a legitimate and transparent reform process, by ensuring that these intergovernmental negotiations are inclusive of the wider UN membership so that the decisions on Security Council reform have the support of all countries.

Mr Chairman,

The approach taken by Africa in this reform process portrays the continent's aspirations for a reflection of the current geopolitical realities.

It is essential that the Security Council's membership, in the permanent and non-permanent category, is equitable. The credibility of the Council as an international arbiter will remain in question by the contradiction of an undemocratic structure. We need to be mindful that African issues dominate the Security Council agenda and thus, the vast majority of decisions made by the Council affect African countries.

Over the last few years, Africa has shown its commitment to conflict prevention, mediation and resolution as demonstrated by its leadership and response to conflict situations on the continent. In addition, through increased cooperation between the United Nations and African Union efforts at combating current and new threats to international peace and security are have been and continue to being addressed; such as terrorism and piracy.

Therefore for a continent with 54 countries, a population of over one billion people and demonstrable political commitment, there is need to expand the permanent and non-permanent category of the Council to include seats for Africa. This will not only correct a historical injustice but also give the continent a stronger voice in the global political debate, increase the legitimacy of the decisions of the Council and foster its effectiveness.

Mr Chairman,

Uganda is convinced that equally important in this reform process is the reform of the Council's working methods and revitalizing the General Assembly. On the working methods of the Security Council, there is need for improvement in order to make the Council more transparent and accountable. There is need to promote enhanced access and interaction between the Council and non-council members, particularly those countries whose situations are on its agenda.

The relationship between the Security Council and General Assembly must also be improved with each other's distinct roles respected in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Uganda is committed to the ongoing efforts at reform of the UN Security Council and commends your efforts. Together, we should all strive to ensure that the reform is realized in the shortest time possible and Uganda will continue to work with other like-minded countries towards that end.

I thank you.