



# **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

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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 Related Matters**

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Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

At the outset, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines aligns itself with the statement made by Jamaica on behalf of the 14 members of the Caribbean Community.

Mr. Chairman, each cluster of this round of intergovernmental negotiations, and each succeeding round of negotiations, brings us one step closer to our goal of equitable and representative reform of the Security Council. We build, step by step, on the ideas and proposals of previous clusters and rounds of negotiation.

During the cluster on “categories of membership,” by our count, a full two thirds of those speaking – or spoken for as part of a group – expressed support for expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories. Even many current members of the Permanent 5 accepted the reality of some form of expansion in both categories. The necessity for expansion in both categories, therefore, in our minds, is a largely accepted idea. The remaining questions are how large, and in what form, such expansion should take.

The position of CARICOM, as enunciated by Jamaica yesterday, is crystal clear: We support the legitimate and entirely appropriate aspirations of the African Group, as delineated by draft resolution A/60/L.41 of 2005. Further, we are of the view that any expansion of the Security Council must include distinct and dedicated representation of Small Island Developing States. This position has been well received by the participants in these negotiations, as you will recall, and we welcome numerous expressions of support by States for the notion of SIDS representation. Whether SIDS representation can be accommodated within the numbers discussed in existing expansion scenarios or must be added to those numbers is a subject for further negotiation in later rounds.

Mr. Chairman, there are those who balk at the size of an meaningfully enlarged Council, and use the concept of “efficiency” as a shield and sword against the unassailable logic of expansion. The argument, as far as I have been able to tell, is that expansion of the Council will negatively affect its hitherto celebrated efficiency. But the object of this reform exercise is not simply to make the trains run on time, as it were. It is to restore the legitimacy, and thus the effectiveness, of the Security Council through improvements to its transparency, inclusivity and representative capacity.

United States President Harry Truman once remarked that “whenever you have an efficient government, you have a dictatorship.” Similarly, the often self-serving arguments that small size is synonymous with efficiency mask a desire to merely maintain the concentration of power in the hands of the few. The “smaller is better” logic is one that I am certain would be rejected if applied to the 535 members of the United States Congress, or the 618 representatives of the Federal Assembly of Russia, or the 920 members of the bicameral French Parliament, or the 1,388 Lords and Commoners in the Parliament of the United Kingdom, or the 2,987 members of the National People’s Congress of China.

At its illogical extreme, I have no doubt that the Security Council would be more efficient if it had but a single permanent member. But it would be wholly ineffective, because it would be an illegitimate body. The Council’s legitimacy and effectiveness will spring from a membership reflecting the diversity of the world’s peoples and perspectives. Accordingly, the Security

Council must be expanded in size not merely for the sake of expansion, or to satisfy the ambitions of any particular State, but in a manner that addresses the representational and democratic deficit in that body. The ultimate number of this expansion will depend on the calculus applied to address these deficits.

The efficiency of the Council, on the other hand, will be governed not by its small size but by improvements to its working methods. In addition to the improvements urged by my distinguished brother from Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would like to endorse the detailed proposals made by the distinguished and learned representatives of the Philippines, Switzerland and Singapore. We would also like to remind the Membership of our support for a veto-override provision, as was discussed in the cluster dedicated to the question of the veto.

The transparency, openness, consistency and accountability of the Security Council are all matters to be addressed by refinements and tightening of working methods. We also fully adopt the various proposals made regarding access of States and the conduct of open meetings. Additionally, the Security Council's substantive analysis and communication with the wider assembly must be improved through strict mandates contained in the working methods.

Mr. Chairman, these two issues of size and working methods strike at the heart of many of the Council's current representational and procedural shortcomings. I hope that your summary document at the end of this round will accurately reflect the numerical weight of the Membership's support for various proposals advanced over the past two days.

I thank you.