



# MAURITIUS

---

## STATEMENT

by

**H.E. Mr. Somduth Soborun**

**Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations**

**at the  
60<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**on the item 117 entitled “Question of Equitable Representation on and  
Increase in the Membership of the Security Council” and 120 “follow  
up to the Outcome Document of the Millennium Summit”**

**20 July 2006  
New York**

*Check Against Delivery*

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to express my sincere appreciation to you for bringing up the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council to the Plenary of the General Assembly.

My delegation would also like to associate itself fully with the statement made earlier this morning by H.E. Mr. Youcef Yousfi, Permanent Representative of Algeria on behalf on the African Group.

Mr. President,

We gather today to address once again a very important question which is close to the hearts of member states as well as millions of people around the world. One cannot say when we would have reached the limit of the deliberations on this question. However, suffice it to add that the wide spectrum of views expressed so far on this subject provide us with compelling reasons for an urgent need for the equitable representation on and expansion of the Security Council. We cannot afford to continue playing the game of stay put on this important subject year in and year out. A status quo is definitely not in line with the Summit Decisions of 2000 and the Outcome Document 2005.

Mr. President,

It is interesting to note that every time an opportunity is provided to us we do not fail to remind ourselves that we are living in a globalised world and that we need to adapt to the changing circumstances; sometimes at very high costs. However, when it comes to the reform of the Security Council, established sixty years ago, we fail to apply the same logic.

In 1945 over more than half of the world's population were colonized and as such their countries had no powers to help shape the structure of our Organization. Todate, almost all these countries have emerged as sovereign states and a few of them have become important players on the world stage and are contributing immensely to its advancement. A couple of them are even poised to rank among the 10 strongest economies of the world in the next 10 to 15 years. There is no doubt that they will continue to play a more decisive and important role at the global level. Like in other fora, these voices need to be heard loud and clear equally in the Security Council with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and the legitimacy of its decisions.

Mr. President,

The reform of the Security Council is intertwined and interlinked with other reforms in the UN organization. However, it is my delegation's view that the reform of the other organs of the UN system however good, will not achieve the desired results so long as significant changes are not brought in the structure and working methods of the Security Council in a comprehensive manner.

Mr. President,

We are witnessing an ever increasing adoption of the democratic principles all over the world and particularly in areas where hitherto freedom of speech, expression and association was unheard of. This is good for the peoples of these countries as well as the countries themselves. In the same vein, it is imperative that the Security Council opens its select club of permanent members to accommodate the legitimate claims and aspirations of an ever changing world to better reflect the geopolitical realities and diversity, balance of power and global stability. Above all, this is what the United Nations is all about!

By delaying too much in reaching a decision on a meaningful reform of the Security Council, we run the risk of creating among the member states a reform pessimism which, at the end of the day, could have damaging results. My delegation remains convinced that particularly over the last 10 years member states have expressed sufficient views on the reform of the Security Council. It is therefore, high time that we seriously consider bringing a fruitful conclusion in the wider interest of the international community.

Mr. President,

Let us step back for a minute and ask ourselves the question - for how long shall we continue to deny almost three billions people of the world a fair and just representation on a permanent basis at the Security Council? And why should they be denied?

Mr. President,

It is unjust and unacceptable that Africa should continue to be denied its logical claim for permanent seats. Africa is the only continent not represented in the permanent membership of the Security Council. Furthermore the demand of Latin America in this regard is equally fully justified. Moreover, by any criteria which may be applied, India the largest democracy on our planet, more than deserves a permanent seat in the Security Council.

I thank you.