



**Statement**

**by**

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to the United Nations**

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The Secretary General's Report  
"In Larger Freedom"**

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Mr. President,

Let me thank you for convening this meeting and giving us the opportunity to continue our exchange of views on all aspects of UN reform. We would also like to commend you for presenting us with a detailed timetable for our work on the four clusters with the facilitators you appointed, thus making full use of the remaining time until the summit in September 2005.

Today we are invited to discuss the Secretary General's Report "In Larger Freedom". Germany fully aligns herself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union by the Permanent Representative of Luxemburg, Ambassador Jean-Marc Hoscheit. Let me stress that we particularly share the sentiment of gratitude to the Secretary General for his bold and comprehensive approach to the reform agenda.

In his report, the Secretary General addresses the interconnected challenges and threats and suggests that a piecemeal, fragmented approach will not bring the required solutions. He calls on all states and all regions to cooperate in developing the required strategies - and while he demands much from all of us, his proposals aim at an outcome in which every region will be able to find gains and advantages.

Mr. President,

In addition to the comments made on behalf of the European Union, I would like to touch briefly on three points:

- the way forward to reach the Millennium Goals and to achieve "Freedom from Want"
- the need to strengthen the Rule of Law as a prerequisite for "the Freedom to Live in Dignity"
- and the need for Security Council Reform. We have had occasion to express our views on this topic in previous debates and we discussed it with a good part of the membership in an event organized together with Brazil, India and Japan last

week. So I'm sure you would feel that a national statement by Germany on reform issues would be incomplete without a few words on the Security Council.

Millennium Goals:

In his report, the Secretary General stresses the importance of development as an issue in its own right and also reminds us of the link between security and development. He rightly calls on both— developing countries as well as donor countries -to do their part for development. Bilaterally as well as in the framework of the European Union, Germany is constantly increasing her efforts to meet this responsibility. The German Government's response to the Tsunami catastrophe pledging more than 650 million dollars (plus another 650 million dollars in private donations) and Germany's commitment to the goals of the Lula Summit on fighting Poverty and Hunger are examples for these efforts.

We know that more will have to be done to achieve the commitments of Monterrey and to reach the 0.7% ODA target. The German Chancellor and the Foreign Minister have recently announced a road map for the timely implementation of the Millennium goals. Increasing ODA to 0,35 % in 2006 and to 0,5 % in 2010. Germany will achieve the 0.7% target in three steps by 2014.

Germany has also indicated that we are sympathetic to the proposal of an international financing facility; and we intend to free resources for development – particularly in Africa – by rescheduling and easing the debt burden of developing countries.

Rule of Law:

We agree fully with the Secretary General's views, that the Rule of Law is the essential foundation for political stability, social progress and sustained development. Nobody will invest in a society or a state if there is no rule of law and no respect for basic human rights.

We therefore welcome the SG's proposal to create a dedicated Rule of Law Assistance Unit in the proposed Peacebuilding Support Office to assist national efforts to re-establish the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict societies. This proposal is very much in line with an initiative by Jordan, Finland and Germany submitted some months ago to the Secretary General. It should be implemented as soon as possible, even independent of a decision on the Peacebuilding Commission.

Security Council Reform:

Regarding Security Council Reform, I want to make two points:

First: The time for this reform is ripe. In his report, the Secretary General stresses that on this important issue member states should reach a decision before September. The reform momentum must be used!

Let us not fool ourselves: everybody knows that consensus on this complex issue is not possible. The Secretary General, therefore, is right when he says that consensus might be desirable but its absence should not be taken as a pretext for inaction. The Charta itself supports this in Art 108 providing for a 2/3 majority vote for changes of the Charta. To pretend that such a vote is divisive or undemocratic reveals a strange understanding of democracy because taking decisions through a vote is the daily business of all democratic parliaments. And let us not fool ourselves: if we miss this chance for reform, it will not come back in the next decades.

If we do not heed the Secretary General's advice to decide before September, this notably will cast a shadow on the September Summit because the public perception everywhere will be that we have not addressed one of the major reform issues. And another postponement of decision after 12 years of discussion will mean the failure of our efforts.

Our position is clear: We are working on a reform resolution that should be put to the vote in May or June.

Second. The elements for a solution are on the table.

After discussion of the proposals of the High Level Panel Report in several GA debates, there is a clear trend in favour of an enlargement of the Council by permanent and non-permanent seats, with some modifications to the proposed Model A. One modification that enjoys broad support – including ours- is maintaining the existing regional groups.

Concerning the category of non-permanent seats – this issue has been touched upon by several delegations- we favour an increase of seats for Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and for the Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr President,

We remain open for ideas on many of the reform issues. But we will not make false compromises in order to accommodate very specific national interests of a very few. Only enlargement in both categories will bring about the needed structural change of the SC, reflecting today's geopolitical realities and strengthening the SC's legitimacy and effectiveness. The SC has to become not only more effective and representative but also more transparent and inclusive in its working methods. The reform of the working methods will therefore be an integral part of our reform project.

Mr. President, we would like to encourage and invite member states to continue the dialogue with the G4 countries and to work with the facilitators appointed by you, Mr President, to make the Security Council more representative, more transparent and more responsive to today's challenges.

Mr. President,

Let us create the necessary building blocks for the implementation of the Millennium Project, the Sachs-report and the High Level Panel-report as condensed in the SG's recommendations which combine the desirable with the feasible. We lend our full support to the President of the General Assembly, the facilitators and last but not least to the Secretary General. Supporting their efforts will make the Summit a success the United Nations need and deserve.

Thank you, Mr President.