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**Committee: Secretariat**

**Agenda: Reform Of the Security Council**

**Country: United States of America**

The United Nations Security Council is one of the principal organs of the United Nations. The Security Council has the primary responsibility, under the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It first convened on January 17<sup>th</sup> 1946 after World War II in order to ensure peace is established worldwide. The United States of America helped in bringing the Security Council into existence and is an active player and a permanent member of the council.

The current issue at hand is that the present Security Council is in dire need of reform as its efficiency, transparency and lack of multilateralism does not depict today's world situation. Years have passed since the initiative for the reform movements have started however only one reform had taken place and that was in 1965 regarding the expansion of the elected or non-permanent members from five seats to ten seats. However the number of permanent membership has remained the same since the beginning, making a grand total of fifteen seats.

Some of the reasons why the Security Council needs to be reformed are:

1. Representation imbalance
2. Efficiency degrade
3. Lack of transparency
4. Lack creditability and legitimacy

The United States of America is a strong supporter of the reform movement. It has worked intensely and exhaustively in the past and continues to do so in the present. The United States believes that the long-term legitimacy and viability of the United Nations Security Council depends on its ability to reflect the 21st century world. As such, the U.S. will make a serious, deliberate effort, and work with partners and allies to find a way forward that enhances the ability of the Security Council to carry out its mandate effectively and meet the challenges of the new century.

USA had pushed to great extents in the past to increase the amount of memberships in the Security Council by establishing its support to include Germany and Japan in the permanent membership. Today, United States proudly supports the inclusion of India and Japan in the permanent membership.

"As two global leaders, the United States and India can partner for global security - especially as India serves on the Security Council over the next two years and that is why I can say today, in the years ahead, I look forward to a reformed United Nations Security Council that includes India as a permanent member." said Barack Obama on one of his visits to India.

The United States is open in principle to a limited expansion of both permanent and non-permanent members. In terms of categories of membership, the United States strongly believes that any consideration of an expansion of permanent members must be country-specific in nature. In determining which countries merit permanent membership, we will take into account the ability of countries to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security and other purposes of the United Nations. As we have previously stated, the United States is not open to an enlargement of the Security Council by a Charter amendment that changes the current veto structure. To enhance the prospects for success, whatever formula that emerges for an expansion of Council membership should have in mind Charter requirements for ratification. We support expansion of the Security Council in a way that will not diminish its effectiveness or its efficiency.

The United States has been working side by side with the open ended working group (OEWG) and has supported their methods or ideas of reform in various working methods of the Security Council. As a result the Council increased its interaction and dialogue with non-Council members in a variety of ways including informal discussions with interested parties to seek their views. Open Security Council meetings provide the opportunity for general members to participate. The 1540 Committee purposely developed an open and transparent three-day event for all UN member states, to relevant non-governmental organizations and civil societies to present its findings. The U.S. encourages as many members as possible to attend open meetings.

The United States of America has always supported and will continue to support reform of the Security Council and will continue to be an active player for the greater good. Thank you and GOD BLESS AMERICA!

#### **END NOTE**

Source: <http://www.defence.pk/forums/world-affairs/79647-obama-backs-india-permanent-un-security-council-seat.html#ixzz2YvyY4dn7>

<http://www.state.gov/p/io/rm/2009/117617.htm>

<http://www.defence.pk/forums/world-affairs/79647-obama-backs-india-permanent-un-security-council-seat.html>

<http://www.centerforunreform.org/node/377>

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<http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/1941-1950.shtml>

<http://www.centerforunreform.org/node/436>

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/follow-up/securitycouncilreform.shtml>

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/sc10831.doc.htm> etc.