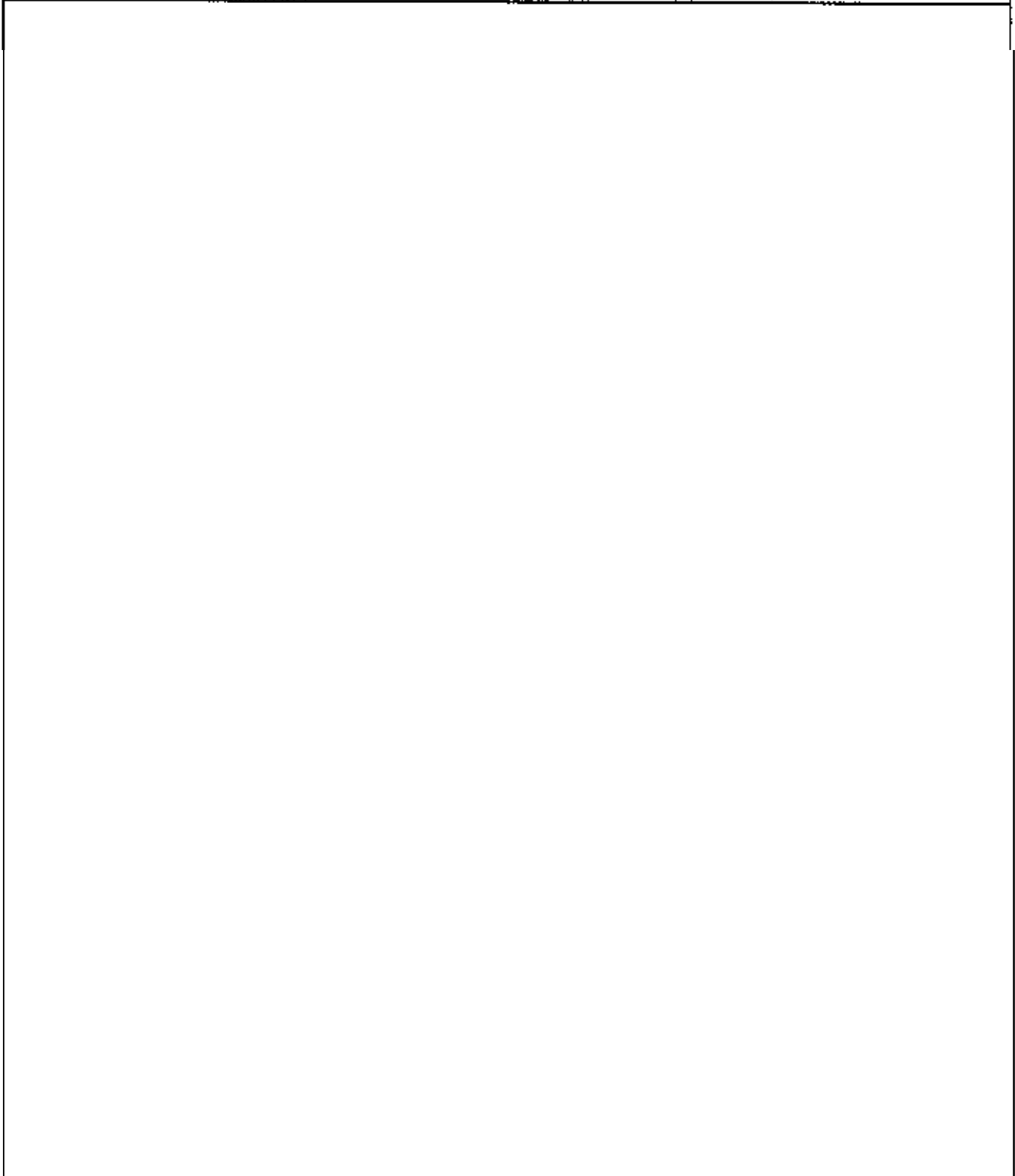


PERMANENT MISSION OF
GERMANY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Mr President,

Let me first of all congratulate you, President Ping, on your election and wish you every

secure and stabilize the international system on their own will in the future prove less and less adequate.

What we need is a far-reaching reform of the international system and its institutions that takes due account of these changes. And this is a reform we need urgently because we have to create an effective multilateral system which enables us to prevent crises together and, where this does not work, find long-term solutions.

There have already been promising developments at regional level.

Very much with their history in mind, the states of Europe have joined together in the European Union and thus reached a new level of multilateralism. This political and economic community now embracing 25 states has become an anchor of stability for Europe and beyond.

Since its foundation, the African Union has been impressively shouldering its shared responsibility for preventing humanitarian disasters and resolving major regional conflicts. This is a key step forward. This breakthrough of multilateralism on the African continent will develop an ever more pronounced dynamism.

Given global interdependencies and connections, we need a world organization that has close links to these regional structures and can thus boost the efficiency of joint action. The United Nations is the most important forum for setting global rules. Its might is the might of the

have to discuss the truly crucial issues - otherwise essential questions will be dealt with in other fora. Secondly we need more efficient working methods.

Mr President,

The Economic and Social Council has to finally become the central organ in the UN system for consultation and decision-making on economic and social issues.

We believe that ECOSOC has at two levels vast potential which has yet to be fully tapped.

On the one hand, this body maintains a network of expertise unequalled in the world. We

However, there are also spheres which need to be better equipped. I am thinking here, for example, of the handling of environmental issues in the UN system. We thus support the proposal made by the French President Jacques Chirac last year to upgrade UNEP into a specialized agency with universal membership. This could considerably strengthen UNEP's contribution to sustainable development.

Mr President,

At the heart of the reform of the United Nations is the organ shouldering the central responsibility for international peace: the Security Council. Conflicts are on the increase. They stretch across all continents. They are growing in complexity. In turn, the responsibility and competences of the Council have expanded constantly. Crisis prevention will play an increasingly important role. And for peacebuilding ever more comprehensive strategies, closer cooperation and additional resources will be needed. This will mean more and more decisions that entail long-term obligations, create new international law and make major inroads into state sovereignty.

If we really want its decisions to be accepted as legitimate and effectively implemented, we have to reform the Council. It has to more broadly represent a world organization today embracing more than 191 countries. This is inconceivable without increasing the number of seats - for permanent and non-permanent members alike.

The reasons behind such a move speak for themselves. A Council with more members would enjoy greater acceptance internationally as a basis for greater authority.

The more balanced and comprehensive representation of all continents, also amongst the permanent members, would lead to a better sense of ownership of the Security Council for all states.

Similarly, an enlargement would considerably bolster the motivation of the new Security Council members to make a long-term contribution to realizing the goals of the United Nations.

The enlargement must adequately reflect sea changes such as decolonization, the end of the Cold War and globalization. The composition of the Council must ultimately mirror the current geopolitical reality. This means all major regions of the South must be represented by permanent members in the Security Council.

At the same time, account has to be taken of members who can and want to make a particularly meaningful and sustainable contribution to maintaining world peace and international security and to realizing the purposes of the organization.

This twofold approach would increase the Council's efficiency and its ability to act and assert itself.

Mr President,

For 40 years, the composition of the Security Council has remained unchanged. I believe it is high time to adapt it to the new global reality. Half-baked or interim solutions are neither necessary nor helpful.

Just like Brazil, India and Japan, also Germany is ready to take on the responsibility associated with a permanent seat in the Security Council. But it is especially important that the African continent be represented amongst the new permanent members.

But a second aspect also has to be taken into account in Security Council reform. All in all, a greater number of member states who are engaging for the United Nations should be able to get more involved in the work of the Security Council. For this to happen, additional non-permanent seats also have to be created. This means the balance between permanent and non-permanent members can be retained.

Mr President,

As I said before, UN reform will be the central and defining theme of this General Assembly. I thus call upon the member states: Let us use this 59th Session right up until the next General Assembly in 2005 to launch the overdue reforms and achieve tangible results.

We, the member states, have to muster the political insight, the will and the creativity to adapt the organization to the global reality. Germany is ready to make a committed contribution.

Thank you.