

QUOTE

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

FOR ORAL REPLY

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**MR HT MAGAMA (ANC) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:**

What are the main obstacles to realising a transformed global governance system, with specific reference to the United Nations Security Council in giving credence to the UN proclamation of the equality of nations?

**REPLY:**

The transformation of the system of global governance to make the system more responsive to the needs of the developing world and representative of geo-political realities remains a priority for South Africa. This includes the reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions and the United Nations, in particular the UN Security Council.

One of the main obstacles to realising a transformed system of global governance is the diverse positions held by member states and the challenge of building sufficient support in order to take binding decisions. The debate on the reform of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, has been going on for the past eighteen years, but with no significant movement forward.

An additional challenge to the reform of the UN Security Council is the divergent positions of the five Permanent Members (P5) and the requirement in terms of the UN Charter that any amendments must be ratified by the P5 in order to take effect. Recent events once again demonstrated that the current composition and functioning of the Council has the tendency to result in deadlock between the P5, rendering the Council unable to respond to global crises and raising questions about the Council's legitimacy. South Africa continues to maintain that progress could be reached through compromise based on negotiations focusing on key areas, including the veto, regional representation and the number of seats per region. South Africa

supports the common African position, as embodied in the Ezulwini Consensus, which *inter alia* calls for the expansion of the UN Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories, with two permanent seats to be allocated to Africa.

UNQUOTE