

Adequate geographical representation on the Councils is of course essential.

But the geographic aspect should not be inflated to the point where it obscures other important factors which should also be taken into account in determining a Member State's eligibility to serve on the Councils. That was never the intention of the United Nations Charter. In fact, Article 23 of the Charter provides that "the General Assembly shall elect six other members of the United Nations to be non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard being specially paid in the first instance to the contribution of members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization and also to equitable geographical distribution". In the opinion of my Delegation the criteria of Article 23 should continue to apply to elections to an enlarged Security Council. The language of the Article was obviously the result of careful thought by the framers of the Charter and it is understandable that they should have taken the reasonable position that the best interests of the United Nations would be served by giving first priority to capacity to contribute, and making geographical distribution a secondary consideration.

When one considers all the factors mentioned in Article 23 of the Charter, the contribution made by the Commonwealth as a group is substantial indeed. For example, if I may be permitted to cite a few statistics, (these statistics are restricted to the 15 Commonwealth countries eligible for non-permanent membership in the Councils, exclusive therefore of the United Kingdom), the percentage of the combined contribution of the Commonwealth countries ranges from 8.41 per cent (Canada 3.12) for the regular budget of the United Nations to 15 per cent (Canada 9.8) for the regular programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Commonwealth members contributed 7.7 per cent of the budget of the Special Fund (Canada 3.4), 9.9 per cent of the budget for UNICEF (Canada 3.15) and 9.8 per cent of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance budget (Canada 4.75). Voluntary contributions to meet the shortfall for UNEF and the United Nations Congo Operation on the part of three Commonwealth members have been substantial indeed: over 9 per cent (Canada 5.52). The Commonwealth