



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE REVITALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**STATEMENT BY MR. GEORG SPARBER**

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Co-Chairs,

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss the selection of the Secretary-General and other executive heads. Liechtenstein aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the ACT group who has been a driving force on this issue. The lessons learnt paper circulated by the group presents both a good overview of the significant achievements and outlines areas with potential to make further improvements.

The fact that there have been significant improvements puts a responsibility on the Ad Hoc Working Group to institutionalize positive change in order to ensure that progress is incremental. We cannot risk that new best practices become one-off achievements because of negligence to make them part of our institutional acquis. The Ad Hoc Working Group must take a leadership role in ensuring that the positive measures taken for the selection of the current Secretary-General are applied and built on in future processes, and extended to other leadership positions in the UN system. We trust in your ability, Co-Chairs, to guide our discussion on this matter in a results-oriented direction.

Co-Chairs,

The ACT statement also points to a number of important issues that I will not repeat, including pertaining to the transparency in the selection timeline and an early nomination process, a level playing field for candidates during informal dialogues and panels, stronger civil society participation and stronger accountability of the Security Council towards the general membership. In addition let me focus on a few additional points:

Firstly, we share the widely expressed support for the Secretary-General's commitment to gender parity and congratulate him on successfully implementing gender parity at the executive level. The Ad Hoc Working Group should consider how to preserve that progress and to assist the Secretary-General in implementing a gender parity policy throughout the UN system.

Secondly, we see the value and need to advance discussions towards a single, non-renewable term for the Secretary-General as an important measure against undue political pressure and in support of providing the necessary political space to develop a long term vision for the organization. We also remain convinced that a single term would be conducive to a more consistent regional rotation of the top leadership position and to strictly merits based appointments of senior management positions. We continue to see value in discussing an extension of the Secretary-General's duration of term, in this connection.

Finally, we consider a strengthened role of the General Assembly in the appointment process for the Secretary-General position and other leadership positions more than a simple transparency measure. The Secretary-General and the senior management are accountable to the membership as a whole, rather than to a few States. The reappropriation by the General Assembly of a key role in leadership appointments is in line with the overall trend for the General Assembly to take responsibility on issues where other Charter bodies continue to fail.