



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President

Deteriorating human rights situations and possible atrocity crimes in Myanmar, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere demand peace, unified action by the Security Council, threats to regional and international stability, and accountability. The Council, one of the principal organs of the United Nations, is equipped with powerful tools to alleviate human suffering and to enforce peace and stability. But it frequently fails to live up to the expectations that people around the globe place in it. All too often, it is unable to use the powerful tools it was given under the UN Charter. This undermines not just the perception of the Council itself, but in fact of the United Nations as an organization.

The need for early reform of the Security Council is beyond dispute. It has been stated by all of us time and again, including at the highest political level. In the area of enlargement, there is no prospect of progress, as long as deeply entrenched views on the opposite sides of the discussion prevail. Without any indication of flexibility, it is hard to imagine a way forward – indeed, we must challenge the fundamentals of the process we are engaged in. We thank Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh from the United Arab Emirates and Ambassador Kaha Imnadze from Georgia for taking up the challenge to lead our discussions. We will give them our full support and hope that they will be innovative and bold in their work. As is well known, we

suggested an enlargement model that we hope could provide a middle ground: Adding long-term seats of 8 to 10 years, with the possibility of immediate re-election. No new veto powers, a strong review clause and a “flip-flop” clause, which bars Member States, which lost an election for long-term seats to run for short-term seats, are the other main elements of our proposal.

Mr. President,

Enlargement of the council does not equal reform. Who serves on the Council is certainly an essential question for its perception, for its credibility. How the Council goes about its daily business, how it carries out its functions is of no less importance. We have consistently worked, together with like-minded States, to help the Council do better in this respect. We have achieved important results. The creation of an Ombudsperson for the Al-Qaeda-Taliban sanctions regime was an initiative that had its origins outside the Security Council. Another key initiative in this respect is the Code of Conduct of the Security Council on atrocity crimes. We had the honor to lead the effort in the ACT group that led to the Code of Conduct, which is currently supported by 114 Member States. All these States have committed to taking action to end and prevent atrocity crimes when serving as Council members. They will do so by engaging to take action to this effect and also by not opposing credible proposals suggested in the Council to this effect. Situations of relevance in the recent past have included Myanmar, South Sudan, Yemen, to name just a few. We were gratified to see that Secretary-General Guterres submitted relevant information to the Security Council for action – the Council, however, has been frustratingly slow in responding.

We believe that subscribing to the Code of Conduct is the minimum commitment we should be able to expect from any Council member. We will therefore continue to support only Security Council candidatures from States who have signed the Code of Conduct. We also call on all States who have not done so, yet, to join the Code of Conduct as soon as possible.

I thank you.