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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam Chair,

Thank you very much for calling this first meeting of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform for this session. Let me also pay tribute to your predecessor, Ambassador Rattray, under whose leadership we were able to make good progress in the form of the “Framework Document.” His dynamic leadership is exactly the sort we need if we are going to overcome the torpor that has characterized these negotiations for too long. We hope that we will be able to make progress on the basis of the framework document, as foreseen in General Assembly Decision 69/560. We also hope of course that those States and groups that have not yet done so will submit their positions to the framework document, so as to make it more complete. Participating in the process proposed by the Chair is an important way of demonstrating commitment to Security Council reform.

Security Council reform remains an important aspect of UN reform. Indeed, it was one of the topics covered in a retreat organized by Liechtenstein and The Elders in September of last year. I commend the report of the meeting, which is available on our Mission’s website,¹ to

¹ See http://www.regierung.li/files/medienarchiv/unoallgemein/Liechtenstein_Elders_UN_Reform_Meeting_Report_final.pdf?t=635901075111545926

the attention of everyone here. I am glad that many of you were able to join us at the launch of this report on 11 January – for those of you who were not able to, the archived webcast is available on the UNTV website.²

Madam Chair,

We attach great importance to **the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly**. Article 24 of the Charter clearly stipulates that the Council exercises its functions *on behalf* of all Member States, which also constitute the membership of the General Assembly. There are a number of areas for improvement, for example concerning the annual report of the Council to the Assembly, which should be the basis of a real dialogue between the two organs, and the Council's willingness to address recommendations by the Assembly on questions of working methods. We feel that the General Assembly can and should play a more active role – as it once did as a matter of course – in making recommendations to the Security Council. Some of these recommendations, including the much-cited General Assembly resolution 11(1) on the election of the Secretary-General, have substantially shaped the way in which the Security Council does its business.

However, important as this topic might be, only a very small part of it falls within the mandate of this intergovernmental negotiation process, which is why Liechtenstein did not make any submissions to this section of the framework document. In our view, **the IGN process should only be concerned with issues linked, directly or indirectly, to the enlargement of the Council and thus to the amendment of Charter**. Many of the proposals made in this section of the framework document are not linked to the expansion of the Security Council and need not wait for this process to be finished. Indeed, there are fora – including the Ad hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly and the Security Council's ongoing discussions on working methods – where this topic could be advanced right now. We would therefore encourage Groups and States that have made submissions in this section to re-

² See <http://webtv.un.org/search/moving-forward-with-the-reform-of-the-united-nations-panel-discussion/4698906952001?term=moving>.

evaluate whether the proposals they have made are indeed linked to the enlargement of the Council, or whether they can be taken forward today, in different fora. This would also help develop the framework document from its current state as a collection of proposals and positions into a basis for real negotiations.

Madam Chair,

We continue to stand by **our reform model**, which offers a viable middle ground between the two most extreme positions. This model would add a category of long-term elected seats to the Council, with terms of eight or ten years. States in this new category of seats would be allowed to stand for immediate re-election. We also proposed a so-called “flip-flop clause”, under which States that unsuccessfully sought election for the longer-term seats would be barred from standing for election for the existing 2-year seats for the duration of what would have been their term of office. A mandatory review of the mechanism would take place after two terms of the new, long-term seats.

Liechtenstein is confident that, under your guidance, we will be able to make progress during this session.

I thank you.