



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

NEW YORK, 20 NOVEMBER 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

STATEMENT BY GEORG SPARBER, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, A.I.

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Mr. President,

At a time when the international rules based order is under increasing pressure, the world cannot afford a dysfunctional Security Council. The fact that the Council is unable to act decisively on many of the defining crises of our time is in stark contrast to its mandate as set out in the UN Charter and detrimental to the United Nations as a whole. The prolonged standstill in the IGN process compounds an already sobering track record of the General Assembly to hold the Security Council accountable for its performance. The potential for conflict is rising and a strong and robust United Nations as the beacon of multilateralism is needed more than ever.

It is imperative to make the Council more broadly representative, efficient and transparent, yet we seem to be unable to overcome the current blockade. 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. Liechtenstein has actively contributed to the IGN and we continue to see high-level engagement by many Member States.

At the same time, we should have a serious discussion about the fundamentals of this process which we increasingly see as benefitting those the most, who show the least interest in progress.

As is well known, Liechtenstein suggested an enlargement model that we hoped could provide a middle ground in going forward: a new category of long-term seats of 8 to 10 years, with the possibility of immediate re-election. No new veto powers, flexibility to add new two-year seats, 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 and 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 and we have achieved important results. The Ombudsperson for the Al-Qaeda sanctions regime was an initiative that had its origins outside the Security Council. We see great merit in expanding its mandate to other sanctions regimes. Another key initiative is the ACT Code of Conduct for the Security Council to prevent and end atrocity crimes. We had the honor to lead the effort in the ACT group that resulted in the Code of Conduct, which is currently supported by 118 States, nine of which are current Security Council members. From 2019 on, with five new incoming non-permanent Council members, 2/3 of Security Council members will have signed the Code. All these States have committed to take action to prevent and end atrocity crimes when serving on the Council. Relevant situations to which the Code applies today include Myanmar, Syria and Yemen.

For Liechtenstein subscribing to the Code of Conduct is the minimum commitment we expect from any Council member. We will therefore continue to support only

Security Council candidatures from States who have signed the Code of Conduct and call on others to do the same. Such a policy can make a tangible contribution to improving the work of the Council – one of the very concrete measures members of this Assembly can take while progress on enlargement eludes us.

I thank you.