



**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,

The drafters of the UN Charter intended for the Security Council to be the cornerstone of the international rules-based order in the area of peace and security. Unfortunately, it has become a sad reality that the Council is unable to act decisively on many of the defining crises of our time. The gap between the Council's mandate and its performance increases – as does the use of the veto to block Council decisions against a quantitative majority of nine votes. The effects are detrimental to the United Nations as a whole and thus to all of us in this Assembly. While the current size and geographical representation of the Security Council membership call for urgent reform – maybe our only common understanding in this hall – enlargement is neither a silver bullet nor a condition sine qua non for improved Council performance. An enlarged Council will obviously need to adapt its working methods. But a better work and functioning of the Council in its current shape is as necessary and indeed even more urgent.

Mr. President,

Year after year we have been stating that we are unable to overcome the blockade on enlargement. The IGN process continues to be the sole platform for these discussions and has become more of a guarantor for the status quo than the driver for change that it was meant to be. In the absence of any indication of flexibility from those with fundamentally opposing positions it is hard to imagine a way forward that would bring us beyond the same point we find

ourselves time and again in this debate. Liechtenstein has actively contributed to the IGN and we appreciate the ongoing high-level engagement by Member States. At the same time, there can hardly be a question that the IGN has come to benefit those the most, who show the least interest in progress. Liechtenstein is therefore of the view that the next round of discussions should include a serious assessment about the fundamentals of the IGN process, if once more we do not make a decisive step towards real negotiations on the basis of a text. Another roll-over without a concrete perspective for progress will be difficult to explain to our constituencies, in particular at a time when the UN looks for a positive dynamic to celebrate 75 years of its existence. In the meantime, we will continue looking for meaningful change outside the IGN, where it is achievable.

In an attempt to bridge divides and foster consensus, Liechtenstein has suggested an enlargement model based on a new category of long-term seats of 8 to 10 years, with the possibility of immediate re-election. Its main elements are: no new veto powers, flexibility to add new two-year seats, a strong review clause and a “flip-flop” clause, which bars States that have lost an election for long-term seats to run for short-term seats. Liechtenstein is aware many other States and groups have also put forward concrete proposals and we see no obstacle in reflecting the current diversity of views in a negotiation text.

Mr. President,

Enlargement of the Council does not imply improved performance. Efforts to improve transparency, efficiency and accountability of the Council have only been successful if pursued outside of the enlargement discussions and often outside of the Security Council itself. Liechtenstein consistently works together with like-minded States in this respect and we have achieved important results. The Ombudsperson was a successful initiative from outside the Council and we continue to advocate for the expansion of its mandate to other sanctions regimes. Another key initiative is the ACT Code of Conduct against atrocity crimes, currently supported by 121 States, ten of which are current Security Council members. While the Code is first and foremost a commitment for Security Council members, it also enshrines an expectation by a majority of Member States towards the Council. Liechtenstein will continue to invoke the Code in situations such as Myanmar, Syria and Yemen. As recently expressed by the ACT Group, subscribing to the Code of Conduct is increasingly considered a minimum standard for candidates to the Security Council. Liechtenstein will continue its policy to support States' candidatures to the Security Council only if they have committed to the Code of Conduct - a very concrete measure all members of this Assembly could take to improve the Council's performance while progress on enlargement eludes us.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein sees the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council as mutually reinforcing and complementary. In this sense, the General Assembly has a responsibility to step in whenever the Security Council is unable to act, as it has done with the creation of the IIIM for Syria. The Charter makes it clear that the General Assembly may address any issue it deems important and its role and authority include matters of peace and security as per the Charter of the United Nations. In light of the increasing use of the veto Liechtenstein supports a standing mandate for the General Assembly to debate any use of the veto in a formal meeting, as a measure of accountability as well as a means to empower this Assembly. Such a debate should take place without prejudice to any possible outcome and independently of the substance of the resolution that was subject to a veto. The Security Council should be invited to contribute to the discussion with a special report. Liechtenstein will work with all interested delegations on mandating such a debate in the coming weeks.

I thank you.