

ITEM 104:
APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

delivered on behalf of the Western European and other States Group (WEOG)

NEW YORK, 12 OCTOBER 2006

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madame President,

I have the honor today to address this Assembly on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States (WEOG) on the occasion of the appointment of H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, starting 1 January 2007. The Group of Western European and other States warmly congratulates H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon on his election and welcomes him at the head of the organization. As the chief executive of this organization, he has the twofold task of working with Member States for the realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter as well as of efficiently managing the Secretariat. This is a complex and daunting challenge which requires the active support from us, the Member States. The record and past achievements of the Secretary-General elect gives us confidence that he possesses the required skills to carry out both these functions effectively and to steer the organization through the tasks ahead.

Madame President,

We look forward to the leadership of the Secretary-General elect in a time where the challenges to the multilateral system are manifold and complex and where the need for a strong United Nations organization is more urgent than ever. At the same time, we realize that it is us, the Member States, who are called upon to make the right decisions for the future of the organization and that close, constructive and productive cooperation between the Secretary-General elect and the membership is indispensable in order to maintain and strengthen the place of the United Nations in the international system. We therefore owe such cooperation to the peoples that we represent and to the organization.

Madame President,

We welcome the fact that the appointment of the new Secretary-General is taking place well ahead of the end of the tenure of Secretary-General Kofi Annan and trust that the appointment today will ensure a smooth transition and the necessary continuity in the work of the United Nations. We also wish to emphasize that we continue to count, until the very end of his term, on the leadership of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, which has served as so well over the past ten years. We will all have a separate opportunity to extend our deep gratitude for his long years of excellent service to the United Nations and look forward to that occasion. I thank you.