



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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

STATEMENT BY GEORG SPARBER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Co-chairs,

We thank you for taking on this difficult mandate and I would like to assure you that we will support you as best we can in your task.

Our continued active participation in this process is first and foremost due to our belief that reforming and enlarging the Security Council have not become less urgent, even if the protracted stalemate in our discussion might at times reflect that perception.

We are certainly concerned about the state of this process as we are concerned about the state of the Security Council more generally speaking, given the Council's frequent inability to effectively carrying out its work. In its 75th year of existence the United Nations would deserve a better Security Council and one that is more reflective of the membership today. Obviously, the Council is also the prime object of discussion on the need to strengthen multilateralism.

We will engage once again in this process with our well-known positions and a constructive spirit to move us ahead and into real negotiations on the basis of a text. At the same time, we will also pursue measures, which do not belong in this process, to strengthen the role of the General Assembly in matters of international peace and security. One such measure is to convene the General Assembly every time a veto is cast in the Security Council to give the membership an opportunity to express itself on such a situation, without prejudice to any outcome. Together with like-minded States we will put forward a General Assembly resolution to that effect. To be clear: this is not a measure to reform the Security Council, it is a measure to better implement the General Assembly's Charter mandate in light of the increasing use of the veto. This initiative is fully independent of any position taken in this Security Council reform process as it does not

address the status or even the existence of the veto. It merely addresses the increasing use the veto and what we believe should be the responsibility of the General Assembly in response to that. We are flagging this here today in order to avoid any confusion, to make the Co-Chairs' life easier and to invite all interested delegations work with us in the coming weeks on this initiative.

Co-Chairs,

With regard to the issues pertinent to the Security Council reform process let me reiterate the following points:

First, Liechtenstein obviously supports enlargement of the Council in order to represent the geopolitical realities of today as well as the current membership of the United Nations. Europe continues to be massively overrepresented in the Security Council, while other continents, in particular Africa, are seriously underrepresented. We continue to believe that our "intermediate model" with long-term renewable seats, without any additional veto rights, provides a reasonable middle ground between the different conflicting enlargement models.

Second, Liechtenstein strongly believes that the Security Council needs to improve its working methods and we congratulate Kuwait in particular for its stellar efforts in this respect during its membership. We will continue to promote improvements to the Council's working methods, in its current set-up, outside of the Security Council reform process.

Third, it is clear that an enlarged Security Council will lead to an entirely different set of questions with respect to working methods. These should be integral part of our discussions here, while we acknowledge that they remain abstract to some degree as long as we fail to converge on either the size of an enlarged Council, nor the model of enlargement.

Finally Co-Chairs,

We are committed to coming here as frequently as you propose to us to engage throughout the year as we continue to believe in the importance of this exercise. While we continue to be hopeful for progress throughout this session, we will strongly advocate for a reevaluation of the IGN format, should progress continue to elude us. We are increasingly wary of the risk that the IGN process turns into a vehicle that is useful only for those who want to delay the process, and not for those who want to see reform of the Council. If our current discussions corroborate this perception, we might lose the consensus for simply rolling over the exercise at the end of the session. To avoid such a scenario we hope that all delegations will be ready to come out of their comfort zones and engage in true negotiations.

I thank you.