



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

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NEW YORK, 16 NOVEMBER 2020

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

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein thanks the co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations, the Permanent Representatives of Poland and Qatar, for taking on the demanding task to chair the IGN. Liechtenstein will be a constructive voice in these negotiations and support the co-chairs' efforts to its best abilities.

Liechtenstein has consistently and actively contributed to the IGN, first and foremost due to our belief that the mandate of the process which is to reform and enlarge the Security Council has not become less urgent, even if the protracted stalemate in our discussion might at times create a different perception. Liechtenstein continues to be hopeful for progress throughout this session if delegations are willing to overcome long held positions and explore all avenues for compromise. The difficult circumstances we find ourselves in due to the COVID-19 pandemic should be further encouragement to use our best collective efforts for a United Nations that is effective and truly representative, including its most powerful Charter body.

Mr. President,

As is well known, Liechtenstein has suggested for the enlargement discussion an "intermediate model" with long-term renewable seats, without any additional veto rights. The intermediate model has the potential to better represent the geopolitical realities of today as well as the current membership of the United Nations. It is unacceptable that some regions, in particular Africa, are seriously underrepresented in the Security Council while our own part of the world continues to be overrepresented.

Enlargement does, however, not equal reform or improved performance. Liechtenstein strongly believes that an enlarged Security Council also needs to improve its working methods. 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 no less important. While the current size and geographical representation of the Security Council membership call for urgent reform – our lowest common denominator in this hall – a better work and functioning of the Council in its current shape is also necessary and maybe even more urgent.

Mr. President,

75 years into its existence, at a time when the international rules-based order is under increasing pressure, the UN requires a Security Council able to tackle manifold and complex global challenges, in a manner that better reflects the views of the membership of the organization. As the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to the world, it has also instilled a deep and widespread sense of insecurity among our societies and accentuated the need for a more comprehensive security approach to the problems of today. The Security Council has engaged in a welcome series of discussions on the broader security implications of the pandemic, but also climate change and other global challenges. It should systematically incorporate such a broad security perspective into its work, thereby not only improving the impact of its deliberations and decisions, but also contributing to the larger goals of the organization such as the SDGs. Yet, we see the gap between the Council's mandate and its performance increase. The use of the veto to block Council decisions against a quantitative majority of nine votes has played a significant role in that respect. The effects of the increased use of the veto are detrimental to the United Nations as a whole and the General Assembly has a legitimate interest to discuss situations on which the veto prevents the Security Council from acting.

Finally Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is committed to participate in the IGN as frequently as the co-chairs convene states as we continue to believe in the importance of this exercise. The role and the authority of the IGN process depends on the good faith effort of all States, in particular those with fundamentally opposing positions, to indicate as much flexibility as possible and the readiness of all to engage in true negotiations to find a way forward in a debate whose importance for the United Nations could hardly be overstated.

I thank you.