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

SIZE OF AN ENLARGED SECURITY COUNCIL AND WORKING METHODS OF THE COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY STEFAN BARRIGA

MINISTER, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.

Madam Chair,

I have the honor to speak today also on behalf of Estonia. I will focus on the working methods of the Security Council. This is a topic of particular interest to our two countries, which, as members of the ACT Group, are working to improve the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency of the Security Council. Our purpose here, in the intergovernmental negotiations, is quite different, however: as Liechtenstein stated in the first IGN meeting of this session, we understand our task here to be limited exclusively to efforts required on matters directly related to the Charter amendments required for Security Council expansion. All other suggestions to improve the functioning of this Council should be taken forward in other fora, primarily in the Council itself, with the input from the wider membership. In particular, they need not await an agreement on the expansion of the Council, as the wide range of measures implemented to improve working methods in the past two decades illustrate.

The IGN should therefore only deal with working methods issues directly related to the expansion of the Council. This approach is faithful to the intentions of the drafters of General Assembly Decision 62/557, which forms the basis of our work. They placed working methods in

the same “main topic” as size – clearly indicating a direct relationship between these two topics.

Madam Chair,

Working-methods issues fall in two broad categories: those of a *constitutional* nature and those of a *practical* nature. The former will have to be part of the package of **Charter amendments** adopted as part of the expansion decision. Article 27(2) and (3) will have to be amended to reflect the new majority required for decision-making, for example, irrespective of how many seats we decide to add. A mandate to **review** the reformed institutional arrangements of the Security Council – and especially the veto – at a specified time after the reform, should likewise be anchored in the Charter. We will comment more extensively on this proposal and others related to the veto during our meeting dedicated to that issue.

Working-methods issues of a *practical* nature will have to be dealt with separately. We would expect a number of these to be the subject of a **recommendation to the Security Council**. Examples here include ensuring that each elected member holds the Presidency of the Council at least once during their membership of the Council and ensuring efficient decision-making in an enlarged Council through increased use of subsidiary bodies. The current practices in the assignment of penholderships and chairmanships of subsidiary bodies should likewise be reviewed.

Other issues fall within the **General Assembly’s budgetary and administrative oversight role**, as the capacity of the Secretariat’s Security Council Affairs Division will have to be reviewed in light of expansion, and the resource allocation adjusted accordingly.

A final group of issues might well be the subject of **recommendations to the membership at large**. We are thinking here, for example, of the unwritten privileges enjoyed by the permanent members when it comes to quasi-permanent membership in the Economic and Social Council and on the International Court of Justice, as well as their continued “leasehold” on certain senior positions within the UN Secretariat. These already questionable privileges

would become unsustainable should the Assembly decide to expand the permanent category of Security Council membership.

Madam Chair,

Dealing with the working-methods considerations arising from an expansion of the Council is an integral part of the IGN. We would expect relevant issues to be taken up in the resolution with which the Assembly adopts the relevant Charter amendments or – to echo a suggestion made years ago – in a separate resolution. A separate resolution on working methods might be especially attractive should the final proposal on expansion not enjoy something approaching unanimous support of Member States. We stress, however, that working methods must be part of the final reform “package” – if they are to be dealt with in a separate resolution, such a resolution should be adopted at the same time as the one containing the amendments to the Charter.

I thank you.