

65TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ITEM 108
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE
ORGANIZATION

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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AS DELIVERED

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the work of the organization. The past session of the General Assembly has brought some important breakthroughs in the UN reform agenda. The creation of UN WOMEN, in particular, is a major contribution to a more coherent and less duplicative organization. The timely appointment of Ms. Bachelet at the head of the new entity should guarantee a smooth transition without major operative interruptions. We also consider the reformed Taliban and Al-Qaida sanctions regime of the Security Council a big step into the right direction. The new office of the Ombudsperson, headed by Ms. Kimberly Prost, will contribute to the legitimacy and the effectiveness of the sanctions regime and the Security Council itself. The UN as a whole and in its parts needs these qualities urgently in order to secure its standing as the center for global governance in the fields of peace and security, human rights, development, humanitarian action and international law.

Mr. President,

The choice of “Global Governance” as the theme of this year’s General Debate has been received positively by Member States. We hope that it will remain the overarching topic of the entire session. An indispensable element of global governance on the basis of the principle of sovereign equality is that any global governance system must be a set of clear applicable rules. We therefore see a close connection between the topics “rule of law” and “global governance” and would therefore welcome a thematic debate on the rule of law during this session of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

The UN has the broadest legitimacy of all intergovernmental organizations based on its near universal membership and the democratic structure of its main deliberative body, the General Assembly. But legitimacy cannot be based on structural and institutional

aspects only. The UN agencies, funds and programmes as well as its peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions are the face of the UN to the outside world and must increase the legitimacy for the UN as a whole on the basis of the daily work they deliver to States, individuals, the general public and civil society. In this field we continue to see a lot of potential. Operational legitimacy is earned through transparent and efficient work and through independent accountability mechanisms. The work of the relevant entities and of the Office of Internal Oversight (OIOS) is therefore very important. The OIOS makes an essential contribution to raise awareness within and outside the UN for necessary management reforms and structural deficits in the UN's organizational set-up. We are concerned that after a period of responsiveness to the recommendations of the OIOS, the eagerness to implement these recommendations by the organization is in overall decline. We believe that the UN has a particular responsibility to urgently address all allegations of sexual abuse and harassment as well as of misappropriation of funds. Past experience shows how detrimental system breakdowns in the area of management oversight can be and hope that this Assembly will engage in an open and productive discussion of these issues.

Mr. President,

The agenda of the current General Assembly provides us with the opportunity to streamline and optimize processes in the areas of peacebuilding and human rights. We hope that the review of the Peacebuilding Commission will strengthen the Commission's preventive dimension and sharpen its focus to address the root causes of conflicts. We believe that substantial improvement in the coherence of the different human rights bodies in the UN is possible and necessary. The relationship between the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, its Third and the Fifth Committee has been, to say the least, unclear and inefficient in the past. We hope that member states take the opportunity of this review to address this relationship and the issue of providing a regular and steady mechanism to fund decisions by the Human Rights Council where necessary. A successful review process would strengthen the governance of the UN in

this field. I am personally grateful for the trust you have placed in Ambassador Loulichki from Morocco and myself to assist you in leading this Assembly on the matter of review of the Human Rights Council.

Mr. President,

With the Security Council the UN has the most powerful tool in international law at hand. Yet it is perceived as lacking political legitimacy due to its nonrepresentational composition. Political progress on this issue has been deadlocked for a long time and member states need to be aware of the risk of an institutional crisis of the organization as whole if this situation prevails for much longer. We continue to stand ready to make our contribution to a serious enlargement discussion. In parallel we will vigorously pursue the S-5 agenda on working methods of the Security Council where progress has been less than satisfactory. In a letter sent to the Chair of the informal Working Group on Documentation of the Security Council dated 9 July 2010, we have taken note, as the S-5, of the updated Presidential Note of the Security Council (S/2010/507), which has the merit of providing the overview of the current state of play. At the same time, it offers very little by way of effective measures to improve accountability, access and inclusion of non-members of the Council – the areas where we believe most remains to be done. We will continue pursue these ends in this Assembly.

I thank you.