



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

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NEW YORK, 3 MARCH 2015

AS DELIVERED

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE REVITALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**STATEMENT BY MR. RENÉ HOLBACH**

ADVISER

Mr. Co-Chair,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you and your Co-Chair on your appointment, and also to thank the President of the General Assembly for his remarks. I would just like to share a few thoughts of the appointment of the Secretary-General. This is perhaps the most important topic covered by this Ad Hoc Working Group, and we hope that it will receive the attention it deserves.

The appointment of the Secretary-General is one of the most significant duties of the General Assembly. The time has come to change past practice that saw the General Assembly relegated to a rubber-stamping organ, whose members only had the duty to clap loudly when the Security Council's sole nominee was presented to them.

Nobody is advocating that the provisions of the Charter be flouted or changed. But we do call for their implementation in a transparent manner that allows members of the Assembly to have a meaningful input into the selection procedure.

The General Assembly has already laid the groundwork for a more transparent and participative selection procedure in a number of past resolutions, notably resolution 60/286 of 2006. As we approach the end of the term the present Secretary-General, we must take steps to ensure that they are implemented. History has shown that we must act now if we hope to influence the selection procedure.

Mr. President, we are glad you are with us this morning. The General Assembly's resolutions on this topic foresee an important and dynamic role of the President of the General Assembly in the process leading to the appointment of the Secretary-General. The aforementioned resolution, for example, asks the President of the General Assembly "to consult with Member States to identify potential candidates endorsed by a Member State and, upon informing all Member States of the results, to forward those results to the Security Council."<sup>1</sup> Mr. President, we look to you and to your successor to ensure that the members of this Assembly are able to exercise their right to have input into the selection procedure, and to ensure transparency.

Liechtenstein is a member of ACT, a cross-regional group of 24 Member States. Being concerned with ensuring an accountable and transparent Security Council, we will be presenting concrete suggestions of how to improve the process within the existing statutory framework as laid down by the Charter and relevant General Assembly Resolutions.

I thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/60/286, annex, para 19.