



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

NEW YORK, 17 JUNE 2011

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 65TH SESSION

**ITEMS 13 AND 115: INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS; FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT
EXPLANATION OF VOTE AFTER THE VOTE BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. President

I wish to thank you for the trust you have placed in me by appointing me facilitator. It has been a pleasure to work with you and your excellent team. Most importantly, I would like to thank my colleague and friend Ambassador Loulichki of Morocco for the excellent cooperation in this intense and complex exercise, which was essential to the outcome of this process. We have benefited from an outstanding coordination of our work with our colleagues in Geneva, under the able leadership of President Sihasak from Thailand.

As facilitators, we have worked in good faith and in a transparent and inclusive manner to reconcile the very diverging views of Member States on the different aspects of the review. Even if views seemed far apart for a long time, we have always been able to count on the constructive and active engagement of Member States in our discussions. This is indeed an indispensable prerequisite if multilateral work is to be successful.

As facilitators, we have defined consensus as one of our main goals in carrying out our mandate: We have consistently made it clear that we were working on the understanding that

a consensus should be the aim of the review exercise, because this would send the important signal that the Human Rights Council as an institution has the backing of the membership, notwithstanding all substantive differences of opinion on human rights issues. Until very late in our negotiations, we were confident that such a consensus was within reach. That consensus has not been possible is therefore disappointing to us. In particular so, because this is not the result of a disagreement with the text that we have negotiated here in New York, but rather with the outcome adopted in Geneva. We would of course have expected that such disagreement be voiced at the time and in the place where they belong. We are grateful that States have been able to rally behind the President's text which enjoys the broadest possible political support short of consensus.

From a more personal perspective, I believe there is a positive note to the fact that the outcome before us is a modest one: At least one element of explanation for the limited scope of this review is that the Council is perceived as becoming better at doing its work. But there is also another side, one that has prevented us from making more meaningful changes in the framework of this review: A high degree of discomfort in making any changes, even of a practical and pragmatic nature and even where they are clearly warranted. This review would have been the right moment to make a decision on the funding of unforeseen costs arising from special sessions of the Council - a decision that we hope the GA can adopt in the fall - and to institutionalize once and for all **all**, and not just most, aspects of the way in which the General Assembly and the Third Committee consider the report of the Council. Even in these modest goals, we have only been partially successful. Finally, I believe that the membership would benefit from a different way of dealing with candidatures – indeed, not just for the Human Rights Council, but for other bodies, such as the Security Council, and some of the highest offices within the UN system. While nothing was decided in the framework of this review, I hope that this discussion has planted the seed for a larger discussion, ideally in a broader and more general context. Finally, I would like to thank all delegations that have found kind words to express their appreciation for the work that we have done here.

I thank you