



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

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

STATEMENT BY CHRISTIAN WENAWESER, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Co-chairs,

I would like to thank our colleagues from Germany for their initiative to let the sunshine in. I share the satisfaction expressed by my Libyan neighbor that this meeting therefore has already had an outcome. We welcome this discussion. Our views on process are well known and I will not go into them. We favor a strong role of the co-chairs and fully support you. We do believe that this discussion benefits from a text that can serve as the basis of our discussion.

The two topics at hand that I would like to address briefly are the size and working methods of an enlarged Council and the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council. We very much welcome the fact that these two are looked at together. As our colleague from CARICOM has mentioned, there are important issues that need to be looked at from a working methods perspective if and when the Council is enlarged.

As we all know, there are different ideas on the table as far as the possible future size of the Council. Under our enlargement model that we have circulated, there are in fact two options possible. We have first the option of enlarging in the intermediate category only, and adding a traditional non-permanent seat for the Eastern European group that would take the Council to twenty-two members. But it is also possible to go to twenty-five or to twenty-six members by adding more two-year seats. If the Council is larger than twenty-four we have for example the obvious challenge that not every state would automatically have the Presidency. The presidency is a highlight for many states and also gives a particular platform to take initiatives, so this is an issue that would need to be addressed. A very important issue would also be an agreement on

the voting majority in an enlarged Council. There are more of those aspects, but those are the aspects that are inseparably linked with the question of size.

That said, we also find it extremely important that work on improving the working methods goes on in parallel to this discussion. We are very grateful to our colleagues from Kuwait in their very effective efforts to move the discussions in the Security Council forward, and we look forward to a new version of note 507. Of course, we look forward in particular to the consistent implementation of those measures that the Council itself has agreed on, so for us, as the rest of the membership, it is extremely valuable to know that this is not just a menu to choose from but this is in fact what the Council does.

Turning to the second subject, the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council, which we believe to be a key aspect of this discussion. I want to echo previous speakers who have talked about the dimension of accountability of the Security Council to the GA. According to the Charter the Security Council does its work on behalf of all of us, and this creates accountability that is recognized in the Charter, in the World Summit Outcome Document of 2005 and beyond. It was referenced by various speakers – by Italy on behalf of UfC, by Brazil just now – and we very strongly support these views and calls.

There are of course vehicles to ensure accountability. One of them was mentioned several times in this discussion: the report of the Council to the General Assembly – the Annual Report. As we know we are all a bit dissatisfied both with the timing of submission and the format - but from our perspective in particular with the format of the discussion of the report. We do not think that it is sufficient to go to the General Assembly and hold a speech on this. We think there should be an opportunity for exchange between the membership and the Council on what the Council has done, and in many cases, more importantly, what it has not done in the previous year.

We are also looking for opportunities to engage outside of this format. We think that the practice of the Security Council to have wrap-up meetings is a very important platform for accountability, and we just want to note with regret that we have not yet had a wrap-up meeting of the Council this year. We know we will have one at the end of April, but this is late in the year and we believe it should happen every month. It should happen in such a way that, again, this offers a platform for dialogue, that gives those of us who are not in the Council an opportunity to express ourselves and to ask questions, and not just to get a briefing from the Presidencies.

Finally, a quick word on what we think is really key with respect to the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council, and what is key with respect to the dimension of accountability - the veto. The veto is a crucial element in all discussions on Security Council reform, and it has in recent years been a major obstacle in the effectiveness of the Security Council. It is our view that any veto cast in the Security Council should be discussed in the General Assembly. Not necessarily with a view for the General Assembly to take action on the situation

that was discussed and on the proposal that was vetoed, but as an opportunity to hear from those who have vetoed, to give us an opportunity to express our views on what we think of that veto, and to express ourselves on whether we think that a different course of action is necessary. We very much hope that this can become established practice. It would also in fact give an opportunity to do what other speakers have mentioned. Again, Brazil just before me invited the Security Council to submit special reports to the General Assembly. The Council could be invited to submit special reports as the result of a veto, and then we could then hold our discussion in light of that report.

Thank you.