



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 124 – STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/76/L.52 “STANDING MANDATE FOR A GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE WHEN A VETO IS CAST IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL”

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President

I have the honor to introduce, on behalf of the cosponsors, draft resolution L. 52, entitled “Standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council”. I am happy to inform the Assembly that this initiative is currently supported by 76 States from all regional groups.

The draft resolution before this Assembly today creates a standing mandate for the Assembly to be convened automatically, within ten working days, every time a veto has been cast in the Security Council. This resolution, which will take immediate effect, also accords precedence to the delegation or delegations that cast the veto, on an exceptional basis, in the list of speakers of the subsequent General Assembly debate. This mandate, which is without prejudice to ongoing discussions in the

Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) carried out pursuant to GA resolution 62/557, is not prescriptive with respect to a possible outcome. While States can of course propose action by the GA in accordance with established procedures of the Assembly, that will not necessarily be so.

Mr. President

Liechtenstein started work on this initiative together with a core group of States over two years ago, out of a growing concern that the Security Council has found it increasingly difficult to carry out its work in accordance with its mandate under the UN Charter, of which the increase in the use of the veto is but the most obvious expression. All Member States of this organization have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and agreed that the Council acts on their behalf. We are therefore of the view that the membership as a whole should be given a voice when the Security Council is unable to act, in accordance with this Assembly's functions and powers reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its Article 10. The veto power comes with the responsibility to work for the achievement of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter at all times. We have put this text forward as an expression of our commitment to multilateralism, with this organization and its principal organs at the forefront. There has never been a stronger need for effective multilateralism than today. And there has never been a stronger need for innovation in order to secure the central role and voice of the United Nations in this respect.

Mr. President

We have done extensive outreach and consultations, both individually as well as collectively with our core group, in bilateral and various group settings. Our text was first circulated to the UN membership on 3 March, first made available to a wider public on 12 April, and discussed in an open format with all interested States on 19 April. We are grateful for the strong interest from members of this Assembly and the numerous comments we have received from many of you in the course of this lengthy process. They have helped us refine and improve our text, resulting in the straightforward, legally sound and politically meaningful proposal we present to you today. We are thankful for the very strong support our initiative has received from the membership and look forward to adopting it together with you.

I thank you.