



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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 26 - REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

We welcome the submission of the annual report of the Security Council in accordance with its obligation under Article 24(3) of the Charter, and for your convening of today's debate in a timely fashion in line with General Assembly Resolution 77/335. Liechtenstein aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the ACT Group earlier today and thanks Portugal and Ecuador for their leadership on this area of ACT's work.

Mr. President,

The Security Council carries out its duties on behalf of all of us and of the peoples we represent. Today's debate is an important opportunity for us to take account of the way it has carried out its primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security, and the way it has communicated this work to the Membership. On the latter point, we continue to seek a more substantive, and in parts accurate portrayal of the Council's work. In its absence, we remind Council Members that monthly assessments of their presidencies do not in themselves require unanimity amongst Council members, and should be submitted on a timely basis.

As regards this year's report, we must compliment the penholdership of the United Kingdom. The UK's initiative to invite the membership to informal consultations on the report was genuinely innovative, and the inclusion of references to special reports submitted as the result of the veto,

to the Veto Initiative (resolution 76/262) and, perhaps most notably, the creation of a new Chapter to cover “Special reports on the use of the veto” are reflective of that more transparent approach, as well as the work of like-minded Members inside the Council. We hope that these references demonstrate an enhanced recognition of the Security Council’s accountability to the wider membership and for a similar degree of accountability from future penholders. For your part, Mr. President, we hope that you and your successors will continue the practice of sending a summary of General Assembly meetings on this agenda item to the Security Council for its consideration in response.

Mr. President,

Nevertheless, even the most far-reaching, analytical and substantive Annual Report is no substitute for a functional and effective Council. On this metric, the work of the Council is a cause for increasing concern, both over the period covered by the report and up to the present day.

6 vetoes – 5 resolutions and one amendment – were cast in 2023; 6 have already been cast in 2024. Both years represent the highest number of vetoes cast since 1986, before the end of the Cold War. To note one emerging dynamic, one significant sanctions regime was terminated in 2023 through the use of the veto, and another – the 1718 regime on the DPRK – now lacks a sorely needed Panel of Experts to facilitate its implementation. The Council’s lack of action, both implicit and overt, in this case not only fails to implement its overall mandate but increasingly undermines its own resolutions.

While vetoes do not preclude Council action, they are symptomatic of a body unable to carry out its work and to take the decisive and timely action necessary to protect civilians from conflict and insecurity. Increasing dysfunction in the Security Council has highlighted the increased need for this Assembly to take on a more dynamic role in the maintenance of peace and security, in line with Article 11 of the UN Charter. Through adopting the Veto Initiative by consensus, we believe that the Membership has made clear the need to rebalance this division of labour. We encourage all Members accordingly to consider when and how products adopted by this Assembly can enhance the maintenance of peace and security, including through stimulating Security Council action. The events of the last two years do not leave us short for examples.

We encourage you, Mr. President, to work with the Membership to compile a repository of occurrences where the General Assembly has taken action on peace and security. Liechtenstein strongly believes that the Council and General Assembly, working together, can enhance the UN's contribution to peace and security at a time when it is needed the most.

Mr. President,

Even when the Council has been able to act, we have frequently seen lack of implementation without significant consequences. In a growing number of cases, Council Members have actively violated their own resolutions either directly or by assisting conflict parties. Article 25 makes clear that all decisions of the Security Council are binding on Member States. Statements to the contrary, especially by Council members, weaken the Council and undermine our institution. And when there is no implementation of the Council's binding decisions, the argument that Council resolutions are more effective than pronouncements of the General Assembly due to their binding nature ceases to hold water. We also encourage the Council to take steps to ensure adherence to the provisional measures and rulings of the International Court of Justice.

Where States on the Council are 'parties to a dispute', we see a refusal to implement Article 27.3 of the Charter in full, despite abstention in such cases being a similar imperative to that creating the veto. We commit to working with the large and growing number of Member States that have taken note of the need for 'parties to a dispute' to abstain from voting to ensure that the UN Charter is implemented effectively. As ever, we continue to urge all States, particularly Members of the Council, to sign the ACT Code of Conduct.

Mr. President,

This year's report also shows a dramatic reduction of the Council's footprint in an area where it has historically been the most effective. Peacekeeping missions are phasing out or closing before they have had time to go through the achievable and realistic transition period laid out in Resolution 2594. Other missions continue under the threat of termination, or are on hold, lacking the personnel to operate. We urge the Council to consider how it can work more closely with the General Assembly and Peacebuilding Commission in particular to ensure sustainable transitions.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein will continue to prioritize advocacy for improved working methods in the Security Council, including as part of the ACT Group, and recognizing that this year the Council is negotiating an update to note 507. We note in particular that the success of Council products reflects in part the quality of its penholdership, and encourage the increased use of co-penholdership and the leveraging of expertise of the elected Members in this respect.

I thank you.