



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

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NEW YORK, 4 NOVEMBER 2024

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**REVITALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY - ITEM 120**

**STATEMENT BY MATTHEW EDBROOKE, POLITICAL COORDINATOR**

Madam President,

Thank you for convening today's debate. Liechtenstein aligns with the statement made earlier this morning by Estonia on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency group (ACT). We will make a few additional remarks in our national capacity.

Liechtenstein strongly believes that the General Assembly has an indispensable role in the work of our organization. At a time when the UN faces significant headwinds, this Assembly has an opportunity to realize its potential. We must act together to strengthen the principles of our organization, to uphold international law, and to maintain peace and security, especially when its other primary organs are blocked from doing so.

In recent years, the Membership has come to important collective statements on the priorities of the General Assembly, and how it should carry these out in concert with the other primary organs. Recent resolutions on the Revitalization of the General Assembly and in the Pact for the Future, have reaffirmed the clear role of the General Assembly in line with Chapter IV of the

Charter in the area of Peace and Security and sought to enhance it. We acknowledged the tools by which the GA is increasingly making use of these competencies, including the Uniting for Peace mechanism and the Veto Initiative, which Liechtenstein was proud to lead. We tasked the President of the General Assembly to create a digital handbook laying out the past practices, data and recommendations for the fulfillment of its functions under Chapter IV. The “Assembly for Peace” Handbook was released in August, and we encourage all those interested in the General Assembly’s role in the area of Peace and Security to use it. We have also clarified our expectations on the timely submission of the Annual Report of the Security Council to the General Assembly.

In the area of the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General, we stressed the need for it to be guided by principles of transparency and inclusiveness. We encouraged States to bear in mind that this position has only been held by men throughout the history of our organization. And we agreed to create a repository of the past selection and appointments and invited candidates to voluntarily disclose funding sources of their campaigns.

Madam President,

These achievements represent significant progress. As ACT and others have already said this morning, nevertheless, we must have a level of ambition that meets the challenges facing our organization. In the area of peace and security, the General Assembly should consider action whenever the Security Council or other relevant UN bodies are unable. It is worth remembering that the Security Council, while holding primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and

security, does not hold exclusive competence, something that has been reiterated by the International Court of Justice. And on a day-to-day basis, the GA should work more closely in concert with other relevant bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission and Security Council. We should also call on the Council to fully implement and adhere to all Charter provisions as they relate to its decision-making process, as we agreed to in the Pact.

On the issue of the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, the principles are clear: the process must be transparent, we must all have a clear voice. The job is simply too important to be left to a handful of States behind closed doors. We should agree to clear timelines that include opportunities both for the Membership and for civil society to hold candidates to account, including on the basis of the disclosures already requested. And we must, of course, finally see a woman as Secretary-General. It has been too long and the status quo too unequal to accept a further failure in this respect. We must also see the accompanying linguistic inequalities in the Charter itself rectified as a priority.

Madam President,

This UN session will be vital to realize the potential of our Assembly in these and other areas, under the leadership in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Permanent Representatives of Romania and South Africa. We look forward to returning next year on the basis of discussions in that forum having made progress towards our collective goal.

I thank you.