



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL (ITEM 121)

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Thank you, Mr. President,

Thank you very much for convening this debate. Our thanks also go to the co-chairs of the IGN for again taking on their demanding and important task. The last 12 months have again increased the urgency for reform of the Security Council. The Council remains unable to live up to its mandate, and to address the serious violations of international law and of the Charter that we see each day – in the Middle East, in Ukraine, and in Sudan, to name just three examples.

Mr. President,

This situation compels us to take every effort to reform the Council. And this mantra, indeed, is a common refrain among Permanent, Elected and non-Members of the Council alike. Over the past year the co-chairs have taken great strides towards meeting our collective expectations. We have begun a genuine process of negotiations, based on concrete proposals for Council reform, including our own. And over the course of the first half of this year, we underwent a genuine process of 'text-based negotiations', in the context of the Pact for the Future.

As a result, we have agreed to enlarge the Council and to improve the representation of unrepresented regions and groups. To improve working methods. To reach an agreement on the

use of the veto, including discussions on limiting its scope and use. To fully implement Article 27.3 of the Charter. To reinforce the way in which the Council works with other bodies, including through the application of Uniting for Peace and the Veto Initiative. And – in the format of the IGN – to encourage the submission of further models and the revision of already presented models by States and Groups of States. We agree with the SG’s assessment that the Pact contains the “The strongest language on Council reform in a generation”.

Mr. President,

We have taken up the call to revise and resubmit our “intermediate model”. Members will note that the changes we have made reflect input offered at the first presentation of our model earlier this year, as well as in the Pact; for example, in the representation of cross-regional groups and the consolidation of an area where consensus appears to be emerging: the need for a review clause. We believe that this model is a balanced, pragmatic and practical approach and look forward to discussing it with the Membership next week. In turn, we also look forward to engaging on new and revised models put forward by others.

Mr. President,

We appreciate those who have mentioned the Veto Initiative in today’s meeting. While not part of Council reform as such, the Veto Initiative is a measure to recalibrate the balance between the Security Council and this Assembly and a prompt to empower this Assembly to make full use of the authority given to it under the UN Charter. The Council has primary responsibility in the maintenance of peace and security, but its responsibility is not exclusive, as Chapter IV of the Charter and the Pact for the Future makes plain. The recently-published Handbook on GA practice in the area of peace and security is one tool that Members can use in this respect.

Mr. President,

The Pact also contains a commitment to support timely and decisive action by the Council to prevent or end atrocity crimes, along the lines of the ACT Code of Conduct. 2/3 of the

Membership that have taken on to this important political commitment, to match the procedural majority of Council Members, which should also act as a practical restraint on the use of the veto in cases of mass atrocities.

Finally, we must find ways to ensure that the Security Council implements the Charter as it stands, in particular Article 27.3, which has been neglected for far too long. How can the interpretation of the law reflected in the UN Charter be left to the actor whose behavior it is supposed to govern? This provision must be implemented in light of the Charter as a whole, notably Article 2, as highlighted by various Council Members in recent years and in many statements in this hall. We look forward to further conversations with Members committed to working on this issue.

I thank you.