



**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 OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL (ITEM 125)

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this yearly debate, and our thanks also to the new co-chairs of the IGN, Ambassadors Albanai and Mlynár, for taking on this demanding and important task. While Council enlargement may not be imminent, but it may benefit from the changed dynamic. We will continue to be a constructive voice in negotiations and to wholeheartedly support your efforts. The authority of the IGN ultimately depends on the will of key stakeholders to show flexibility and make meaningful compromises, which will determine the future of the process which has stretched over many long years already.

Mr. President,

A number of years ago Liechtenstein in our national capacity put forward an “intermediate model”, which proposes the creation of long-term renewable seats without additional veto rights for any states. We believe this model has the potential to better represent the geopolitical realities of today. It is unacceptable that some regions, in particular Africa, are seriously

underrepresented in the Council, while our own part of the world continues to be overrepresented. We fail to see how adding new veto powers can be considered beneficial to the effectiveness of the Council, given the pernicious impact of the existing veto power on its work. But we do agree that a permanent presence of additional countries selected for that purpose by the membership can help establish a healthier power balance in the Security Council.

Mr. President,

The past year has demonstrated as much as any the limitations of the Council's current configuration. In the world's most serious conflicts we see the Council unable to act as innocent civilians are killed in conflict – including in Ukraine through the aggression of one of its permanent members. Given the lengthy and intractable nature of discussions over Security Council reform requiring Charter amendments, we will continue pursuing meaningful measures within the provisions of the Charter as it currently stands.

The most significant development in this respect has been the passing, by consensus, of resolution 76/262, known as the "Veto Initiative". We are grateful to all of our partners who supported the resolution and are confident that it will play a significant part in improving the effectiveness of UN action on issues of peace and security. The Veto Initiative is not reform of the Security Council as such, but a measure to recalibrate the balance between the Security Council and the General Assembly and a prompt to empower this Assembly to make full use of the authority given to it under the UN Charter. But the Veto Initiative can provide great impetus to Council reform, including through the impact it has already had on the use of the veto in practice.

We are committed to exploring further meaningful steps within the provisions of the UN Charter to address the veto. For years, we have advocated for the support and implementation of the ACT Code of Conduct, which to date commits 124 signatories not to vote against any credible

draft resolution intended to prevent or halt mass atrocities, and to support timely and decisive action aimed at preventing and ending such atrocities. Next year there will be eleven Code of Conduct signatories on the Security Council – a new record – including two permanent members. We will pursue other ideas to bring about meaningful change with respect to the use of the veto within the framework of the UN Charter. We encourage in particular a conversation about the application of art. 27.3, which has been neglected for too long. How can the interpretation of the law be left to the actor whose behavior it is supposed to govern? We also look forward to seeing further statements from permanent members on how they interpret their role in the Security Council, their future use of the veto and more wide-ranging self-declarations with respect to the principles and commitments, something we believe States aspiring to being given a veto should also share with the membership.

I thank you.