



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

NEW YORK, 4 MAY 2023

INFORMAL MEETING OF THE PLENARY ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL (IGN)

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES

Co-Chairs,

We wish to start by extending our highest compliments to your able handling of the IGN so far this year. There is a palpable sense of momentum to our discussions, the likes of which we have not seen for some time. Innovations to increase the transparency of our discussions through a dedicated web page and livestreaming, as well as public communications with the Chair of the Security Council Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, set the tone for the substantive deliberations ahead. *[Thank you also to the IWG Chair for addressing the IGN today, which reinforces the important synergies between the two bodies.]*

We believe that the time is ripe for these substantive deliberations. Over the past few months, in part spurred by the Council's inability to address the aggression against Ukraine, we have seen strong calls for Security Council reform, including from those with the most at stake in discussions. To make meaningful progress, negotiations based on a single consolidated document will be essential. We are of course willing to engage on the basis of concrete proposals and have submitted our own more than a decade ago.

Co-Chairs,

We studied with great interest the revised Elements Paper which you circulated last week. There is much to appreciate in it. We want to emphasize the importance of a mutually reinforcing and complementary dynamic between the Security Council and the General Assembly, with the overall aim of upholding peace and security, as you do in Part II.1. In addition, we believe that the practice of producing special reports by the Security Council to the General Assembly can contribute to this dynamic as well as to transparency and accountability. Under Part II.2 we also wish to highlight the importance of ensuring the full and meaningful participation of non-permanent members in the Council, including in relation to the issue of penholdership. We were therefore pleased to see this aspect reflected in your letter to the Chair of the IWG.

Co-Chairs,

We hope to see progress in particular on the question of composition, an area in which we see momentum for a more equitable regional distribution of seats that will bring us closer to a Council in which the views of the membership as a whole are reflected. As we have said before, 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. Another key to unlocking our discussions as a whole will be agreement on the question of the veto. As we have said previously, while we recognize the unequal geographic distribution of veto powers as it stands, we believe that vesting further States or groups with this power will only compound the veto's damaging effect on the Council's work.

Instead, we will continue to engage with interested States to pursue measures that reduce the effect of the existing veto power on the Council's work, as well as on the UN as a whole. On this note, we appreciate the inclusion in the Elements Paper of options to "limit[] the scope and use of the veto". The Veto Initiative adopted a year ago by the General Assembly by consensus has been an important step in this regard. We are furthermore interested in discussions on the application of Art. 27.3 of the UN Charter. Finally, we also welcome the reference to the ACT

Code of Conduct – the 10th anniversary of which we celebrated earlier this week. With 129 signatories it enjoys strong and growing support amongst the membership, and is a valuable example of what can be done to encourage Council action.

I thank you.