



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

NEW YORK, 9 APRIL 2014

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**STATEMENT AFTER THE ADOPTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION STRENGTHENING AND ENHANCING THE
EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODY SYSTEM**

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr President,

Liechtenstein has been a longstanding supporter of a strong and independent Treaty Body system which we consider one of the main pillars of the UN human rights system. We have therefore engaged actively in the process to strengthen the Treaty Body system which has just come to a conclusion through the adoption of a comprehensive resolution. We consider this text a very significant achievement which helps us safeguard the Treaty Body system at a time when it was threatened by collapse and continue guaranteeing its effective functioning. The adoption of today's resolution is a clear reaffirmation of the importance States continue to attach to the work of Treaty Bodies. I wish to congratulate the Co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Iceland and Tunisia as well as Indonesia for their outstanding leadership in conducting these complex negotiations. We also wish to extend our gratitude to the Office of the High Commissioner for their invaluable support to reach this far reaching decision.

Mr President,

The reform that we have just adopted will ensure the proper working and functioning of the system at a time of ever increasing number of treaty ratifications and States parties' reports.

The reform has achieved the balance between increased efficiency and sustainable funding for the Treaty Body system. We welcome in this regard the decision to provide additional meeting time as well as the simplified reporting procedures. We trust that the increase of capacity available within OHCHR to assist States parties in meeting their reporting obligations will significantly contribute to solving the problem of non-reporting, which has plagued the Treaty Bodies for such a long time. We are also pleased that the reform has decided to ensure that any savings, realized as a result of the measures set out in the reform, will be allocated to the work of the Treaty Bodies. This reform can be a very important decision to take the system to its core purpose: an opportunity for national debate, a tool for regular policy review, a platform for dialogue with individuals of outstanding expertise and qualification.

Throughout the process Liechtenstein has underlined the need to respect the independence of the Treaty Bodies. We are satisfied that the reform package adopted has largely followed this principle and refrained from measures that would have unduly interfered with the independence of these expert bodies. The Addis Ababa Guidelines demonstrate the Treaty Bodies' ability to strengthen their own methods of work and safeguard their independence. We trust that the Treaty Bodies will continue their efforts in this respect, in particular to maximize the efficiency and benefits of the dialogues with States. We will continue to support efforts aimed at improving the election procedures and at ensuring that the best qualified individuals are nominated and elected to serve on Treaty Bodies.

Finally, we wish to welcome the inclusion of a review clause in the reform package just adopted. One lesson we have learned is certainly that we let too much time pass before agreeing on the measures just adopted. We will certainly have to continue monitoring developments in the treaty bodies and be ready to make adjustments as needed

Thank you.