



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY - ITEM 117: INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS
ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS**

STATEMENT BY MR. GEORG SPARBER, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to begin by thanking you for calling this meeting of the inter-governmental negotiations on Security Council reform. However, we are somewhat perturbed that this, our first meeting for this year, should come so late in the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. This fact brings into sharp focus the question of the continued relevance of this process of intergovernmental negotiations, on which we have been engaged since 2009. Liechtenstein believes that this session of the General Assembly should bring clarity on how we continue our negotiations or indeed whether to continue them at all. If we do not choose to go on, alternative tracks might also be pursued. What is clear is that we cannot carry on our discussions in the present meandering manner; whether in this context or any other, Liechtenstein continues to be opposed to having meetings simply for the sake of having meetings. As we consider the way forward, one option would be a detailed discussion on the basis of the observations and recommendations contained in the Chair's letter of 25 July 2012.

We reiterate our support for the compromise model for the expansion of the Council first proposed by our delegation in 2005. This model would add a category of long-term elected seats to the Council, with terms of eight to ten years. States would be allowed to stand for immediate re-election. We also proposed a so-called “flip-flop clause” under which States that unsuccessfully sought election for the longer-term seats would be barred from standing for election for the existing, 2-year seats for the duration of what would have been their term of office. A mandatory review of the mechanism would take place after two terms of the new, long-term seats. We emphasise that this model is not an interim approach to expansion in the two existing categories, but an intermediate approach seeking to bridge the gap between those who favour expansion in the two existing categories and those who want to expand the number of non-permanent seats only. We are pleased that this model has gained momentum in recent years, and suggest that it is worthy of further exploration in the context of these negotiations.

Finally, Liechtenstein is disappointed by the lack of progress regarding the working methods of the Security Council. Allow me to take this opportunity also to reiterate our position that improvements in the working methods of the Council should not be held hostage to progress on the question of enlargement. Indeed, improvements in the working methods will be essential to ensure the Council’s continued and increased effectiveness both before and after an eventual expansion. Though we are disappointed at having had to withdraw the resolution put forward by the S-5 Group last year, we were also heartened by the support we received from many delegations. Liechtenstein will continue to work to improve the accountability, transparency and effectiveness of the Security Council, including through the new group on this subject being coordinated by Switzerland.

We stand ready, as always, to assist you in whatever way we can to make real progress towards reform of the Security Council.

I thank you.