

Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council reform

New York, 22 January 2024

Statement by Belgium on behalf of the Benelux countries (Belgium -- Luxembourg -- the Netherlands)

Liechtenstein's intermediate model

Excellencies, Co-Chairs,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Benelux countries, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Luxembourg and my own country, Belgium.

We thank Ambassador Wenaweser for the detailed presentation of Liechtenstein's "intermediate model" on the enlargement of the Security Council. We understand that this model is intended to bridge positions among the membership.

As already stated during the previous discussion, the Benelux countries are in favour of a limited expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent membership categories with the exact number to emerge from discussions between Member States on the key issues of 'categories of membership' and 'regional representation'. However, we would also be open to consider the possibility of an intermediate model should such a proposal form a basis for a compromise between the various groups.

Liechtenstein's intermediate model proposes an expansion of the membership of the Security Council with six additional members that shall be elected to serve on a permanent basis for renewable terms of 8/10 years and with additional non-permanent members that shall be elected for a non-renewable term of two years.

We would appreciate if Liechtenstein could elaborate on the following three questions:

- First, what is exactly meant by a permanent basis for a renewable term of 8/10 years? The model also refers to longer term seats with the possibility of immediate re-election, which

implies that these seats are not permanent. What difference would this make in practical terms?

- Second, we appreciate the openness in the proposal. However, an indication of the overall size of the enlarged Security Council and the distribution of seats could be useful. What do you envisage specifically, for example regarding SIDS representation?
- Third, the model proposes that 16 to 20 years after the first elections of new members of the enlarged Council, the General Assembly shall review the situation created by the entry into force of the amendments to the Charter. Could you elaborate on what this review would entail, in particular with regards to the question of the veto and the categories of membership?

Mr. Co-chairs, In conclusion, I would like to seize this opportunity to extend our appreciation to Liechtenstein for its valuable contributions to strengthening the United Nations, not only for presenting this intermediate model, but also for being the driving force behind resolution 76/262, known as the 'Veto Initiative' which establishes a standing mandate for the General Assembly to hold a debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council. The General Assembly has a political responsibility to address situations where the use of the veto leads to paralysis in the decision-making of the Security Council. The veto initiative has proven to be a crucial measure to enhance transparency and to hold the Security Council accountable for its actions.

Thank you.