

Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of the Gabonese Republic to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations  
Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations

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To all NGOs, Think Tanks and the media  
dealing with UN Security Council's issues

New York, 24 April 2013

## **Better Working Methods for today's UN Security Council**

**Presentation of ACT (the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group) on  
Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, at 1.15 p.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber**

Dear Madam or Sir,

A year ago, the former S-5 group (Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland) presented the General Assembly draft resolution L.42 Rev.2, listing in its annex a catalogue of possible improvements of the working methods of the UN Security Council. Although a large majority of UN Member States supported the suggested measures, the reactions of the membership was divided on the question whether to present this package of recommendations in a General Assembly resolution. In order to avoid a polarization of the General Assembly over Security Council reform and after commitments by the Permanent Members of the Security Council to consider the measures in the annex of L.42 Rev. 2, the S-5 decided against submitting the resolution to a vote.

We have always seen the improvement of the accountability, coherence and transparency of the Security Council as an ongoing process. The decision of May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to withdraw the resolution was therefore not an end, but a starting point for a new approach.

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Since then, delegations sharing these goals have come together several times in order to assess how to promote a common agenda. Out of these consultations arose a new grouping composed of some twenty delegations from all regions of the world called ACT, which stands for Accountability, Coherence and Transparency of the Security Council. ACT is currently composed of the following countries: Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, the Republic of Estonia, Finland, the Gabonese Republic, Hungary, Ireland, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Principality of Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.

In accordance with the Summit Outcome document of 2005 recommending “that the Security Council continue to adapt its working methods so as to increase the involvement of States not members of the Council in its work, as appropriate, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase transparency of its work” and building upon the recommendations contained in document L.42 Rev. 2, the ambition of our new group is to support the UN Security Council in its present composition to work in a more transparent, efficient, inclusive, legitimate and accountable way, both within its own structure, but also in relationship with the wider membership.

ACT recognises and commends past efforts of the Security Council to improve and adapt its working methods, notably through the adoption of Presidential Note 2006/507, its update 2010/507 and through the efforts of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions. At the same time, we remain convinced that additional measures are needed to enable the Council to genuinely carry out its functions on behalf of the membership of the United Nations as a whole. We also believe that current implementation of the measures already adopted remains inconsistent and therefore unsatisfactory. The momentum created by the draft resolution in 2012 needs to be renewed.

As the Security Council is moving back to its renovated Chamber, time has come for a fresh start on the improvement of its working methods too! We look forward to presenting our new group, its vision, priorities and approach to all Member States, civil society and the media. Switzerland, as the coordinator of the group, has the pleasure to invite delegations to a briefing on **Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at 1.15 p.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber.**

Yours sincerely,



Paul Seger  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative