



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Open-ended consultations on Security Council reform, 21 February 2007

Regional representation

Mr. Facilitator

Under the heading we are discussing today, there are three dimensions we would like to briefly address:

First there is the notion of equitable regional distribution, enshrined in the UN Charter. Clearly, the current composition suffers from an under-representation of some regional groups, in particular from the South. We believe that the enlargement of the Council must rectify this situation and are also of the view that the African region in particular should benefit from any enlargement, given that a majority of the situations on the agenda of the Council are situations on the African continent.

Secondly, we must also consider the possibility of regional positions being represented in the Council either by the representatives of regional organizations or comparable entities or by individual States speaking on behalf of such organizations and entities. The latter, of course, is already practiced, while in a rather ad hoc manner and not linked to membership in the Council. While models of regional representation might become interesting in the future, we do not believe that the moment has come yet to seriously consider such models. We must gain more experience with the role of regional organizations as players in international organizations before making such novel and radical decisions. The possibility of admitting organizations as members of the Council would also entail legal difficulties and obstacles that have never been considered in depth.

Last but not least, there is the question of closer cooperation between the Security Council and regional organizations. In this area, we believe indeed that much improvement is possible and that both regional organizations and the Security Council could benefit from enhanced cooperation, both formally and informally. There have been numerous occasions where regional organizations have been playing leading roles on issues that fall under the competence of the Security Council – most prominently peace-keeping and other peace operations. The authorization for the conduct of such operations must always rest with the Security Council, but in many instances the interests of the Council might be best served, if such operations are to be carried out by regional organizations. Again we would like to draw your attention to the draft resolution tabled by the S5-countries last year, which also contains a recommendation for the enhanced cooperation between the Council and regional organizations.

I thank you.