

Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council- input into the Pact for the Future, 20 June 2024

**Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) statement**

Delivered by Ambassador Andreas Løvold,  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway

on behalf of the Group

Co-Chairs,

I am honoured to speak this morning on behalf of the 27 members of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, ACT<sup>1</sup>.

The ACT Group does not discuss enlargement of the Security Council. We advocate for improving the Security Council's working methods to be more efficient, transparent, and accountable towards the wider membership. It is through this lens that the Group is engaging in the IGN, only on the submission of language to the Pact for the Future.

Co-Chairs,

ACT strongly supports your intention to capture a comprehensive consideration of Council reform in the Pact. Our leaders must commit to improving the functioning of the Council now and in the future.

We should set out a vision both for the working methods of an expanded Council, as you have in Action 1. And also, as you have outlined in Action 3, we must continue to improve the working methods of the Council and its relationship with the General Assembly in the absence of Charter reform. These elements are both indispensable components of the Pact, they are complementary and mutually reinforcing. We welcome the steps you have taken to clarify this in the Chapeau of Action 3. We hope this can make this section agreeable to all.

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Uruguay

Co-Chairs,

**Focusing on Action 3**, ACT welcomes the overarching commitment for the Security Council to continuously pursue improvements to its working methods, as well as the corresponding commitment that the Membership “actively reinforce” these efforts. While the Council is responsible for its own rules and procedures, it carries these out on behalf of the Membership.

As ACT has demonstrated over the past 11 years, each of us, inside and outside the Council, have a role to play in these efforts.

Furthermore Co-Chairs,

In the **Chapeau of Action 3**, ACT welcomes the reflection of the Secretary-General’s call to democratise the working methods of the Council. His call captures a number of vital actions in a succinct way, from the greater involvement of the broader membership in the work of the Council; to the strong participation of the E10 in all aspects of the Council’s work; and promoting greater accountability of permanent members for the use of the veto - amongst other issues. Let me express the strong support of ACT for the retention of this element.

Co-Chairs,

While you have clearly made considerable efforts to take on board many of the comments you have heard, we regret that much of the detail in Action 3 - particularly in **subpoint a** and **subpoint b** - has been removed from your second and third revisions. These subpoints contained important statements of intent by the Membership for a more effective and functional Council.

We have heard the growing interest amongst the Membership on the full implementation of Article 27(3), including the requirement for the obligatory abstention of a party to a dispute. It is particularly important for this obligation, which we have all committed to in joining this Organization, to be restated in the Pact in plain language.

Similarly, a collective commitment to support credible, timely and decisive action by the Security Council to prevent or end the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes is clearly in line with the obligations set out for us in the Charter. We would, in this respect expect that Member States can agree to such a commitment.

**Subpoints c and d** as you have drafted are also common-sense steps forward highlighting the relationship to, and accountability of the Council towards the broader membership.

Improving the coherence between the Council and other core bodies, including ECOSOC and the PBC, as well as improving the participation and access to the Council for the whole membership, are steps that are necessary both now and in an expanded Council. And the Veto Initiative and Uniting for Peace Resolutions have demonstrated over the past two years as much as ever the need for a collective response by the UN system for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Co-Chairs,

While ACT may have preferred more concrete steps forward, we firmly believe that the elements in Action 3 are meaningful, and drafted in a way that can meet with the strong support of the Membership. A better functioning Security Council will better serve the UN, the peoples we serve, and our planet.

You continue to have ACT's firm support for the approach you have set out as we finalise the IGN's contribution to the Pact.

Thank you.