

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 May 2024

Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) statement

Delivered by Ambassador Merete Fjeld Brattested

Permanent Representative of Norway on behalf of the Group

Co-Chairs,

I am honoured to intervene on behalf of the 27 members of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group, ACT¹.

The ACT Group has no position on the enlargement of the Security Council. We advocate for improving the Security Council's working methods to be more efficient, transparent, and accountable. It is through this lens that the Group is engaging in the IGN on the submission of language to the Pact for the Future and so we will **focus only on Action 3** in your revised input.

Co-Chairs,

We strongly support your approach to capture a comprehensive consideration of Council reform. Including both issues to be taken up by Charter amendments, as well as those that must be continuously worked on and achieved without amendment to the Charter. And the group welcomes your ambitious and forward-looking proposals in this regard.

Co-Chairs,

ACT welcomes the overarching and unambiguous call for the Security Council to continuously pursue improvements to its working methods and the call for strengthening the General Assembly, especially in implementing its mandate in the maintenance of international peace and security.

In accordance with the Charter, it is the responsibility of the Security Council to set its own procedures. But it is also the Council's responsibility to act on behalf of all Member States. The Membership as a whole therefore has a legitimate interest in

¹ 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

identifying ways in which the Council can operate more effectively, including in the Pact for the Future.

We would therefore welcome in the **first sub point**, a more direct call for Security Council working methods that meet higher standards of efficiency, transparency, and accountability towards the wider UN membership.

ACT also wholeheartedly echoes the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in A New Agenda for Peace on the need for the Council to “democratise its procedures”, and we would welcome reflection of this in the draft input.

Co-Chairs,

In **sub point two**, ACT welcomes language on the full implementation of, and adherence to, all provisions of the Charter, including article 27 (3). Implementing the Charter is the basic tenet of United Nations membership. We therefore see no plausible reason why any Member State would not be in a position to reaffirm our common commitment to the UN Charter and its full application.

The reference specifically to article 27 (3) also reflects the growing interest in, and timely discussions on this issue. We see the implementation of plain meaning of article 27(3) requiring the obligatory abstention of a party to a dispute from voting has lapsed in recent years, so it is particularly important for this obligation to be restated in the Pact.

Co-Chairs,

We strongly support **sub point three** which is consistent with the ACT Group’s own ‘Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes’- a commitment now made by 130 signatories. While we would have preferred the more direct commitment in your first draft, we hope that this new framing of “consider committing” should make it agreeable to all.

The Group considers that in order to strengthen the UN, and the ability of the Council to fulfil its mandate to uphold international peace and security, we must all focus on efforts towards limiting the applicability and use of the veto.

Co-Chairs,

ACT believes we must urgently reinforce the ability of the United Nations to respond to increasingly complex peace and security challenges. The UN and its peace and security architecture needs to be fit for purpose, and its bodies must work together in a coherent way on issues of peace and security. We therefore support **sub point four** and its reference specifically to 'Uniting for Peace' and the 'Veto Initiative'. These important mechanisms have clearly enhanced the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council, with the ultimate aim of meeting our Charter obligations to uphold peace and security.

We agree also with the assessment of the High-Level Advisory Board on effective multilateralism that: "Efforts to empower the General Assembly to take more frequent and robust responses to security threats should be strengthened."

And that "If the Security Council cannot or will not act in the face of threats to international security, then the matter should immediately be placed before the General Assembly for action"

Finally Co-Chairs,

The Summit for the Future is the place for our leaders to make concrete and ambitious commitments. ACT therefore welcomes the level of ambition you have proposed here in terms of Council working methods and the Council's relationship with the General Assembly, but we see this as a minimum.

We stand ready to support you as you synthesise the views you have heard over these two days into a final, ambitious, and concrete input into the Pact.

Thank you.