



Security Council

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Letter dated 30 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group, a cross-regional group of 23 States¹ that advocates for greater effectiveness on the part of the Security Council, I would like to warmly welcome the note by the President of the Security Council on penholders (S/2014/268) and emphasize the importance of the efforts of Argentina in chairing the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions.

The ACT Group commends all members of the Informal Working Group for their work leading to the adoption on 14 April of the aforementioned note, aimed at enhancing the wider participation and inclusiveness of Security Council members in the work of the Council. The ACT Group very much welcomes the understanding now reached by Council members on this issue. Some of the points mentioned in the note are also part of priority measures advocated by the ACT Group regarding Council working methods. On point (b), the ACT Group welcomes the fact that any Council member may be a penholder and that all Council members are encouraged to act as penholders. The ACT Group encourages the Council to support an arrangement whereby one or more Council members initiate and chair the informal drafting process of resolutions, presidential statements and press statements (point (a)).

In order to give real meaning to participation in the drafting of Security Council decisions, the ACT Group has been advocating for the establishment of co-penholderships, whereby more than one penholder initiates and chairs the drafting process. In most situations, this may be a useful arrangement to facilitate the early exchange of information among Council members and promote their participation, thus enhancing the efficiency of the Council's work.

The ACT Group hopes this new arrangement will bear positive results in terms of a more participatory decision-making process in the Council and that the establishment of penholders acting, when appropriate, as co-penholders may help to ensure the early exchange of information on draft decisions and the engagement of all Council members in timely consultations.

¹ The following States are members of the ACT Group: Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay.



The ACT Group is also pleased with the reiteration by Council members of their intention to continue to consult with the broader United Nations membership when drafting resolutions, presidential statements and press statements.

Allow me to extend to the Chair and the members of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions my sincere thanks for their work and efforts leading to the adoption of this important note.

The ACT Group remains committed to contributing to the overall discussion regarding working methods and interaction between the Council and the wider membership.

I kindly ask you to circulate the present letter to the members of the Security Council and to issue it as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Paul **Seger**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
