



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA SUISSE
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Seul le texte prononcé fait foi

61^{ème} session de l'Assemblée générale
3^{ème} Commission

Point 67c

Explication de vote au nom de la Suisse et du Liechtenstein

Check against delivery

61st session of the General Assembly
3rd Committee

Item 67c

Explanation of Vote on behalf of Switzerland and Liechtenstein

New York, le 21 novembre 2006

Mr President,

This year, the Third committee is seized with a range of resolutions on country situations.

On behalf of Switzerland and Liechtenstein I would like to take this opportunity to make a general explanation of position regarding these resolutions, including the one in front of us today.

- We are of the opinion that all these proposals must be considered on their merits, taking into account the overall Human Rights context in a particular country. Our strong preference continues to be for resolutions which can be adopted after negotiations with the countries concerned and with the broadest consensus possible, and - where necessary – with a focus on technical assistance and capacity-building. Such resolutions offer the best guarantee to strengthen national protection systems and to effectively contribute to the strengthening of Human Rights.
- We acknowledge the fact that the largest possible consensus is not always possible despite all efforts.
- We support those resolutions that concern situations where grave and systematic Human Rights violations are being committed, where national laws and institutions fail to protect against these violations, where the government fails to cooperate with the international community and does not respond in a satisfactory way to recommendations by UN human rights mechanisms, if such violations are in our view accurately described/ referred to in the resolution. We have in mind situations where the government needs to take concrete and urgent measures to improve the situation of its citizens, by putting into place structures to protect human rights and mechanisms to provide accountability for abuses.
- Where Human Rights violations happen in the context of armed conflict, resolutions should deal with violations accurately and in a balanced way, taking into account the respective responsibilities of all parties to a conflict under International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law.
- We are against "double standards". Our system of reference must be the international Human Rights law as agreed upon in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the broadly ratified conventions and additional protocols in this area. A different and differentiated appreciation of the advancement of Human Rights

in countries under consideration is not a double standard, it is the application of the same standards to different situations and contexts. By increasing transparency, each country can contribute its share to the fight against double standards.

- The development of adequate tools for dealing with country situations decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251, is therefore a priority for us. We have consistently advocated for the creation of an effective Universal Periodic Review mechanism within the Human Right Council. We therefore welcome a gradual approach in dealing with country situations, which includes the possibility of convening special sessions of the Human Rights Council for dealing with serious human rights situations .
- We firmly believe that duplication should be avoided within the United Nations for thematic as well as for country-specific activities in the crucial area of Human Rights.

On the basis of all these elements, Switzerland and Liechtenstein are going to vote yes on the draft resolution L.41 in front of us.

I thank you, Mr President.