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Born in 1963. Christian Wenaweser studied classics, German and French literature as well as history at Zurich University, earning his degree in Greek literature, linguistics, Latin literature and philosophy in 1987. From 1987 to 1988, he acted as teaching assistant for Greek literature at Zurich University.

Christian Wenaweser started his diplomatic career in 1991, when he received diplomatic training at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Berne, Switzerland, as well as at the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations in New York. In 1992, he became Desk Officer United Nations for the issues of human rights, disarmament and international law as well as First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations. He has held these positions until his appointment as Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations in 1998.

Since 2002, Christian Wenaweser has been serving as Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations. He is also Chairman of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Scope of Protection of UN Personnel, Chairman of the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression and Vice-Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Questions on Security Council Report.



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1. The conundrum of Security Council reform lies in the following basic premise: At the heart of the problem, there is the question of veto and of who has the right to exercise it – namely the permanent members of the Security Council China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States. Neither of these two core issues can, however, be addressed through Security Council reform, since that would only be possible with the consent of these five States

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who naturally oppose any curtailing of their privileges. Enlargement and reform can therefore not be radical in the sense that they lead to a truly representative Council in all its aspects.

2. Everybody will agree that the current composition of the Security Council does not reflect the geopolitical realities of the twenty-first century and is much rather a leftover of the world order established by the victor States of World War II. The over-representation of the western world is a particularly striking feature as is the flipside thereof: The under-representation of developing countries. The fact that only 15 States represent the membership of 191 States is an illustration of the fact that enlargement is overdue and that a failure to enlarge the Council would result in a mid-term credibility crisis of the Council.
3. Several States have announced their claim to a permanent seat on the Council as a recognition of their role in today's world politics as well as of their financial contribution to achieving the goals of the United Nations: Brazil, Germany, India and Japan have joined forces and support each other in their respective claims to a permanent seat. They have also made it clear that they support permanent membership by two African States. A significant number of States, however, opposes the creation of new permanent seats, arguing that the lack of accountability for performance (by way of re-election) is undemocratic and that solutions for "eternity" – such as the one created in San Francisco – are likely to lead to an even more difficult situation in the future.
4. Small and mid-size States have little to gain from Security Council enlargement: Under all models currently under discussion, their chances to serve on the Security Council will not increase, to say the least. They are therefore much more keen to see Security Council reform also address the working methods of the Council and to ensure that the concerns of States not serving on the Council are better reflected in its decision-making – in particular when they are directly

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or indirectly affected by them. They hold the view that enlargement by itself is not reform or, to put it simply: Bigger is not per se better.