

Excellencies,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group comprised of 27 Member States\* from all regional groups. The ACT Group advocates for Security Council working methods that meet higher standards of efficiency, transparency, and accountability towards the wider UN membership.

We appreciate the efforts made by you and your teams to compile this zero draft, and would like to address three areas that we think could strengthen the foundation you have set out in Chapter 5:

**First**, please allow me to underscore our groups firm belief that the UN and its peace and security architecture needs to be fit for purpose, and that its bodies must work together in a coherent way on issues of peace and security.

We are therefore concerned that when it comes to recognising the role of the General Assembly in international peace and security that the current draft falls below what we have elaborated before. In the context of the Revitalization of the General Assembly we have affirmed: “the functions, powers, and role of the General Assembly in matters related to the maintenance of international peace and security, consistent with the Charter” and the Pact should therefore reflect, and build on, this statement.

We very much agree that the GA’s role needs to be strengthened as the main, most democratic, and representative body of the UN which brings us to our **second** point. The ACT group supports the recommendation of the High-Level Advisory Board on effective multilateralism 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” and believe this recommendation should be reflected in the Pact and implemented.

And **third**, we appreciate the recognition of the important processes of the Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads but believe this language could be strengthened, also recognising the principles of gender and geographical balance.

We look forward to presenting text proposals to you on these issues.

Thank you.

*\* 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.*