



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

NEW YORK, 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE**

ADDRESS BY

**H.E DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORT**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

The aggression against Ukraine has been a fundamental challenge to the international order for 18 long months now. I wish to pay tribute to the bravery of the people of Ukraine and the leadership of President Zelensyki, who is present with us today. We are saddened by the suffering of all victims of Russia's war of aggression, including Russian soldiers forced to fight an illegal and colonizing war.

For the people of Liechtenstein, as for billions of people around the globe, the United Nations is primarily a guarantor of peace and security. This requires our collective respect for international law and the will to enforce it, together. When we joined this organization, we did so out of the belief in the international order reflected in the UN Charter. This includes the guarantee that the illegal use of force, the violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity and certainly acts of aggression will be met by a strong collective response from the UN membership. This Council has not been able to play its leadership role – as we all know, this is due to the veto used repeatedly by the Russian Federation. But, the General Assembly has stepped in effectively and lived up to the challenge to take up the Council's role with respect to Ukraine. And it has done so with overwhelming support from Member States. Together, we have taken decisions of fundamental importance that set the parameters for the peace that we are all looking for – the full withdrawal of all Russian troops from all of Ukraine, and the need to ensure accountability for the most serious international crimes that have been committed.

The commitment to the rule of law is the key priority of our membership in the United Nations. In the context of Ukraine, accountability is the key to securing a peaceful future for Ukraine and for our region of the world. But, accountability is also key far beyond Europe – as a safeguard of the international order we have given ourselves in the Charter of the United Nations, which is founded on the prohibition of the illegal use of force. The aggression against Ukraine is the most blatant challenge to this order since the creation of this Organization. Making it clear that launching this war of aggression itself is a criminal act is therefore the only way to protect not just Ukraine, but indeed all members of the United Nations – and of course small States in particular – as we move forward together.

Ukraine's efforts to ensure meaningful accountability for the crime of aggression, in line with international law, therefore has our full support. It is necessary for a peaceful future of our region and beyond. And it is indispensable to guarantee, in the interest of all of us, an international order governed by law, not war.

I thank you.