



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

NEW YORK, 19 OCTOBER 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 69: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

STATEMENT BY NOAH OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

Ten years ago, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels reaffirming the fundamental importance of the rule of law to the three main pillars upon which the United Nations are built. The mutually reinforcing nature of human rights and the rule of law has become even more evident in the context of the historic challenges we are facing today, including armed conflicts and the climate crisis. Our shared commitment to build a more prosperous, sustainable and peaceful future not only relies on the upholding of fundamental rights and freedoms but, in line with SDG16, also on the provision of access to justice to defend these hard-won rights as well as the promotion of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to enact them at all levels. The rule of law and accountability for human rights violations are indeed critical for the prevention of conflict and violence, for sustainable peace and the achievement of sustainable development for all.

Article 6 of the ICCPR recognizes that the right to life is a supreme right from which no derogation is permitted – including in situations of armed conflict. Notwithstanding the duty of all states to protect this inherent right of every individual, the number of civilian casualties and arbitrary executions remains staggeringly high. In Ukraine alone, more than 15'000 civilians have lost their

lives as a result of the illegitimate and unjustified war of aggression since February this year, as documented in the interim report of the Commission of Inquiry, among others. Illegal warfare is a clear and obvious human rights challenge and must be recognized as such. The Human Rights Committee has addressed the link between the illegal use of force and the right to life in particular, and we need to deepen our understanding in this respect. Acts of aggression inevitably bring with them countless human rights violations, affecting in particular civilians and vulnerable individuals during conflict, such as persons with disabilities and children. Indiscriminate attacks, enforced disappearance, torture, unlawful detention, cruel and inhuman treatment as well as sexual and gender-based violence are among the violations that are regularly documented in the context of armed conflicts. The criminalization of aggression contributes to the prevention of such acts by targeting the very behavior that stands at the beginning of the causal chain – the decision to unleash the illegal use of force. In order to ensure justice and help deter future aggression, the perpetrators of the crime of aggression must be held accountable.

Mr. Chair,

Since the military coup on 01 February 2021, the human rights situation in Myanmar has worsened dramatically. Journalists, human rights defenders and members of civil society opposing the junta are at particular risk of murder, torture and deprivation of liberty. We are particularly concerned about the fact that, for the first time since the late 1980s, and as a clear sign of the ongoing cruel violations of the right to life and fair trial guarantees, the military junta has enforced death sentences for alleged political offenses. The current political developments in Myanmar point towards protracted authoritarianism, with severe consequences for the life and livelihoods of the civilian population. Both the Independent Investigative Mechanism and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar have determined that the military junta has committed atrocities at a large scale, including crimes against humanity and war crimes. In this respect, we welcome the recognition of the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court on behalf of the National Unity Government and support its quest for justice for these heinous crimes. We call upon the Security Council to address this situation, put in place an arms embargo in line with the call issued by the General Assembly last June to end the attack on the civilian population and foster accountability in Myanmar.

Mr. Chair,

The climate crisis, as we are all aware, is also a human rights crisis – if not the most severe and urgent as it may extinguish all of humanity. States have an obligation to take effective measures to mitigate climate change, to respect human rights, and to ensure intergenerational justice. Recent cases brought forward before domestic and international courts have demonstrated a trend to explore legal avenues to fight climate change which take human rights obligations into account. These efforts, including the initiative led by Vanuatu to have the UN General Assembly request an advisory opinion of the ICJ on the rights of present and future generations to be protected from negative impacts of climate change are an important expression of a commitment to the rule of law and deserve our constructive and active engagement. Together with IPI, Liechtenstein is conducting a series of workshops on such legal avenues, the results of which will be available at the end of this year.

I thank you.