



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS A KEY ELEMENT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein would like to warmly thank your delegation for convening today's debate.

The purposes and principles of the Charter represent the core values of this organization. As such, they have stood the **test of time**, as evidenced both by the successes and the failures of the United Nations over the last seven decades. When interpreted holistically and in good faith, they enable the international community to respond effectively to the ever-changing challenges of our international system. They also serve as the primary benchmark for the Security Council as the guardian of international peace and security. In essence, this calls for an **active, decisive Security Council**, taking action when the circumstances so demand. In doing so, the Security Council must **place the people at the center of its action**, thereby reaffirming – in the words of the UN Charter – “faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small”. Certainly, as this

and other debates have illustrated, the Security Council can and must do a better job at upholding this responsibility.

Today's conflicts are marked by widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Many conflict parties openly disrespect human dignity and the most fundamental rules of international humanitarian law as evidenced in the attack on the MSF facilities in the country. Syria's vicious cycle of death and destruction serves as one of the most striking examples of the dramatic erosion of the respect for international humanitarian law. Whenever we think we reached the nadir of human suffering in this conflict we are quickly being placed in front of a new abyss. And it is the **human suffering that serves as a catalyst for ever greater threats to international peace and security**, fostering radicalization, paving the way for terrorist groups, motivating foreign fighters and causing violence to spread far beyond the territory of Syria. We must ask ourselves: Would a decisive Security Council, placing the inalienable rights of human beings at the center of its action, not have done more to end this man-made catastrophe?

Membership in this Council is a privilege that entails **the responsibility** to take action when confronted with mass atrocity crimes. The **Code of Conduct on Security Council Action against Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity or War Crimes** is an expression of commitment that when faced with such situations, Council member will get their priorities straight. It is a commitment that they will actively pursue appropriate Council action aimed at preventing or ending mass atrocity crimes, and that they will not stand in the way of credible attempts to do so. 110 UN Member States have voluntarily signed the Code, among them a majority of Council members. We welcome this commitment and we expect the Code to be applied in practice, including on the basis of information provided by the Secretary-General. We further encourage all other UN Member States, especially Council members and those aspiring to become members, to join this initiative.

Additionally, we want to address the **elected members** of this Council. You have run long campaigns and spent great efforts to sit at this table. We are convinced that a way to a more decisive Council is through your **taking greater ownership of its work**. We are pleased to see that in recent years, elected members have been more proactive and eager to make a difference. You have our full support in this endeavor. At a time when differences among permanent members are growing, your engagement and mediation efforts can help overcome political differences in the Council, promote compromise, improve transparency and **foster the political will** to take effective action.

Finally, complementary to a decisive Security Council, the International Criminal Court (ICC) is central in holding accountable those who manifestly violate the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Among the very first purposes is “the **suppression of acts of aggression** or other breaches of the peace”. When a State wishes to suppress a behavior, it can subject individuals to criminal penalties for that behavior – this goes without saying. But since the Nurnberg trials that commenced 70 years ago, no international court has been able to hold individuals accountable for committing what has been called “the supreme international crime” – the crime of aggression. This will change in 2017 when the International Criminal Court’s jurisdiction over the crime of aggression is activated. 26 States have already ratified the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression – we encourage others to do the same, as they simply complement the prohibition of the illegal use of force, one of the key principles of the UN Charter. The effective criminalization of the illegal use of force will also be an additional tool available to the Council to effectively prevent armed conflict. We are all in the position to help contribute to this truly historic achievement.

I thank you.