



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

NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ELEVENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ITEM 5 - LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 2014 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/2014/136)

STATEMENT BY H.E. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

We meet again in an Emergency Special Session due to a further escalation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Since its beginning in 2014, this aggression has gone hand in hand with an attempt to deface the fundamental concepts of international law and the basic tenets of the UN Charter. But the law is clear – we in this hall must uphold it, not only for the sake of Ukraine, but also to safeguard the international order to maintain peace and security.

This Assembly unanimously agreed on a definition of aggression in 1974 – at the height of the cold war. The very first of the acts listed in that definition is “The invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State...or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof”. Russia's attempt to forcibly annex Ukrainian territory is the latest constitutive act of aggression, for which international law provides for individual criminal responsibility. The Russian leadership must accordingly be held responsible. It is incumbent on us in this hall to ensure such accountability – for the sake of justice, but also, critically, for future deterrence. This is why we, as many other States, advocate for a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression. We appeal to all States to join this effort in our common interest to maintain internationally agreed borders and avert future aggression.

Mr. President,

In its attempt to deny the reality of its aggression, Russia violates the foundational precepts of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations. It violates the prohibition of the illegal use of force in the most brazen manner. It undermines the principle of territorial integrity which is of vital importance for the maintenance of international peace and security. And it makes a mockery of the right of self-determination, which allows peoples to freely determine their political status. Russia's attempt to fabricate election results through blackmail and intimidation, and the use of the illegal so-called referenda to justify the redrawing of Ukraine's internationally recognized borders by force, evokes the worst memories of colonial oppression and imperialism.

Mr. President,

These violations are not simply improvisational tactics; they are the latest example of a well-known playbook. In 2014, when Russia attempted to annex Crimea, it also sought to justify its aggression through a sham referendum. In Syria, and Chechnya, its relentless targeting of civilians goes hand-in-hand with support for 'strongmen' through rigged elections and elimination of any political opposition. Russia seeks to construct an alternative reality based on disinformation - distorting our shared norms and laws while claiming to invoke them. We must collectively speak truth to brute force.

Mr. President,

This Assembly will soon vote on a text that strongly condemns the attempt to illegally annex parts of Ukrainian territory – a continuation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Our consideration of this text is an opportunity for Member States to again speak up in defense of the Charter of the United Nations; of territorial integrity, the sovereignty of States, genuine self-determination and the rule of law. We therefore hope that all of you will join us in voting in favour of the resolution in front of us today.

I thank you.