



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 69: SELF-DETERMINATION

**STATEMENT BY MR. MATTHEW EDBROOKE, POLITICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR**

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

The right of self-determination remains a cornerstone of the UN Charter, as well as a prerequisite for the full enjoyment of human rights, in accordance with Common Article 1 of the twin human rights covenants and General Comment 12 of the Human Rights Committee. In addition, only a cursory glance at many of the world's most serious conflicts is necessary to see the ongoing relevance of self-determination to issues of human rights, peace and stability. Given this reality, we have a collective responsibility to be conscious of self-determination as a root cause.

Liechtenstein's work on this issue dates back to when we joined the UN in 1990. Our self-determination initiative emphasizes the possibilities for fulfilling the right of self-determination without resorting to secession, with the aim of defusing and preventing conflict. This approach strongly echoes UN GA Resolution 2625, known as the 'Friendly Relations Declaration', which sets out that, "any... political status freely determined by a people constitute modes of implementing the right of self-determination by that people."

In order to set out our ideas in more detail, we are currently producing a handbook that puts

forward recommendations for states, mediators and affected communities interested in preventing and resolving conflicts in which self-determination claims are a root cause. The handbook highlights the possibility of self-governance as a measure to prevent secession, as well as emphasizing the need for strong human rights protections at all levels, in particular, minority rights, as the key to preventing future conflicts over self-determination issues. It also encourages the inclusion of voices outside of armed actors in peace processes, and emphasizes the agency of those belonging to groups often marginalized in these processes, including women and young people. The handbook also addresses the role of affected third parties in sustainably addressing the potential for these conflicts. We look forward to sharing our handbook with interested Member States next year.

Mr. Chair,

We hope that our efforts to help prevent and resolve conflicts related to self-determination will strengthen peaceful, just and inclusive societies, in line with SDG 16 – and particularly focus on the realization of target 16.7, which aims at responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. The emphasis on self-government as a way to realize self-determination, and on the relationship between self-governance and SDG 16.7, were both notably made by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples in this year and last year's reports to the General Assembly respectively. Liechtenstein is of the view that these linkages can and should also be made in the context of other communities within states, as a preventive alternative to conflict as well as to secession.

I thank you.