



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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**AGENDA ITEM 112 - REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

2022 marks the third year in which the work of the UN will be taking place under the shadow of COVID-19. No organization is better equipped or more fully mandated to meet the challenge it presents to the world: the UN has unparalleled reach to address the immediate health effects of the pandemic and its knock-on effects for the world's most vulnerable; including through enhancing preparedness and ensuring that vaccinations can be delivered where they are needed.

We welcome that the UN system, in taking a pragmatic and science-based approach, has significantly contributed to international solidarity in times of mis- and disinformation, populism and nationalist tendencies. We stand behind this work, guided by General Assembly resolution 74/270, and led by the WHO among others. Our response to the world's most pressing issues, with the pandemic foremost among them, must be grounded in international solidarity, underpinned by a human rights perspective and guided by a commitment to reduce inequality. Unfortunately, the pandemic has served to demonstrate not only how far we have to go, but also that we are moving in the wrong direction in some key areas. The spread of new COVID variants – and subsequently, new waves of infection - is directly linked to our inability to ensure an

equitable global vaccine distribution. Without it, other preventive measures can only stave off the inevitable.

We attach importance to ongoing efforts to ensure business continuity at UNHQ despite the volatile pandemic situation and look forward to early opportunity to discuss this among the membership. Ensuring that the UN's political organs are fully operational at all times is of paramount importance. Going forward, one area in need of improvement is to ensure safe civil society access to the UN's premises, which we will continue to push for in the coming weeks.

Mr. President,

The pandemic has also emphatically placed the 2030 Agenda at the center of our work. The Sustainable Development Goals provide a roadmap not only to address the consequences of COVID-19 but also to prevent such public health and other global crises in the first place. If we are to harness the full potential of the SDGs, we need to consider them in a holistic manner, rather than taking a piecemeal approach to their implementation. The pandemic has also provided a stress test for trust in institutions, with important lessons for making them more effective, accountable, and inclusive. The lack of trust in institutions at the national level remains the primary challenge to the rule of law and to progress towards our common sustainable development objectives. Trust can only be built through participation and accountability, often painstakingly and at the cost of great collective effort.

Mr. President,

The UN needs to increase the meaningful participation of civil society in its work, in line with the vision in Our Common Agenda of a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system. Liechtenstein welcomes the roadmap provided by the report for achieving the priorities he sets out today, especially the focus on human rights and fundamental freedoms, and a new vision of the rule of law that puts people at the center of justice.

Mr. President,

The 'triple planetary crisis' of climate change, biodiversity loss and rising levels of pollution highlighted in the Secretary-General's report must remain at the forefront of the work of the organization. The increasing tension between humankind and nature has not only led to today's climate emergency; it has also manifested itself in the heightened risk for zoonotic diseases, the loss of biodiversity and increasing desertification among others. In response, we must recalibrate our relationship with our planet, as promoted by the comprehensive "One Health" approach. This is as much a sustainable development and human rights matter as it is a security need.

Mr. President,

While the Security Council has made tentative efforts to broaden its security paradigm beyond its narrow politico-military focus, its collective failure to pass a thematic resolution on climate and security is ominous not only for climate ambition but also for the Council itself. A much more preventive approach, in line with a human security concept, is needed if the Council's actions are to remain relevant in light of present and future threats. At this stage the Council has very little to offer in response to the most pervasive cause of insecurity the world has seen for decades. And as much as we support the Secretary General's call this morning for Council unity, as unlikely as it is that we will see said unity in the near future, it would be irresponsible of this Assembly to remain inactive in such a situation. The proposal of a new agenda for peace in the SG's report therefore comes at the right moment. We need a new security paradigm that effectively addresses the threats to security that people around the globe experience on a daily basis, and we need alternative modes of decision making to take measures to counter them.

I thank you.