



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

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NEW YORK, 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING TO COMMEMORATE AND PROMOTE THE  
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR. MARTIN FRICK**

DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Mr. President

Last year a large number of States expressed concern at the prospects of a new nuclear arms race. Today, we have to concede that it has become a reality. The legal framework for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is rapidly eroding: the INF treaty is gone, attempts to extend the new START treaty are largely missing, the JCPOA is under severe strain and the DPRK shows no signs to come into compliance with Security Council resolutions, let alone take verifiable steps towards nuclear disarmament. Europe's security is in decline as is the security in many other parts of the world. There is an acute common European interest to work towards reestablishing past levels of security. Liechtenstein strongly supports efforts to that effect in the framework of the OSCE and other fora. As the continent that benefitted the most from the INF's prohibitions, Europe stands to lose the most from its demise. It is important to clearly call out treaty violations – abandoning the INF without any serious attempt at resolving disputes within its framework is, however, inconsistent with article VI obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which are binding on both the Russian Federation and the United States.

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, most recent developments and trends – from modernizing and upgrading nuclear arsenals, to escalating nuclear postures – are inconsistent with the obligations nuclear weapon States have under the NPT. Fifty years into its existence we are nowhere closer to the NPT's ultimate purpose: to pave the way towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Disarmament and non-proliferation are two sides of the same coin. Accordingly, there is a tangible and increased risk of nuclear proliferation, despite the far-reaching commitments an overwhelming majority of States has undergone in this respect. In these circumstances the importance of the upcoming review conference of the NPT can hardly be overstated, and Liechtenstein pledges to fully engage for a substantial result that builds on agreements of past review conferences.

Mr. President,

One of the few positive developments in recent years has been the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) to which Liechtenstein is an initial signatory. By agreeing to the TPNW a large majority of States has demonstrated that they take their obligations under article VI of the NPT seriously. Along with many other States Liechtenstein sees important potential in the TPNW to restore the original balance enshrined in the NPT. In addition, the TPNW complements the CTBT and its verification machinery in establishing a clear legal norm against nuclear tests. Most importantly, it draws a legal line against all attempts to justify the use of nuclear weapons. The horrendous and indiscriminate suffering these weapons infallibly inflict on civilians leaves no room for such a justification. In a time of eroding international norms, the TPNW is a sole beacon of hope, and a lesson for multilateralism in a world increasingly suffering from unsustainable big power politics.

I thank you.