



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – HIGH LEVEL DEBATE

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PEACE FOR ALL**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

How to build sustainable peace is almost shorthand for the objectives of the UN as an organization. I wish to offer some brief thoughts on two of the SDGs of particular relevance, based on our understanding that peace is not merely the absence of armed conflict, namely SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies.

Sustainable peace starts with women's full and effective participation in peace processes. And women are powerful agents of change to ensure sustainable peace in the aftermath of conflict. Research suggests that the participation of women is more likely bring all three pillars – human rights, security and development – into peace negotiations<sup>1</sup>. More importantly, data proves that women's participation increases the probability of a peace agreement lasting longer<sup>2</sup>. Despite these scientific findings, women's participation in peace processes is often limited to outside roles; in particular the final and more formal decision making is left mostly to male

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/IPI-E-pub-Reimagining-Peacemaking-rev.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Lasting at least two years by 20 percent, and by 35 percent of it lasting 15 years <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/wps/highlights/unw-global-study-1325-2015.pdf?vs=323192435>

actors<sup>3</sup>. Ensuring women's full and equal participation in peace processes is a matter of political correctness. It is a prerequisite to sustain peace. We welcome the commitment of Secretary-General Guterres to significantly increase the number of women in positions as Special Envoys and Special Representatives.

Mr. President,

With respect to SDG 16, access to justice for all and accountable institutions in particular are crucial in this respect. One important element of this framework is transitional justice, which works not only to consolidate peace but to prevent cycles of conflict and, in times of conflict, to bring them to a quicker end. There is still a very uneasy relationship between the concepts of peace and justice. The desire to reach quick results is often at the expense of the inclusion of justice elements which make a peace agreement truly sustainable. Criminal justice in its narrow sense is an important element: There is an international consensus that there can be no amnesties for the most serious crimes under international law. The International Criminal Court was created precisely to this end and to provide criminal accountability where national judiciaries fail to do so. But for a society to come to terms with its painful history and often traumatic events, more is needed than trials. There are various mechanisms that have been helpful to affected societies to overcome a difficult past, including Truth and Reconciliation Commissions. The SDG agenda offers a unique opportunity to advance our discussions on the relationship between peace and justice. This is a difficult challenge, but we have to move past paying lipservice and applying templates that are proven not to serve the purpose they are intended to.

Mr. President

The United Nations is premised on the understanding that the use of force and therefore armed conflict are violations of international law, except in narrowly defined circumstances. We have all accepted this when ratifying the UN Charter. But our collective mindset is still to treat armed

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/IPI-E-pub-Reimagining-Peacemaking-rev.pdf>

conflict as unfortunate and deplorable, rather than as illegal. Criminalizing the most serious forms of the illegal use of force is therefore a key step in the process to sustainable peace. We call on all those States who have not done so yet, to ratify the Kampala Amendments on the crime of aggression to the Rome Statute which are scheduled to be activated at the end of this year.

Mr. President,

Finally, creating an awareness of the value and importance of peace in a society seems an obvious prerequisite for sustaining it. In Western Europe we have not seen armed conflict for seven decades now, largely due to the unifying force of the European Union. The historic reality that Europe was for long centuries among the most conflict-ridden parts of the world, however, is increasingly forgotten, especially among the younger people. Educating ourselves on the value of peace – for our economic well-being, our opportunities as individuals, the way we live together as communities – is therefore a collective civic duty in which the UN should play a key role.

I thank you.