



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

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NEW YORK, 23 FEBRUARY 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THE SITUATION IN THE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF UKRAINE

**STATEMENT BY MR. GEORG SPARBER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

The conflict in and around Ukraine remains a crisis that calls for the urgent attention of the United Nations. In the spirit of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, sustained efforts have been undertaken within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to monitor the conflict and pursue possible avenues for political progress. Two weeks ago, we heard the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and the Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine brief the Security Council on the situation. We regret that the Council has not been able to support OSCE efforts to bring peace to Ukraine politically and through concrete actions. With today's debate the General Assembly underlines the complementarity of its mandate with the mandate of the Security Council with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security – a principle that Liechtenstein supports and is committed to.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein reaffirms its position in support of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The armed conflict, fueled by Russian intervention in Ukraine, has caused a humanitarian catastrophe, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19. More than 10,000 people have been killed in the course of the conflict,

and many more have been wounded. The number of people requiring humanitarian assistance and protection is high and while similar to last year - around 3.4 million – the needs of those affected are significantly higher in terms of severity. COVID-19 has exacerbated preexisting vulnerabilities in society, with the elderly, persons with disabilities, female-headed households and children among the most vulnerable. 30 per cent of those in need are elderly - the highest proportion in any crisis in the world. Liechtenstein has consistently contributed to humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, and will continue its commitment to alleviate the suffering of civilians in this appalling humanitarian crisis on our continent. In this connection, Liechtenstein calls for full and unconditional access for the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as other international organizations, to all areas and all people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein welcomes and supports the indefinite ceasefire agreed to in the framework of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) that came into force on 27 July 2020, as well as some positive developments on the release and exchange of detainees, while the trend toward more ceasefire violations in recent weeks, as well as the construction of new trenches is worrying. The severe impact the conflict continues to have on the civilian population and on the humanitarian situation must remain a primary concern. Not enough progress has been made on many important humanitarian issues. Delays to the full operationalization of entry-exit checkpoints at Zolote and Shchastia are regrettable and Liechtenstein hopes that outstanding questions can be solved soon. More progress should be made on disengagement and de-mining, a particularly important issue given that eastern Ukraine is so heavily mined, resulting in a significant number of civilian casualties. Liechtenstein also regrets that the Special Monitoring Mission's ability to monitor certain areas, such as the Petrivske disengagement area and areas near the uncontrolled segment of the Ukraine-Russia State border, is seriously hampered, including by damage to cameras or signal interference targeting the SMM's UAVs. The SMM must be able to carry out its work unhindered, and those responsible for hindering its work must be held accountable.

In the interim, it is concerning that the Political Working Group of the TCG has been unable to find common ground. The ceasefire will fray in the absence of political will and productive discussions – something that we may already be seeing. Liechtenstein appreciates the ambition shown in seeking to draw up a concrete time-bound Action Plan for the implementation of the Minsk Agreements, and encourages members of the Political Working Group to redouble their efforts to this end. Liechtenstein continues to call for immediate and full implementation of the commitments of the Minsk Agreements, and hopes for the full revitalization of the political process. We recall the responsibilities of the signatories in that regard.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein welcomes Ukraine's expressed commitment to domestic reform, in particular steps taken to strengthen the fight against corruption and accountable institutions, in support of the rule of law. In addition, the provisions on self-governance and decentralization within the Minsk Agreements are particularly relevant in view of creating the best conditions for sustainable peace in Ukraine.

Mr. President,

Finally, many serious crimes committed in the course of the Ukraine conflict warrant a thorough criminal investigation. Liechtenstein has welcomed Ukraine's Article 12(3) declaration under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and reiterates its call on Ukraine to ratify the Rome Statute, including the provisions giving the Court jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. This would send a strong and unequivocal message that the government of Ukraine is willing to address impunity for international crimes comprehensively and irrespective of who the perpetrators are.

I thank you.