



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

NEW YORK, 28 FEBRUARY 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ELEVENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ITEM 5 - LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 2014 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/2014/136)

STATEMENT BY H.E. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

I represent one of the smallest countries in this Assembly. Liechtenstein has no armed forces. We have joined this organization because we believe that the States assembled in this hall are committed to the United Nations and will stand up for it when needed. For us it is therefore vital that this Assembly address the act of aggression against Ukraine, a founding member of this organization, committed by the Russian Federation, a Permanent Member of the Security Council. Liechtenstein stands in full solidarity with the people of Ukraine and we pay the deepest respect to the personal leadership of their political leaders. They are resisting with incredible bravery a brutal and unprovoked attack on their country, an unconscionable act of aggression, in direct violation of the Charter of the United Nations - aggression as defined by this very Assembly by consensus in 1974 – in the middle of the cold war. We also express our solidarity with the Russian people - those who have taken to the streets to demand an end of the war, and those who have been forced to participate in an illegal armed conflict not of their choosing.

In the scope, scale and form of its actions, the political leadership of Russia is perpetrating a

simultaneous attack on the rules-based international order. A systematic effort is taking place to undermine fundamental concepts of international law, to which we are all committed - the threat or use of force contained in Article 2(4) and justified self-defense in Article 51 of the UN Charter. This is also an attack on the collective memory and history that underpins our contemporary international system anchored in the rule of law. The Russian government's claims that it is stopping genocide and undertaking denazification are not only preposterous – they are deeply offensive to the countless victims of genocide, most notably the millions that perished in the holocaust, including those killed in Ukraine by the Nazi regime.

Mr. President,

The draft resolution vetoed by the Russian Federation in the Security Council on Friday night makes clear that Ukraine has been subject to aggression and that the Russian Federation was the aggressor. This Assembly must condemn Russia's attacks against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in unequivocal terms. We put on the record in this respect that international law provides for individual criminal responsibility for those "in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State" when that State commits an act of aggression. Furthermore, acts of aggression, as defined by this Assembly, includes a State "allowing its territory, which it has placed at the disposal of another State, to be used by that other State for perpetrating an act of aggression against a third State". Again, this entails individual criminal responsibility for those in leadership positions.

Mr. President,

We also recall the statement of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court reminding that the Court has jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed in the territory of Ukraine. We express our grave concern over recent orders by the Russian Federation to increase the readiness of its nuclear arsenal, as well as efforts by Belarus to pave the way for nuclear weapons to be placed on its territory, in violation of key provisions of the non-proliferation treaty.

Mr. President,

We deplore the use of the veto in the Security Council this past Friday, cast in obvious contravention to Article 27(3) of the UN Charter, which prohibits parties to a dispute from voting on relevant Chapter VI resolutions. But we welcome the decision of the Council to refer the situation in Ukraine to this Assembly, which is thus entrusted with the task of upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and to take effective action to end the aggression against Ukraine. This organization has never faced a bigger test of multilateralism than today. We trust that, together, we will pass the test before us, as a light in the darkness of this terribly sad moment. And we hope that you will all join us in voting in favour of this resolution.

I thank you.