



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

NEW YORK, 20 OCTOBER 2015

SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

WORKING METHODS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is a member of ACT and aligns itself with the statement delivered by Switzerland on behalf of the group. We have been leading the Group's efforts to make the Security Council more effective in preventing or ending atrocity crimes. It is on this subject that I wish to make the following remarks.

The people of the world expect this Council to protect them from genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes – the worst crimes under international law. Too often, the Council has failed to live up to these expectations: in Rwanda in 1994, in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995, in Syria and other places as we speak. These are well-known examples that illustrate the human and political cost of inaction. But there are many others as well, including situations that did not even make it onto the Council's agenda.

It is for this reason that ACT has elaborated a Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against atrocity crimes. We have done so in a process of detailed consultation with States, the Secretariat and civil society. The product is a text that reflects the political commitment of

States which, over time, will help us create the culture of political accountability that is needed to make the Council more effective and legitimate.

By committing to this Code, States pledge that, while serving as members of the Security Council, they will support timely and decisive action by the Council to prevent or end such crimes. As part of this general commitment, they also pledge more specifically not to vote against a credible draft resolution to that end. **80 States** from all regions of the world currently support the Code of Conduct, including **seven** Members of the current Council and **three of the five** States elected to serve on the Council starting in 2016. This is an impressive number and we are confident that many more States are to follow. **The Code of Conduct will be launched this Friday, 23 October**, by the Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein, Ms. Aurelia Frick, at an event open to all. The more States join this initiative by Friday, the stronger is the call for a change in the way the Council addresses atrocity crimes. **We therefore urge all Member States that have not yet done so to join the Code of Conduct within the next few days, so that they can be included in the original list of supporters.**

Mr. President,

The Code of Conduct is an important and serious political commitment for any State that serves on the Council. It also represents a minimum standard we expect Council Members, which are called upon to collectively exercise the primary responsibility for international peace and security on our behalf, to live up to. We are confident that this can bring about an essential change in the decision-making of the Council.

I thank you.