



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

NEW YORK, 25 JANUARY 2018

SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN DEBATE

**THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

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

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

I thank you for the opportunity today to discuss the situation in the Middle East in open format. Developments in different parts of the region make it imperative that the broader membership can express itself on the urgent action needed by the Security Council in order to meet the responsibilities it discharges on behalf the entire membership.

Mr. President,

The repeated failure of the Council to act on the most serious crimes in Syria appears in particularly sharp light as attacks with chemical weapons continue unabated, in blatant disregard of the most fundamental rules of international law and with horrific consequences for the Syrian people. Liechtenstein deplored the discontinuation of the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) whose investigative capacity and preventive dimension continue to be urgently needed. At the same time, we underline that accountability must and can be provided through other means, in particular through the Syria Accountability Mechanism (SIIM) whose mandate clearly encompasses the use of chemical weapons by any perpetrator. We call on all

States to fully cooperate with the IIIM by sharing relevant information and evidence and by providing it with the political and financial support necessary to implement its mandate. In that regard, Liechtenstein supports the French initiative to forge a partnership to ensure accountability for the use of chemical weapons in Syria and welcome the specific commitment by the partnership countries to support the IIIM's work.

Mr. President,

The Security Council has a crucial responsibility to protect civilians from the most serious crimes under international law, including the deliberate targeting of civilian population and infrastructure and preventing delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid. The humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen evolving under the watch of the Council has reached unprecedented dimensions with over 20 Mio. people in need of assistance. The UN system and humanitarian actors on the ground, in particular the authoritative voice of ICRC, continue to sound the alarm about the suffering of the Yemeni people and to remind us of the preventable nature of this single largest humanitarian crisis. We call on the Council and in particular its nine members that have signed the ACT Code of Conduct on mass atrocity crimes and together constitute a procedural majority in the Council to address the situation in Yemen with the attention and the urgency it deserves.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein shares the concern expressed by many that an already fragile peace process in the Middle East has been further jeopardized by recent developments and that a two-State solution as the only promising avenue to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace is becoming increasingly difficult to implement. Liechtenstein expresses its continued support for a two-State solution and for the international legal framework in which such a solution can be achieved, including applicable international humanitarian law and relevant resolutions of this Council, in particular resolutions 478 and 2334 that continue to be binding on all of us. Liechtenstein supports the call of the General Assembly for an intensification and acceleration of efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The

Security Council remains a key actor in ensuring that any such efforts will be guided by applicable international law.