



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

NEW YORK, 3 NOVEMBER 2020

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIRST COMMITTEE

EXPLANATION OF VOTE AFTER THE VOTE ON A/C.1/75/L.71 AS ADOPTED

STATEMENT BY GEORG SPARBER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Chairperson,

I am taking the floor to explain Liechtenstein's vote on the resolution contained in L.71 "Joint courses of action and future-oriented dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons" as adopted. Liechtenstein acknowledges the continuous efforts of the main sponsor Japan in presenting this resolution to the First Committee and its commitment to bridge-building. Unfortunately, that commitment has not translated in a more acceptable text for the Liechtenstein delegation. Liechtenstein continues not to be in a position to support this resolution and has again abstained. It is unfortunate that our main concerns, as expressed in our modest calls not to undermine existing obligations and commitments, have not been addressed.

The overall concerning developments in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation call for the unequivocal support of our common acquis of past agreements, in particular in the framework of the NPT and its review conferences. The formulation in OP1 is therefore unacceptable as it introduces a qualification to the clear obligations for nuclear weapon States under article VI of the NPT and undermines the unequivocal undertaking by nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals as previously agreed. Nor is it acceptable to take us further away from implementing those obligations and commitments as suggested in PP4. Ahead of the NPT review conference Liechtenstein considers such attempts at weakening what should actually unite us misguided and places on record that it will not accept this or any other elements of the resolution either as basis or as guidance towards an outcome of the 2020 NPT review conference.

As last year, Liechtenstein is also dissatisfied with the approach of the resolution towards the urgent entry into force of the CTBT. In light of increasing attempts to weaken or undermine the nuclear test moratorium the resolutions should issue a clear and strong call on all missing states and in particular the Annex II states to sign and ratify the CTBT without delay and without waiting for any other state to do so. Unfortunately, the resolution falls again short of doing that. The fact that CTBT has still not entered into force adds to the already significant insecurity non-nuclear weapon States experience as a consequence of the receding rule of law in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Liechtenstein therefore clearly distances itself from any message to the effect that the international community is reducing efforts towards entry into force of the CTBT.

Thank you.