



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 31 - REPORT OF THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION; AGENDA ITEM 64 - PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE; AGENDA ITEM 116 - REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE PEACEBUILDING FUND

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President,

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss the valuable work of the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund during 2020. Given the tumultuous global context, and ongoing institutional obstacles to upholding peace faced by other relevant UN bodies, the PBC and PBF's work scarcely could have been more relevant. Both the PBC and the PBF play an indispensable role in the work of implementing many of the thematic agendas outlined by the Security Council. There is also an essential bridging function in situations where peacekeeping operations are discontinued or scaled down. The COVID-19 pandemic has considerably deepened socioeconomic vulnerabilities and exacerbated inequalities within states. As a result, the role of both the PBC and PBF in shoring up resilience at local and national levels has become ever more significant.

Liechtenstein appreciates the innovative way in which the PBC has continued to carry out its mandate. A movement toward a greater emphasis on regional efforts is welcome, as is its increased thematic work. A PBC that can employ flexibility in its work and be resourceful in designing its methods of work will be more fit for purpose. It is particularly good to see innovation in developing the preventive aspect of the PBC's work. As we know, peacebuilding is an

investment in the future, to create frameworks that not only promote peace but also prevent tensions in societies from emerging into violence and conflict. Liechtenstein would like to see this preventive aspect made more explicit, and we encourage further development of work in this direction - something that we believe both the PBC and PBF have the tools to do. While the PBC was created many years before we agreed on the 2030 Agenda, we see a direct overlap. The SDGs remain our blueprint for 'building back better' from COVID-19. The work of the PBC and PBF is vital to achieving SDG 16 on "peace, justice and strong institutions" in particular; at the same time, the fulfillment of SDG 16 is key to ensuring that the PBC and PBF can fulfill their mandates.

A crucial aspect of sustainable peace, as reflected in SDG 16, is reconciliation and accountability for the most serious crimes under international law. Quite naturally, the reports before us show a significant footprint, particularly of the PBF, on issues of transitional justice, notably in the Central African Republic, DRC, Colombia and Sudan. Given the breadth and importance of this work, for example the funding to Colombia's Truth Commission, as well as relevant situations such as Sierra Leone, Liberia and The Gambia that are discussed in the PBC report, there is a good case for a standalone thematic discussion on Transitional Justice, post-conflict reconciliation and accountability in the PBC, along the lines of other similar discussions that have already taken place. In so doing, the PBC would reinforce the vital part it plays in implementing and complementing many of the thematic agendas of the Security Council – an important synergy that Liechtenstein hopes will continue. On this topic, Liechtenstein puts on record our support for the increased integration of the climate-security nexus into the work of the PBC and PBF, and wishes to highlight the collaboration with low-lying island atoll nations to investigate links between climate change and conflict and identify innovative countermeasures as a positive example. Liechtenstein also sees work to address political questions of autonomy and self-governance in Papua New Guinea as being highly valuable. These questions underlie many protracted conflicts and thus require further consideration from mediators and peacebuilders alike.

Overall, Liechtenstein sees the work both of the PBC and PBF as fulfilling the core mandate of the UN – to end and prevent conflict, to foster sustainable peace, and to uphold human rights and development. Such important and valuable work deserves financial support from the UN as a whole, both through assessed and voluntary contributions.

I thank you.