



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

NEW YORK, 22 OCTOBER 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FOURTH COMMITTEE

JOINT GENERAL DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEMS 50-61

STATEMENT BY MR. MATTHEW EDBROOKE, POLITICAL ADVISOR

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam Chair,

Let me begin by thanking you and your team for the excellent leadership of this year's committee during what remain precarious circumstances in which to operate. This year, Liechtenstein is entrusted with the honor of representing our regional group on the committee's bureau, and we thank the WEOG membership for the opportunity. In particular, we are proud to serve on the bureau that has managed to bring petitioners back to the Fourth Committee after last year's unprecedented absence. We thank colleagues as well as the secretariat for making this possible despite the organizational and logistical difficulties involved.

Madam Chair,

Liechtenstein's membership of this year's bureau is an important manifestation of our long-standing commitment to the right of self-determination. The decolonization process was one of the original purposes of the UN Charter and is undoubtedly one of the biggest achievements of this organization. At the same time, it is also unfinished, something we mark as we move into the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Therefore, we must not forget those that are still waiting for an end to their colonial status. For those NSGTs, the international community must earnestly work to bring peace, justice and – most importantly – closure. To this

end, decisions agreed with the relevant peoples to hold referenda on independence as a public expression of self-determination, such as the one scheduled in New Caledonia later in the year, as well as the ongoing engagement of some NSGTs in regional intergovernmental organizations in the interim are promising avenues. Populations should not formally remain colonial possessions in the UN system as the result of geopolitical or strategic military prerogatives. After 75 years of existence of the United Nations, we must work to fulfill the promise of self-determination captured in the purposes of its Charter, on the basis of serious, open dialogue on the future status of the NSGTs, prioritizing the free and informed decision-making of those peoples in accordance with international law.

Madam Chair,

Liechtenstein remains committed to upholding the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, as evidenced by our co-sponsoring of the resolution on this subject in the Third Committee. We reiterate that the annexation of territory, or any decision to change or amend the border between Israel and Palestine without the explicit consent of both parties, is in violation of international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, as is the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories. We urge progress toward a two-state solution that is based in international law and in the right to self-determination, as the only viable avenue to sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians and for the entire region.

Madam Chair,

Liechtenstein welcomes the appointment of Staffan de Mistura as Personal Envoy of the Secretary General for Western Sahara. We look forward to seeing a successful effort under his leadership to bring about a just and lasting political solution consistent with relevant Security Council Resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations.

Madam Chair,

Liechtenstein has been a consistent supporter of the committee's resolution on Special Political Missions. By working across the conflict cycle, in coordination with national actors and other UN

entities such as the PBC, SPMs make a responsible and meaningful contribution to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Liechtenstein recognizes the need for SPMs to continue to work closely with those groups that are underrepresented in positions of power and influence, including women and young people. In this respect, the UNAMA mission in Afghanistan is at the forefront of our minds, exemplifying the vital role that the UN system must play in upholding the human rights of all women and girls in Afghanistan, and supporting their full and unhindered participation in decision-making processes. Liechtenstein also notes the significant number of SPMs that in some way, shape, or form, must address fundamental questions of autonomy, self-governance and identity for relevant communities within States. In this respect Liechtenstein sees a need for the UN system to recognize and address questions of internal self-determination where they arise, with the aim of preventing and resolving future conflicts between the State and the relevant community or between different communities within a State.

I thank you.