



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

**THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: CLIMATE CHANGE, PEACE AND SECURITY**

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

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

From weather extremes to sea level rise, all regions of the world are affected by the devastating consequences of climate change, increasingly so with respect to the peace and security of States and their populations. Peace and security impacts of the manifestations of climate change exacerbate existing conflicts, such as increasing droughts in the horn of Africa, and can spark new conflicts on their own, such as between farmers and herders in the Sahel. But, fundamentally, we must understand that climate change itself creates insecurity and is, as such, a threat to peace and security. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides the blueprint for the well-being of our planet and recognizes the interlinkages between the fight against climate change and the other SDGs.

We have known for some time that we are far off track to avert the worst consequences of climate change. But increasingly, we are seeing the wayposts fly by. UNEP has stated that there was “no credible pathway to 1.5 °C in place”; just last month, the World Meteorological Organization warned that global temperatures are now more likely than not to breach 1.5 degrees within the next five years. These are not future hypotheticals anymore; they are

imminent realities. Liechtenstein commits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55 % until 2030 compared to 1990, and wants to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Such reduction measures should also be taken especially by those with the highest emissions. They are necessary to reverse the trends.

Sea-level rise is one of the most dramatic effects of the rapid rise in global emissions. These consequences are amongst the clearest in atoll nations and in volcanic island nations. The profound injustice is that people living in these countries are amongst the lowest contributors to CO2 emissions, while they face the gravest consequences. The unprecedented scenario of full or partial inundation of the territory of a State or country, or the relocation of its people, should not change the general presumption in international law that only the relevant people should be able to make decisions on how to exercise their right to self-determination, including through Statehood.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein was proud to be part of the core group on the General Assembly resolution requesting an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States in respect of climate change. This historic decision is complementary to and reinforces the efforts made in the UNFCCC process which we hope will see a successful convening under your leadership later this year. We are confident that the International Court of Justice will provide us with clear, authoritative guidance regarding the complex questions of international law pertaining to climate change and hope that many States will make submissions on this important topic.

Mr. President,

This Council can take many steps to better address the range of climate impacts. It can work with the Peacebuilding Commission to ensure a systematic, preventative approach to climate risks. It can also build on the work of the Informal Expert Group on Climate and Security by considering

Climate, Peace and Security as a standalone agenda item of this Council, as was proposed in a resolution by Ireland and Niger in December 2021, with strong backing from the UN membership. That resolution was unfortunately blocked by the use of the veto. Liechtenstein encourages Security Council members to reconsider the issue, also in light of the new platform for accountability and complementary action by the General Assembly created through the Veto Initiative. By reconsidering a text on Climate Change positively, the Council would send a clear message that human security is part and parcel of security threats in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I thank you.