



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ELEVENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ITEM 5 - LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 2014 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/2014/136)

STATEMENT BY H.E. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

We welcome the reconvening of the Emergency Special Session on the situation in Ukraine. Three weeks ago, this Assembly issued a clear call with respect to the aggression against Ukraine by an overwhelming majority. It asked for the immediate cessation of hostilities, as well as the complete and immediate withdrawal of all troops from Ukraine, with a view to creating the necessary space for genuine diplomacy as well as a credible and fully inclusive peace process. The reaction of the Russian Federation shows a complete disregard for the multilateralism embodied in the decision of this Assembly and of the order of the International Court of Justice of March 16. Not only has it failed to heed the unequivocal call from this Assembly, it has engaged in further military escalation.

Mr. President,

In Ukraine we see in the starkest possible terms the axiom that “whenever war begins, war crimes follow”. The aggression committed against Ukraine must therefore remain front and center in our discussions as we address its consequences, as well as the individual criminal responsibility it entails for persons in leadership positions.

Incalculable suffering has been visited on Ukraine since this Assembly last met. It is not only that the civilian population has borne the brunt of its impact; civilians have increasingly been targeted by the Russian armed forces, in blatant violation of the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law - military necessity, distinction and proportionality. A large part of the civilian population has been forcibly displaced as a result. The onslaught on Mariupol is particularly appalling, and eerily reminiscent of the notorious assault on Aleppo in its indiscriminate attack on civilian infrastructure and the infliction of mass civilian casualties as a method of warfare.

Mr. President,

All of this extends far beyond the discussions we are engaged in today: It is a frontal rejection of multilateralism that this Assembly embodies and that is so urgently needed to address other challenges of our time – from fighting climate change, to overcoming the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the inequalities exacerbated by it, to addressing humanitarian and other emergencies in all parts of the world.

The people of Ukraine are the primary victims of this war, but its impact is already felt around the globe. The attack on a major agricultural producer will be devastating for global food security. The forthcoming growth in military expenditure will make for a more dangerous world. There will be massive fallout on agendas that were already in a fragile state before the aggression against Ukraine – from the abolition of nuclear weapons to achieving the SDGs. All of this cannot be undone in its entirety, but the effects can be mitigated by one measure – an immediate end of the invasion, as this Assembly has requested.

Mr. President,

In response to the aggression, there has been an unprecedented way in which governments and private actors have come together to stand up for the fundamentals of the post-World War II order. This is a positive takeaway if we can apply it to other challenges in the future. The resolution this Assembly passed on March 2 has resonated in a powerful manner around the

globe. This Assembly has proven its ability to act decisively when the Charter is under threat. The present crisis can be a defining moment for this Assembly and its ability to show leadership that will be required with respect to other challenges.

Mr. President,

This organization has extensive experience in the area of humanitarian assistance, including in the most difficult of circumstances. This Assembly and other relevant bodies have set the ground rules for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The relevant rules defined in international humanitarian law are universally accepted. Nevertheless, we are called upon today to ask for these rules to be respected. Among other things, the granting of safe passage in both directions – for those fleeing and for those delivering humanitarian aid. The protection of civilians at all times and under all circumstances. The prohibition of the attack on critical civilian infrastructure at all times and the absolute prohibition of illegal weaponry.

Mr. President,

We support the effort reflected in the resolution before us to uphold core humanitarian objectives in the context of its call upon the Russian Federation to cease hostilities against Ukraine. We have therefore cosponsored resolution A/ES-11/L.2 before this assembly and hope that this Assembly will vote with an overwhelming majority in support of it.

I thank you.