



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

**PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICT: “ENSURING THE SECURITY AND DIGNITY OF CIVILIANS
IN CONFLICT: ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AND PROTECTING ESSENTIAL SERVICES”**

**STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, CHARGÉE D’AFFAIRES
A.I.**

Mr. President,

We applaud Switzerland’s longstanding and principled leadership of the protection of civilians’ agenda including the respect of international humanitarian law which is of the essence for today’s debate. IHL prohibits starvation as a method of warfare and grants special protection to objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, as reflected in Security Council resolution 2417 – the fifth anniversary of which will be marked tomorrow. We also acknowledge the relevance of Resolution 2573 to today’s debate, which condemns unlawful attacks against and the misuse of objects critical to the delivery of essential services including food and water. IHL states clearly that such attacks on civilian infrastructure – carried out kinetically or with cyber weapons – are illegal. They are war crimes and must be investigated and prosecuted as such, including at the International Criminal Court when national judiciaries are unwilling or unable to do so themselves.

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, food insecurity remains a major factor across many of the crises on the Council's agenda. Sudan faces a severe humanitarian catastrophe, on top of the 15 million people already food insecure before the outbreak of the conflict. We strongly condemn the killing of World Food Program staff as well as unlawful attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including the looting and destroying of offices, vehicles and warehouses that store humanitarian aid. We join others in calling for a permanent ceasefire and respect for IHL at all times, and support efforts to facilitate a dialogue that respects the peaceful democratic transition called for by the people of Sudan in 2019, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women.

The people of Yemen continue to face unprecedented levels of hunger, as has long been a feature of the conflict. We are grateful for the work of humanitarian organizations including WFP and support their calls for unimpeded access. We also urge the parties to the conflict to redouble their efforts and seize the opportunity for peace that has emerged in recent months.

The aggression against Ukraine, including attacks against civilians and civilian objects, has had devastating humanitarian consequences, with six million people struggling to access safe drinking water and an alarming increase in food insecurity worldwide. The extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative represents a lifeline for people around the globe, and demonstrates the relevance of diplomacy even in the most acute of conflicts, including when this Council is deadlocked.

Mr. President,

Ensuring compliance with relevant IHL provisions must remain a priority for the international community. Liechtenstein will continue its consistent advocacy for a comprehensive, impartial and sustainably-funded system of international justice. In this regard we are grateful for Switzerland's leadership for an amendment to the Rome Statute to include the war crime of the intentional starvation of civilians in non-international armed conflicts, and encourage all States to join us in ratifying it.

We also encourage the Council to better acknowledge the POC agenda's preventive dimension, including by ensuring the credible prospect of accountability for IHL violations that are a result of cyber-operations. The report on the application of the Rome Statute of the ICC to cyberwarfare we have published with an eminent council of advisers provides relevant guidance in this regard.

I thank you.