



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

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SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN DEBATE

**SECURITY COUNCIL HIGH-LEVEL VIRTUAL OPEN DEBATE ON “CONTEMPORARY DRIVERS OF
CONFLICT AND INSECURITY”**

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is grateful to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for continuing Council discussions on contemporary drivers of conflict in an open format. The systematic negligence of human security in the Council’s work limits its ability to meaningfully implement its mandate even on the most restrictive reading, and makes the Council an irrelevant actor in increasingly prevalent crises of human security. Attempts by some members to restrain the Council to so-called ‘hard security’ issues of war and armed conflict point to an outdated paradigm of peace and security with a myopic focus on militarized causes and solutions.

Mr. President,

The Council first considered the link between climate and security in 2007. Yet, the five years since the Paris Agreement have been the hottest on record, and it is increasingly possible that the next five will see the world will reach 1.5°C of warming - a threshold deemed the point of no return during the Paris negotiations. Liechtenstein is pleased that the Council increasingly recognizes the value of addressing secondary impacts of climate change, such as involuntary migration, poverty, the loss of livelihoods and tensions between farmers and herders. Liechtenstein also continues to support efforts to tap into expertise across the UN Development

System, such as the DPPA-UNDP-UNEP Climate Security Mechanism. Systematic references to the impact of climate change on Council situations, particularly those outside of the African continent, are necessary and long overdue. But the Council must also address the root cause of these impacts. A small number of its members, combined, are responsible for more than half of global CO2 emissions, and must urgently work to reduce them.

Mr. President,

COVID-19 has led to wide-ranging human rights restrictions and increased risks of mass poverty and hunger, massive negative impacts on education, rising inequality and heightened social tensions, and as such generated a huge human security cost. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are our blueprint for 'building back better'; a roadmap for sustaining peace based on international law, human rights, cooperation, solidarity and multilateralism. Liechtenstein is pleased that the Council has addressed COVID-19, albeit in a limited manner, and encourages it to build on this precedent by taking on a human security-centered approach. This could include a Council contribution to system-wide discussions on negative security impacts of the pandemic, including, but not limited to the areas of climate and biodiversity, poverty and hunger, health, education, gender, freedom of expression and information and privacy.

Mr. President,

The pandemic has exacerbated what the Secretary-General has identified as the main threat to our societies – eroding trust in our institutions. Challenges to the rule of law and attacks on democratic processes even in societies with long democratic traditions must be met by responsible leadership, long-term policy thinking, stronger commitments against corruption and organized crime, and an honest discussion about information and the role of social media. The fulfillment of SDG16 is key to achieving sustainable development and to ensuring that the Council lives up to its mandate.

I thank you.