



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

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SECURITY COUNCIL - CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: ENHANCING CONFIDENCE BUILDING AND DIALOGUE IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO GEORG SPARBER, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

The effective work of and cooperation with regional organizations is essential to this Council's effectiveness. As mentioned in previous submissions to the Council, a sea-change is needed in how this body conceptualizes its approach to conflict prevention and resolution, as well as the means through which it does this work. The Council, considering the whole of the conflict cycle, can do prevention earlier and better by applying a more comprehensive paradigm of security in its work. Upholding human rights, encouraging progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals and combating climate change must all be seen as early investments in ensuring that each individual can be more secure – and thus an investment in peace. The COVID-19 pandemic has further emphasized the necessity of seeing human security as a starting point for the Council's work. It has also underlined the need for solidarity, unity, transparency and intensified effective international and multilateral co-operation in addressing the pandemic and its consequences. Never have so many people felt so insecure simultaneously. Work to this end could include Council contributions 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.

The holistic approach associated with human security requires the Council to take on a greater 'field of vision'. To this end close cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations is an indispensable component. Solutions grounded in local contexts, at the earliest stage possible, have the best chance of ameliorating tensions and reducing conflict. We see this in the example of the OSCE, whose comprehensive approach to security encompasses all stages of the conflict cycle. In particular, Liechtenstein wishes to highlight the work of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, who, by identifying tensions early can address potential issues before they result in the outbreak of conflict. With regard to ASEAN, Liechtenstein appreciates its key role in addressing the deteriorating situation in Myanmar, a role that was also supported in recent Council products. Regional and sub-regional organizations can also work in concert with the Council to magnify shared thematic priorities, for example on Women, Peace and Security, which is a priority of the current Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein has long had a particular interest in preventing and resolving conflicts that relate to questions of self-determination, which often emerge from tensions between communities within a state. Conflicts relating to self-determination have accounted for around 50 per cent of armed conflicts since the 1960s.¹ The necessity of addressing questions of self-determination as a potential source of conflict is thus clear. Paying attention to upholding the human rights of minority groups, finding - where necessary - appropriate forms of self-governance within a state, and ensuring the engagement of relevant communities in preventing conflict in an inclusive manner are all ways in which the international community can help to address this highly prevalent but often politically sensitive aspect of conflict. Early engagement and dialogue by

¹ According to Uppsala Conflict Data Program. Cited in Packer, John, and Holt, Sally. 2020. "Self-Determination and Peace Processes: Pathways and Stumbling Blocks for Conflict Resolution." In Cate Buchanan, ed., *Pioneering Peace Pathways—Making Connections to End Violent Conflict*. Accord 29. London: Conciliation Resources <<https://www.c-r.org/accord/pioneering-peace-pathways/self-determination-and-peace-processes-pathways-and-stumbling>>.

regional and sub-regional organizations is an important factor here; their capacity for early action, as well as their understanding of the nuanced historical contexts and perspectives involved in relevant situations can lead to more sustainable forms of conflict prevention and resolution.

I thank you.