



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 37 - THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST; AGENDA ITEM 38 - QUESTION OF PALESTINE

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein appreciates the opportunity for this Assembly to discuss the very worrisome situation in the Middle East. Liechtenstein is gravely concerned at the escalation in and around Gaza, the violence in the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, including in East Jerusalem, as well as in Israel, and at the impact on regional stability. We welcome the recent reported ceasefire agreement and call on all actors involved to fully adhere to it, to end any form of violence, and demonstrate utmost restraint and a willingness towards de-escalation.

Liechtenstein stresses the need for all actors to demonstrate respect for international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of military necessity and proportionality. The indiscriminate firing of rockets from Gaza and the deliberate targeting of civilians are grave violations of international humanitarian law and have led to civilian deaths. The large numbers of civilian casualties, many of them children, caused by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza are unacceptable. International humanitarian law, including the basic principles for the protection of civilians therein, must be safeguarded at all times and there must be accountability for their violation.

Liechtenstein reiterates its position that a two-state solution based on applicable international law, in particular international humanitarian law and relevant Security Council resolutions, remains the only viable pathway to a peaceful, stable and secure Middle East. Liechtenstein is gravely concerned over settlement activities, notably the threatened evictions of Palestinian families in East Jerusalem, and calls on Israel to cease these activities in accordance with its international humanitarian law obligations. The violence, death and destruction of recent days must instill a sense of responsibility and urgent need for action in the Security Council. In line with the historic obligation of the United Nations and the Security Council's mandate, the Council should help ensure the implementation of the ceasefire and the cessation of all violence, while addressing the long-standing and well-known causes of the conflict. A sustainable solution can only be achieved if the parties are willing to embark on credible and constructive negotiations in good faith and are assisted in their effort to do so. Acts that clearly violate decisions of the Security Council and international humanitarian law, and undermine a peaceful and sustainable solution to the crisis must end. In this respect, Liechtenstein calls on the Security Council to take steps to ensure the implementation of its own resolutions, and we note the statement issued by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on 3 March 2021.

I thank you.