



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

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SECURITY COUNCIL - ARRIA FORMULA MEETING ON '*75 YEARS FROM THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR ON EUROPEAN SOIL - LESSONS LEARNED FOR PREVENTING FUTURE ATROCITIES, RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.*'

STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. KATRIN EGGENBERGER

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JUSTICE AND CULTURE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Mr. President,

The 8th of May is a seminal date not only for Europeans, but for all of humanity. It marks the end of the Second World War – years of mass atrocities unleashed on European soil, which impacted the entire world. But it also marks the beginning of the longest period of peace in the history of the European continent. And, more importantly, it is very close in time and motive to the biggest peace project ever undertaken: The founding of the United Nations.

Today is a stark reminder that at the core of the United Nations Charter is the purpose “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”, a task primarily entrusted to the Security Council on behalf of the entire UN membership. The Council’s record in this respect is mixed. The most obvious illustration in recent times is the armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic which has now lasted almost a decade. As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of this Organization, we must recommit to the key provisions of its Charter, limiting the use of force to two narrow exceptions: when authorized by this Council or in self-defense. Recent trends in this respect are worrisome, in particular excessively expansive and unchecked interpretations of Article 51 that threaten the international rules-based order.

Today is also a moment to embrace a key development with respect to the enforcement of the rules governing the use of force: The agreement, almost ten years ago, on a definition of an act and crime of aggression at the Kampala Review Conference of the ICC. Individual criminal accountability for the most serious forms of the illegal use of force is now a reality for the first time since the Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials. Liechtenstein is proud to have spearheaded this effort – it was exactly 8 years ago that we ratified the crime of aggression amendments to the Rome Statute as the first State to do so. We call on those who have yet to ratify these important amendments to join us. The ICC’s jurisdiction over this crime can assist the Security Council in reinforcing its mandate and is ever more relevant given the proliferation of grave cyber-attacks – acts over which the ICC also has jurisdiction if necessary thresholds are met.

Finally, the end of the Second World War also marks the end of one of the worst periods of atrocity crimes in human history, in particular the Holocaust, committed on European soil. While important policies and legal instruments were created to help the international community implement the “never again” pledge, we have collectively failed on a number of tragic occasions. Today, we call on the Security Council to live up to its responsibility to prevent and end atrocity crimes – in the Syrian Arab Republic, Myanmar, Yemen and wherever they take place – and call on all States to join the ACT Group’s Code of Conduct in this respect.

I thank you very much.