



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

NEW YORK, 26 NOVEMBER 2024

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 63 – USE OF THE VETO

DEBATE - VETO INITIATIVE – “REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN”

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening today’s meeting in line with the provisions of resolution 76/262, and for your circulation of the special report of the Security Council. We are pleased to hear that you will continue to institutionalize the practice of sending a summary of today’s discussions to the Security Council. The veto initiative ensures that a veto is no longer the end of the conversation, and Council Members – notably the overwhelming number in favour of the product that was vetoed – should be apprised of the opinions of the membership.

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin with a blunt truth: we should not be here today. More than 18 months since the eruption of Sudan’s civil war, the Council has not taken action in any way commensurate with the scale of human suffering we see in Sudan. While the vetoed draft

resolution would not have made up the ground we have lost, it would have been a clear step in the right direction – something that 14 Members of the Council, including its three members from the African continent, agreed on. Liechtenstein heard the representative of the Russian Federation’s explanation in the Security Council, and we have heard their explanation today. The explanations make two things clear.

Firstly, this resolution failed due to the internal politics of the Permanent Members of the Council. On more than one occasion this year, the Russian Federation has chosen to attack a Permanent Member holding the pen on a resolution they vetoed, rather than focus on the suffering of the civilians addressed by the draft resolution. This is of course not the only case of a Permanent Member resorting to *bilateral* accusations of hypocrisy in the recent past. This practice delegitimizes the Council and undermines the principles of our organization.

Secondly, and more broadly, the explanations heard today foreground a two-tier view of the Council – of Permanent Members and ‘others’. A small number of Permanent Members hold the vast majority of penholderships – overwhelmingly, regarding country situations with colonial legacy - it is unconscionable to use this fact as a pretext to prevent the Council as a whole taking action to protect civilians.

Mr. President,

As long as the people of Sudan lack humanitarian assistance, as long as its people are subjected to human rights and international humanitarian law violations and abuses - as long as the desperate need continues - we must not let up efforts to act. Primary responsibility in this respect rests on the Council, and we support all efforts to reconsider

a text that would fulfill the goals of the vetoed draft resolution.

But if the Security Council continues to be prevented from fulfilling its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security due to the use or threat of the veto, this Assembly must urgently consider its own role in ensuring action. A first step in this respect could be for this Assembly to receive a briefing from the Secretary-General on the deteriorating humanitarian situation, which would provide the information needed for this Assembly to speak with one voice. We urge the Security Council to keep the Membership apprised of further developments on this file. Members of this Assembly should consider their responsibilities to the principles of the Charter and powers under Chapter IV as they relate to the ongoing crisis in Sudan if action from the Council is not forthcoming in a timely manner. Sudan's people cannot wait any longer.

I thank you.