



**PERMANENT MISSION
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ITEM 5 - ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM AND THE REST OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, COUNSELLOR, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES

Mr. President,

I am delivering this explanation of vote after the vote on draft resolution A/ES-10/L.30.

Mr. President,

We meet today as a result of the veto cast in the Security Council of Palestine's application for UN membership. We were also invited to express ourselves on the issue, in so doing putting on record the position of the membership, including by recommending to the Council to reconsider the matter favorably. As a small State with a strong multilateral perspective, Liechtenstein fully appreciates Palestine's desire to take its place amongst the Member States of this Assembly. We have worked on equal footing with the State of Palestine in the framework of many essential multilateral treaties, from the Geneva Conventions to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We also appreciate this opportunity for members of the organization to make our positions clear, as has been the case in previous applications for membership that were subjected to the veto. Membership is the question on which the veto has been most frequently cast in the history of the United Nations, while it has thankfully been long years since the veto we are discussing today. As is well known, as the lead proponent of the Veto Initiative, we have advocated regularly for the General Assembly to take its own action when responding to a veto in the Security Council. Constitutionally, the only course of action for the Assembly is indeed the invitation to the Council to look at the application again, in light of the stated will of the membership as a whole.

Mr. President,

I wish to reiterate Liechtenstein's support for the two-State solution as a prerequisite for peace in the entire Middle East region, in line with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly. It was our clear expectation at the time Palestine became a 'non-Member observer State' of the General Assembly in 2012, that this decision was made on the understanding that Palestine fulfilled the basic criteria for Statehood under international law. Full membership was at the time not seen as politically feasible, and the Observer Status granted by this Assembly was deemed a reasonable compromise in the circumstances. Instead, the prospect of membership was seen by some as incentivizing the Palestinian Authority to engage in serious and credible negotiations towards a two-State solution.

Unfortunately, since the adoption of the resolution confirming Palestine's status as an observer State, we have not seen progress in the negotiations between the parties. Regrettably, and in part due to the lack of a political settlement between the parties that could have built a constituency for peace, the two-State solution is now openly questioned; both by Hamas, but also by members of the current Israeli government, who have made clear that they will oppose the creation of a Palestinian State of any kind. Instead, it appears that the lack of progress, in negotiations and accordingly in the posture of our Organization, has strengthened these actors by ensuring that the status quo ante from which they benefit remains in place. They have, in turn, increasingly created facts on the ground that make the implementation of the two-State solution much more difficult. Given this dynamic it is thus neither appropriate nor effective to use the denial of Palestinian Membership in this organization as leverage towards final status negotiations.

Mr. President,

The membership of the State of Palestine in the United Nations would be an expression of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination under international law. Its reconsideration by the Security Council in light of the criteria contained in Article 4 of the UN Charter is a necessary step in this regard. The membership would demonstrate our commitment to ensure that the Palestinian people are able to live in a secure, peaceful, and dignified manner, side by side with the State of Israel as two States with equal rights, as envisaged in Resolution 181 (II) of this Assembly.

Mr. President,

This is why Liechtenstein has voted in favor of today's resolution. We are grateful to the authors of the text for having accepted revisions to their original text which makes it clear that the provisions of the resolution are in line with the Charter of the United Nations. We further put on the record our continued condemnation of the terrorist attacks of 7 October. Today this Assembly has made an unequivocal statement in support of the two-State solution.

I thank you.