



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

NEW YORK/VADUZ, 21 SEPTEMBER 2020

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
75TH SESSION**

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TO COMMEMORATE
THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

ADDRESS BY

**H.S.H. HEREDITARY PRINCE ALOIS VON UND ZU LIECHTENSTEIN
ACTING HEAD OF STATE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

Mr. President, Secretary-General,

75 years ago, a great peace project came into effect: the United Nations. From the horrors of the world wars, the holocaust and nuclear annihilation, the idea was born that all States shall be sovereign equals, under the rule of law, and that the use of force between States shall be illegal. The right to self-determination was placed at the heart of the international order, shaping the world map as we know it and bringing sustainable peace and democracy, where pursued consistently.

In San Francisco the big powers saw an inclusive, rules-based multilateralism as the most promising way to international peace and security. Today, this insight seems to come more naturally to the rest of the world. Our decision to join the United Nations 30 years ago was driven by our strong belief in international law as the main protection of the interest of small States. Today, we feel an urgent need to invest more in this organization. We will work with those who share our goal to realize the United Nations' high ambition on pressing issues like climate change, disarmament, human rights, conflict prevention, sustainable development, the digital transformation and global public health. We will pursue the advancement of international law as the bedrock of stability and prosperity. And we commit to improve this organization where it needs reform and where it has erred into malpractice. As the UN institution most detached from its original purpose the Security Council must be the focus of attention in this respect.

This is where we see the recipe for success for the United Nations – which is even more indispensable than it was 75 years ago. Today's clear recommitment by all States to the UN Charter provides a strong basis for the United Nations to deliver to the peoples of the world what its founding document promises. As we face the huge challenges of climate change and the unprecedented disruptions of a pandemic, the United Nations continues to represent the world's best chance.

I thank you.