



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

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**SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE - MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY:
NEW ORIENTATION FOR REFORMED MULTILATERALISM**

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President,

Effective multilateralism, with the United Nations at its center, is indispensable to address the defining crises of our time, from climate change to pandemic preparedness. And this Council has a central role in this respect, mandated to be guardian of international peace and security on behalf of the UN membership as a whole. A prerequisite for effective multilateralism is certainly the full respect for the Charter of the United Nations – and effective action when its provisions are violated, especially its core provisions on the illegality of the use of force. The prevention of the “scourge of war” is the reason why “the peoples” of the world created the United Nations in 1945 – and it is until this day the place where people around the globe expect to see effective action when the international order is under attack. At its core, the United Nations is a peace and security organization. And as we meet today, its ability to carry out this function is severely jeopardized. The New Agenda for Peace discussions offer us the opportunity to do so. We welcome the presence of Secretary-General Guterres in this debate and look forward to engaging with his team and the membership on this challenge.

So we wholeheartedly agree with you, Madam President, that the Security Council must be made

more effective. It should not just reflect today's geopolitical realities, but also function in a way that upholds its primary responsibility to maintain peace and security. This certainly includes the ability to respond to the complex ways in which peace and security are threatened today and the need to embrace a comprehensive concept of peace and security that includes human security.

Madam President,

In the world's most brutal conflicts we see the Council unable to act as innocent civilians are killed – including in Ukraine through the aggression of one of its permanent members – very often due to the ability of the veto wielding members to prevent the Council from taking action or even to put products forward. We were proud to pass by consensus resolution General Assembly 76/262, known as the “Veto Initiative”. This is an essential step in addressing the challenges the veto poses to the effectiveness of the Council and the public perception of the United Nations as a whole. The Veto Initiative is a key measure to recalibrate the balance between the Security Council and the General Assembly and a prompt to empower the General Assembly to make full use of the authority given to it under the UN Charter and to step in where the Council is unable to act, as it has done in the context of the invasion of Ukraine. We are also gratified to see that the Veto Initiative is already showing impact on the use of the veto in practice. We need additional efforts to ensure that the veto power no longer exercised in a way at odds with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. We see merit in particular in examining the manner in which Article 27.3 of the UN Charter is applied, which stipulates that “a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting” – contrary to what we have seen in this chamber in the context of the Ukraine discussions in particular. We will also continue asking for the application of the ACT Code of Conduct, which to date commits 124 signatories to effective action to prevent and address atrocity crimes. Next year there will be eleven Code of Conduct signatories on the Security Council – a new record – including two permanent members. And we look forward to further statements from permanent members on how they interpret their role in the Security Council, their future use of the veto and more wide-ranging self-declarations with respect to their principles and commitments, something we believe States aspiring to being given a veto should

also share with the membership. We do believe that adding additional veto powers to the Council is counterintuitive, given the vast negative impact the veto already has on the effectiveness of the Council.

Madam President,

Liechtenstein appreciates the growing number of penholderships held by those Council members elected by the General Assembly (E10), as well as the increased use of co-penholderships which have on the whole been very successful. More political leadership by elected members can lead to more productive outcomes for the Council's work, especially at times of deep division between the Permanent members. It would also be a better way to ensure that the Council carries out its functions on behalf of the UN membership, as the Charter stipulates and thus enhance its legitimacy. At the same time, an equitable burden-sharing practice in the Council as a whole must be ensured. The duties of chairing subsidiary bodies should in particular not disproportionately burden the E10.

I thank you.