



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

NEW YORK, 11 NOVEMBER 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (FOURTH
COMMITTEE)**

EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON RESOLUTION A/C.4/77/L.12

STATEMENT BY MATTHEW EDBROOKE, POLITICAL COORDINATOR

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor. Liechtenstein abstained on draft resolution L.12. We believe that the International Court of Justice has a central role in giving guidance on questions of public international law, and we are strongly supportive of its advisory opinion function. The dispute over the situation in the Middle East, which has been on the agenda of the United Nations since its very inception, clearly entails questions of this nature. Issues related to the right of self-determination, occupation, settlement and annexation are at the heart of the ongoing dispute, and guidance from the ICJ on the relevant legal questions can help provide clarity both with respect to the situation in the Middle East and beyond, as well as contributing to the realization of a solution to the conflict that is in line with international law.

As strong supporters of the ICJ, Liechtenstein also gives the highest value to safeguarding its high standing and the integrity of its proceedings. The request to seek an Advisory Opinion from the Court is a decision of the highest importance and one that affects all States who are committed to upholding the rule of law and promoting and ensuring respect for international law. Liechtenstein is therefore concerned that the request for an advisory opinion contained in the

resolution before the Committee today was inserted with little notice and without consultation of the membership as a whole, even though it has ramifications that go far beyond the conflict in the Middle East. We believe that the request would have been strengthened by the collective wisdom of a larger group of Member States, in particular those already supportive of its aims. Such a process could also have fostered a greater sense of ownership of matters pertaining to international law.

Having considered all these elements, we have decided to abstain during the vote on the resolution just adopted.

I thank you.