



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**AGENDA ITEM 31 - REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Like others we wish to extend our congratulations to the five newly elected members of the Security Council. I very much look forward to working with them over the next two years. We do welcome the submission of the annual report of the Security Council to this assembly and appreciate the convening of this meeting before the summer break, while we will be interested in exploring options of an even better scheduling of this debate, along the lines of what our colleague from Singapore has suggested. We do believe that it is very important to have strong participation in this discussion, and the scheduling is an aspect of this.

As others, we will talk in short remarks also about situations where we believe in the Council has been able to fulfill its mandate and the fact that this is not sufficiently reflected in the report before us. On Syria, the decision to restrict the cross-border delivery of humanitarian aid to the bare minimum was a political compromise wholly incommensurate to the humanitarian needs on the ground. We hope that the Council will do better in the upcoming discussion on the renewal coming up in the next weeks. In Myanmar, the Council continues to be unable to agree even to a public meeting and any sort of expression even by way of elements for the press, having not adopted any resolution since the coup. In Ethiopia, and other countries, ongoing catastrophes have not seen action by the Security Council. And of course, more recently, the Council was not

able to address the aggression committed against Ukraine while we commend it for triggering the United for Peace Mechanism and entrusting the GA with its responsibility in this respect.

There is also little in the Council's report on the ongoing crisis in the area of protection of civilians documented in reports of the Secretary-General and by the ICRC. Most telling are the many instances where the Council disregards ongoing and serious violations of its own resolutions. We wish to commend in this respect again the ACT Code of Conduct, which is now supported by 123 States, and we thank Mozambique for joining it yesterday. We encourage all states to join the Code of Conduct and urge consistent efforts towards its implementation.

Mr. President,

This debate is a crucial opportunity to reflect on how the Security Council and this Assembly can work together to uphold peace and security. The General Assembly has shouldered its responsibility in the past years in this regard in particular by passing a resolution on the situation in Myanmar. More recently, of course, it has meet in an Emergency Special Session to address the aggression committed against Ukraine following the veto cast in the Security Council on a similar text.

The use of the veto continues to hinder the effectiveness of the Security Council, and as other speakers we wish to flag the veto cast on a very important resolution on climate change that was endorsed and cosponsored by an unprecedented number of members from this Assembly. The General Assembly now has, of course, passed resolution 76/262 - otherwise known as the "Veto Initiative" - by consensus, which means that a permanent member or permanent members vetoing the Security Council resolution will no longer have the last word. We hope that this prospect of accountability at the General Assembly will lead to more Security Council action and fewer vetoes cast.

Yesterday marked the first meeting in this Assembly triggered by the Veto Initiative. The debate will continue tomorrow, and we are very encouraged by the very strong interest of the membership in participating. We commend the Council for producing a special report - the very

first special report that has been produced by the Security Council in many, many years - in accordance with the terms of the Veto Initiative and of the Charter of the United Nations. We will conduct a lessons-learned exercise after the debate has concluded and will make suggestions on further improvements with respect to working methods.

Working methods will remain on the whole a priority for us. We will work in the framework of the ACT Group and otherwise on issues such as co-penholdership, burden-sharing, and implementation of note 507, including through participation in the open debate in the Security Council later this year. As others, we commend to everybody in this room participation in the wrap up sessions of the Security Council, a very important platform for exchange and the exercise of accountability. We also continue asking for a highly interactive nature of that discussion.

Mr. President,

The COVID-19 pandemic has not gone away and we have to remain vigilant, but at the same time we should strive to uphold highest standards of inclusiveness and transparency. There should be timely and regular opportunities for states to address the Council under rule 37, and decisions to permit states to speak and participate in debates should take place on a transparent and open basis. In the same way, we encouraged participation of civil society in the Council's work both in ensuring that they are able to attend Council meetings on an equally footing with membership, but also in ensuring that their regular briefings can inform the Council's consideration of the situations before it.

I thank you.