



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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**AGENDA ITEM 113 - REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

At the outset, I wish to join those who have expressed their condolences to the victims of the terrible earthquake in the south of Türkiye. My government has already decided to make a financial contribution to alleviate the suffering of the people in the two affected countries.

Let me also convey through you, Mr. President, our dissatisfaction with the way this morning's meeting has unfolded. We very much appreciate the presence of the Secretary-General, but there was nothing interactive or informal about the exchange this morning, which was the purported purpose of the event. Instead we did have a general debate, and we hope that we will do better next time.

As the SG has noted in his report, this organization faces a deep and interlocking network of crises, including climate action, an increase in armed conflict, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The 'triple planetary crisis' of climate change, biodiversity loss and rising levels of pollution must remain at the forefront of our work. The increasing tension between humankind and nature has not only led to today's climate emergency; it also manifests itself in the heightened risk of zoonotic diseases, the loss of biodiversity and increasing desertification, leading to displacement, hunger and insecurity. The comprehensive "One Health" approach designed in response is as much a sustainable development and human rights matter as it is a security need. The Security

Council has made tentative efforts to broaden its security paradigm in this way, while its collective failure to pass a thematic resolution on climate and security is not a good sign for its ability to play a role in this respect.

This Assembly has spoken up last year, with the adoption of a resolution recognizing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right. Going forward, our efforts must be guided by those who will live with the worst consequences of the coming planetary crisis, including indigenous peoples and youth.

Mr. President,

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has been the backdrop for much of our work last year, with ramifications that go far beyond the horrors it has unleashed on the Ukrainian population. The aggression has challenged the ability of the United Nations to respond to this brazen violation of the Charter. Many parts of this organization, in particular this Assembly, have stepped up and this Assembly has spoken with a clear, collective voice. We also thank the Secretary-General in particular for his efforts to realize the Black Sea Grain Initiative – a significant contribution to the prevention of even greater suffering. Nonetheless, the impact of the aggression on food security, the natural environment, disarmament and nuclear security have collectively seriously undermined progress towards the 2030 Agenda. And it has contributed to a dire and worsening humanitarian situation, in which displacement and hunger sit at unprecedented levels.

The vision of a *New Agenda For Peace* therefore comes at the right time. We need a security paradigm that realizes human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as a vision of the rule of law that puts people at the center of justice. And we have to explore alternative modes of decision-making as complementary to the work of this organization.

Mr. President,

The aggression against Ukraine is also the latest demonstration of the shortcomings of the current decision-making on matters of peace and security. The fact that an aggressor can veto any Council response short-circuits the principle of collective responsibility on which our

organization is meant to function. The passing of the authority in this respect from the Security Council to the General Assembly was an important decision by the Council in light of its inability to live up to its obligations under the Charter. The General Assembly has risen to the challenge admirably in the absence of any action by the Council.

Going forward, we should consider how we can further enhance the role of this Assembly in the area of peace and security. We have collectively in this room taken a significant step in this direction last year by passing the 'Veto Initiative' in April 2022. This is a decision of crucial relevance if we use its potential to the fullest and complement it with additional steps. We see in particular a need to discuss the manner in which Article 27.3 of the UN Charter – stipulating that “a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting” – is and should be applied.

Mr. President,

The Charter is clear on the prohibition of the illegal use of force. Aggression - defined by this Assembly by consensus in 1974, is an assault on the rules-based international order and must be met with a clear response. It entails individual criminal responsibility for the crime of aggression for individuals in leadership positions. We have an obligation to consider ways to ensure accountability for the aggression against Ukraine through action in this Assembly.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is grateful to see the continued progress in addressing COVID-19 in 2022. The SG's report shows increasing engagement with the long-term consequences of the pandemic: stalled development progress, increased violence against women and minorities, and 77 million more people in poverty in 2021 than 2019. The Sustainable Development Goals provide a roadmap not only to address the consequences of COVID-19 but also to prevent public health and other global crises. We look forward to a meaningful outcome to the SDG summit in September this year.

I thank you.