



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

**THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD INSECURITY ON THE MAINTENANCE OF
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President

The challenges the world faces today – climate disaster, armed conflict, displacement, and food insecurity – are deeply interconnected. Extreme weather events, such as heavy rains, cyclones, flooding, droughts and increased climate variability are significant drivers of food insecurity. According to the World Food Programme, more than 80% of the world’s population most affected by hunger live in disaster-prone countries with high levels of environmental degradation. Food insecurity, in turn, is further compounded by armed conflict, which is both a driver and a result of hunger. Many of today’s hunger hotspots face an escalating crisis of armed conflict, displacement and climate stress, which have a devastating impact on agriculture, rural economies and livelihoods.

We encourage the international community, and particularly the Security Council, to address the interlinkages of climate, conflict and hunger through the perspective of human security, which acknowledges that peace and security is about people, their survival, livelihood and dignity. We can begin by responding to the immediate needs of people affected by environmental

degradation, climate shocks and food insecurity around the world, including through increased funding for emergency assistance and climate risk management. In order to break the cycle of violent conflict and food insecurity, moreover, we must urge parties to armed conflicts to protect food systems and refrain from using food as a weapon of war, which can amount to a war crime in international and internal armed conflicts.

If no urgent action is taken now, the number of people in need of humanitarian aid annually due to the climate crisis risks doubling by 2050 – and so the pressure will grow on organizations to deliver aid under extreme weather conditions and in times of environmental disasters. In addressing these growing challenges, humanitarian organizations can lead by example by reducing their consumption of natural resources and by enhancing the sustainability of their operations. Liechtenstein is among the initial supporters of the ICRC Climate and Environment Transition Fund, which seeks to improve climate adaptation, lower emissions and overall limit the environmental impact of the ICRC's activities.

Mr. President,

Sea-level rise is one of the most dramatic effects of the rapid rise in global emissions. Its consequences are the clearest amongst atoll and volcanic island nations. The profound injustice is that people living in these countries are amongst the lowest contributors to CO₂ emissions, while they face the gravest consequences. The unprecedented scenario of full or partial inundation of the territory of a State or country, or the relocation of its people, should not change the general presumption in international law that only the concerned people should be able to make decisions on how to exercise their right to self-determination, including through Statehood. In light of the urgent security threats posed by sea-level rise, we very much welcome the convening of a high-level meeting this September.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is in the process of finalizing our submission to the International Court of Justice for its Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, mandated through a historic decision of the General Assembly and complementary to the efforts made in the UNFCCC process. We are confident that the International Court of Justice will provide us with clear, authoritative guidance regarding the relevant complex questions of international law.

I thank you.