



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

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NEW YORK, 20 FEBRUARY 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THE SITUATION IN THE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF UKRAINE

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

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President,

The conflict in and around Ukraine is the central crisis in Europe today. Its geopolitical dimension calls for the urgent attention of the United Nations. Sustained efforts have been undertaken in the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to monitor the crisis and pursue possible avenues for political progress – in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, which assigns an important role to regional organizations. At the same time, we regret that the Security Council has so far been unable to take its responsibility more seriously and failed to support such efforts politically and through concrete actions. As in other crises the Security Council is unable to tackle, the General Assembly has a mandate and the responsibility to play a more active and meaningful role. Today's debate is thus also an expression of complementarity between both Charter bodies that Liechtenstein strongly supports. At the outset, Liechtenstein reaffirms its longstanding position in support of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

Madam President,

The armed conflict, fueled by Russian intervention in Ukraine has caused a humanitarian catastrophe, which is particularly acute as we hold this debate. More than 10,000 people have been killed, and many more wounded in the course of the conflict. The civilian population in

Donbass suffers from the full hardship the Ukrainian winter imposes on them. 5.2 million people are currently affected by the conflict, with 3.5 million people in need of aid and 1.5 million internally displaced. Eastern Ukraine is now one of the most heavily mined places in the world, with severe consequences for present and future generations of Ukrainians. Civilians continue to wait for hours to cross the contact line in the bitter winter and scorching summer heat. As the conflict continues, critical infrastructure has fallen further into disrepair and the economy has hit rock bottom. We highlight in particular the plight of the elderly, who make up 30 per cent of people in need, the highest proportion in any crisis in the world. For 240'000 children going to school means risking to be shelled – a grave violation of international humanitarian law for which those with de facto control need to be held accountable. Reports of people moving into areas contaminated by the Chernobyl catastrophe are a particularly sad expression of the desperation felt in the Donbass right now. Liechtenstein has consistently contributed to humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, and will continue its commitment to alleviate the suffering of civilians in this appalling humanitarian crisis on our continent.

Madam President,

Only a comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire can create the conditions to ameliorate the humanitarian situation. However, as noted by the head of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine, this cannot occur before parties show the requisite political will. Four years after the signing of the Minsk agreements the ceasefire and other vital parts of the agreements continue to be violated on a constant basis – a state of affairs that is unacceptable and should be an urgent matter for discussion in this organisation. Parties to the conflict must withdraw their heavy weapons and respect the ceasefire, including the Trilateral Contact Group's Framework Decision on Disengagement of Forces and Hardware in Eastern Ukraine. There must be free and unhindered access by SMM observers to all areas in eastern Ukraine. In addition, parties must not impede the work of the SMM, nor target its personnel or assets, including surveillance drones. Russia's

provocative actions in the Kerch Strait and Azov Sea further add to the already heightened security risks that reach far beyond the region, as they constitute serious violations of the UN Charter and the fundamental tenet of the rule of law.

Madam President,

Liechtenstein calls for immediate and full implementation of the Minsk Agreements, and a renewed commitment by all parties to the conflict to a sustainable political solution. The provisions on self-governance and decentralization within the Minsk Agreements are particularly important in that regard. Liechtenstein commends and support the work of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine as he currently pursues the most tangible avenue to bring the main stakeholders to a peaceful and effective settlement of the conflict. The Security Council should fully support these efforts in line with its mandate, in particular Chapters VI and VIII of the UN Charter. Next month's Presidential Election is an important step for Ukraine and its democratic institutions. Liechtenstein expresses its hope that the election will result in a clear mandate for the newly elected leadership to address the significant challenges Ukraine currently faces, including necessary reforms at the domestic level in the area of the rule of law, such as the fight against corruption and the strengthening of accountable institutions. In addition, many serious crimes committed in the course of the Ukraine crises warrant a thorough criminal investigation. Liechtenstein has welcomed Ukraine's Article 12(3) declaration under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and reiterates its call on Ukraine to ratify the Rome Statute, including the provisions giving the Court jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. This would send a strong and unequivocal message that the government of Ukraine is willing to address impunity for international crimes comprehensively and irrespective of who the perpetrators are.

I thank you.