



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

NEW YORK, VADUZ, 2 OCTOBER 2020

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
75TH SESSION

**HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING TO COMMEMORATE
AND PROMOTE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE
TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

ADDRESS BY

H.E. DR. KATRIN EGGENBERGER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JUSTICE AND CULTURE
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Mr. President,

Almost 75 years ago, in its very first resolution, the General Assembly committed itself to the elimination of nuclear weapons. It did so as the world only began to understand the unspeakable suffering brought about by the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today, we know that these horrors are not merely distant incidents in the history of humankind. They are felt to this day and will forever be engraved in the lives of the survivors and their families.

Yet, nuclear weapons continue to threaten the very existence of humanity, maybe more so today than in a long time, as they fuel increasing global instability. Those who possess them mistake them as the ultimate insurance that their interests and security will be protected. Those who aspire to possess them fall for the same fallacy. The perceived strategic security of some is in fact the permanent insecurity of all. Nuclear weapons are not only an existential threat, they are also an inherent challenge to the rule of law. The most fundamental humanitarian norms leave no space for the most destructive and indiscriminate weapons of all. Our highest legal authority, the International Court of Justice, has advised States to that effect.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty charted a course to eliminate nuclear weapons making it illegal to acquiring them. Its lack of implementation is read by some as an incentive to do the opposite. Liechtenstein strongly supports the collective effort to outlaw nuclear weapons and is committed to ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty provides the adequate legal framework for nuclear disarmament. Eliminating nuclear weapons is not a policy choice. It is a legal and moral necessity and a dictate of public conscience. The world needs to see urgent progress in ongoing disarmament negotiations. Today, Liechtenstein fully stands by the historic call of the General Assembly, repeated countless times since, to free the world of nuclear weapons.

Thank you, Mr. President.