



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THE SITUATION IN THE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF UKRAINE

STATEMENT BY H.E. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

This organization needs a Secretary-General who speaks up in defense of the Charter of the United Nations every time that is need. We are grateful to Secretary-General Guterres for having done so in recent days on the situation in Ukraine and for his presence here with us today. Mr. President,

The present situation in and around Ukraine, a founding member of this organization is a watershed moment and a litmus test for the post-1945 order reflected so clearly in Chapter 1 of the UN Charter: the removal of threats to the peace, suppression of aggression, and the settlement of international disputes through peaceful means. In short, we are discussing today our international order founded on the Charter's collective prohibition of the threat or use of force by a State against another, which is of vital and direct relevance to everyone in this room committed to the UN Charter and the principles in its article 2.

Mr. President

Liechtenstein condemns the recognition of certain parts of the Ukrainian Luhansk and Donetsk regions by the Government of the Russian Federation, and is deeply concerned about the subsequent order of armed forces into the sovereign territory of Ukraine. These actions stand in

flagrant violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, the letter and spirit of the Minsk agreements endorsed by the UN Security Council and defended by the Russian delegation in the Security Council just last week, as well as the rules of the Charter of the United Nations regulating the use of force. Liechtenstein affirms its strong support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, the inviolability of its frontiers, and its right to determine its own relationships with other States as well as membership in international organizations. We express our solidarity with the people and Government of Ukraine and call on the Russian Federation to reverse its decisions, as well as for a peaceful settlement of all issues through diplomatic means and in accordance with international law. At this time we also express our gratitude to the brave members of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM), whose work has been vital for the impartial observation of the situation on the ground. The Mission must be granted unhindered access to all regions of Ukraine in line with its agreed mandate, and those responsible for hindering its work must be held accountable.

Mr. President,

The recent actions of the Russian Federation in manifest violation of international law have further exacerbated an already precarious humanitarian and human rights situation and are putting the lives and livelihoods of the civilian population at grave risk. Ukraine's diversity, including its significant proportion of Russian speakers, is a strength through which Ukraine can exercise its right to self-determination. Seeking to use Ukraine's diversity to create a pretext for secession and annexation by force violates the core human rights of those who live there and abrogates the relevant parts of the Minsk Agreements, notably on local self-government. Liechtenstein has been consistent in condemning the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and it will not recognise this annexation, carried out in violation of the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity.

Mr. President,

The situation in Ukraine also brings home the need to enforce respect for the rules governing the

use of force in relations between States – which again, are so clearly defined in the Charter of the United Nations. To this end, we recall that States have agreed, a number of years ago, by consensus on a definition of the crime of aggression. This definition, which creates individual criminal responsibility for persons in leadership positions, is part both of numerous national penal codes and of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The need for more States to join this legal regime could not be clearer than at a time when there is an attempt to reintroduce the threat of the use of force into inter-State relations. This call is made only even more urgent by new capabilities to carry out hostile acts through cyber means, which include cyberattacks against critical infrastructure and other acts of cyberwarfare – acts which, according to the findings of a Council of eminent international lawyers, fall under the definition of the crime of aggression.

Mr. President,

Acts of aggression, such as committed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, fall squarely within the competence of the United Nations Security Council, which should therefore take prompt and effective action to address the situation. If this were to fail, this Assembly would have to step in, in line with its competence in matters pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security.

I thank you.