



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 64 – USE OF THE VETO – THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

STATEMENT BY MR. CLAUDIO NARDI, CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

President,

Thank you for convening today’s meeting in a timely manner after the casting of vetoes by China and the Russian Federation on draft resolution S/2026/740. This resolution would have extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts supporting the 1737 Iran Sanctions Committee. We appreciate the production of a Special Report by the Council. We also value the presence of both permanent Council members who have cast a veto.

Following the triggering of the snapback mechanism, the Security Council sanctions were re-applied and the Sanctions Committee was re-established. A functioning Panel of Experts plays a crucial role in assessing the implementation of these sanctions. Prior to being disbanded, the Panel provided years of fact-based assessments, analysis, and recommendations. By doing so, it delivered independent reports to all UN Member States. Every Member State benefits from the Panel’s findings, especially smaller states with limited national capacity to independently monitor complex global procurement networks. This vital work will now be missing because two Permanent Council Members chose to cast vetoes, blocking the renewal of the Panel’s mandate.

Liechtenstein remains extremely concerned by the situation in Iran. We reiterate our firm opposition to Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon, which is illegal under the NPT. This pursuit is to the detriment of the security of the people of Iran, with considerable knock-on effects for nuclear proliferation. Liechtenstein calls on Iran to fully implement its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, relevant Security Council resolutions and its legally binding Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA.

President,

The situation in Iran, the Strait of Hormuz and the wider region, with continued failures to comply with International Law on several sides, is carrying dire consequences far beyond the region, with the most devastating consequences for the most vulnerable. We urge all parties to continue to engage in negotiations in good faith and fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

We further regret that differences of opinion among Council Members on the functioning of the Iran Sanctions Committee have led to an unprecedented delay in the appointment of subsidiary body chairs. This impasse impedes the Council from effectively carrying out its work across all of its subsidiary organs. In so doing, preventing the body charged with the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security from carrying out significant parts of its mandated functions. We urge relevant Council Members to find the will and flexibility for necessary compromise to ensure that the Council is able to function as intended.

President,

The termination of the Panel of Experts creates a clear need for remedial action by this Assembly. We note that Article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations provides a basis for the General Assembly to consider establishing an independent subsidiary mechanism that could support fact-finding and reporting within the scope of the Assembly's functions on the work of the Iran Sanctions Committee.

I thank you.