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

NEW YORK, 26 OCTOBER 2026 CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AGENDA ITEM 62 – USE OF THE VETO
STATEMENT BY H.E. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UN

President,

I am taking the floor on behalf of the following group of 56 States committed to the implementation of resolution 76/262, otherwise known as the Veto Initiative: Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, Uruguay, and my own country, Liechtenstein.

Thank you for convening this fifth general debate on the Use of the Veto agenda item. These debates allow us to take stock of Resolution 76/262 and to ask how it can be more effectively implemented in line with the purposes and principles of our Organization.

President,

Vetoes have been cast on two occasions since our last debate, the situation in the Strait of Hormuz and on the Panel of Experts overseeing sanctions on Iran. On both occasions, this Assembly met within the ten working days set by resolution 76/262; both times, the Council produced special reports in line with Article 15 of the Charter and the vetoing States accounted for their vetoes in the subsequent debate. We now have a consistent practice covering every veto cast since April 2022 that accountability for the use of the veto is no longer the exception - it is the expectation.

President,

Seen simply in terms of numbers of vetoes cast, the Council would appear to be making progress: Seven draft resolutions were vetoed in 2024, the most since 1986. Four drafts were vetoed in 2025, and only two have been vetoed so far this year. Unfortunately, we do not see a decline in vetoed texts necessarily as evidence of a more productive Security Council. We know that numerous texts this year that may have been supported by a majority of Council Members have been circulated or even opened for co-sponsorship, only to be withheld from tabling. A draft that is never tabled brings no vote, and if it would be vetoed, no explanation, no Special Report and no meeting of the Membership. We call on Council Members to put forward the texts that its responsibilities demand, and to be accountable to this Assembly when it fails to uphold its mandate both as part of its Annual and Special Reports.

President,

The Council's responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security is primary but not exclusive. When the Council is blocked, the Charter does not fall silent. It turns, amongst its other primary organs, to this Assembly. The drafters of the Charter built a system in which the actions of one State cannot leave the Membership without recourse. This Assembly's authority to act is not in doubt; what matters is that we use it.

When Council action on Syria was vetoed, this Assembly established the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, the IIIM, in 2016. When

Council action on Ukraine was vetoed, this Assembly recommended an international register of damages, which the Council of Europe established in 2023. In September 2025, this Assembly endorsed the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution. None of these supplanted the Council, but each answered a need the Council could not meet. An Assembly that acts is simply doing what is required of us by the Charter.

Convenings under this agenda item can be one platform for such action, including through the use of Articles 10, 11, 12, 22 and 35 of the Charter – as reaffirmed in resolution 79/327 on the revitalization of the General Assembly. In this respect, we note that this resolution also requests you, Mr. President, to continue to prepare detailed summaries of Veto Initiative meetings that include recommendations for action.

President,

In the meantime, support for veto restraint continues to grow. The ACT Code of Conduct is supported by 130 States, and the French-Mexican initiative on the voluntary restraint of the veto in cases of mass atrocities by 128 States. We call on all States and particularly the remaining Permanent Members to join these initiatives, as those who hold the veto bear the greatest responsibility in its restraint.

President,

Finally, we return to Article 27(3) – the article that lays out the veto in the Charter. It, as we know, contains one limitation; that a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting. The principle is simple: no State should be judge in its own cause. In the Pact for the Future, we all agreed to fully implement and adhere to this provision. The Charter is clear, and so is our commitment to apply it. We invite Member States to further discuss the circumstances in which this restriction would apply and urge all Council Members to join us in this respect.

I thank you.