



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL

OPEN DEBATE – MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: ADVANCING PEACE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST: MEDIATION AND DIALOGUE FOR A LASTING PEACE

STATEMENT BY CLAUDIO NARDI

CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED
NATIONS

President,

Thank you for bringing the need for mediation and dialogue in the Middle East to the Council’s attention today. The concept note you have put forward for today’s debate outlines a striking distinction between the purposes and principles of our organization, and the action that this Council has been able to take in relation to the Middle East region.

Liechtenstein, as others, signed the Charter of the United Nations with the understanding that it was a ‘Peace Organization’ created to peacefully settle disputes, and that its political bodies, foremost among them the Council, would take timely and decisive action to prevent and end armed conflict whenever it occurs. We continue to encourage all Members to sign the ACT Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes in this respect. In the Middle East, the UN was of course central to the creation of the two-State solution, which the General Assembly again endorsed last year through the New York Declaration.

Unfortunately, as we know, the Security Council has frequently been unable to bring conflicts to an end. The Council, in recent decades, has instead settled in the Middle East for addressing the consequences of conflict – expressing concern over the Protection of Civilians and for violations of the laws of war. In situations where Council Members provide support to conflict parties or engage in conflicts themselves, we may not even see this level of engagement by the Council. The people of Iran, of Palestine, of Lebanon, of Israel and across the whole region suffer the consequences of this inaction.

It is of course crucial that Council continues to speak up for IHL – which has itself been undermined in unprecedented ways in recent years. We are proud to have joined many initiatives in this regard, not least the ICRC's Global Initiative this year. But the Council cannot settle for mitigation; instead it must act to bring forward the horizon for a political solution to the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. Failing to do so allows conflict parties to institutionalize illegal annexation, settlement, or effective control.

President,

This year, the Security Council will play a key role in the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General. We encourage Council Members, in their deliberations with candidates, to look for the peacemaker. At a time when the UN's reputation as a peace organization is being so publicly tested, the SG must be prepared to lead from the front in leveraging the moral authority and legitimacy of the organization to urge peace in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

The next Secretary-General must have a clear strategy for supporting credible and inclusive dialogue in the Middle East, including by working with regional organizations and with this Council. In turn, the Council needs a Secretary-General that will work with them to create the political conditions for peace and to provide the political backing for peace when it is tested. Nowhere are the consequences of the Council's decision this year clearer than in the Middle East,

where all SGs have been mandated to pursue peace over the last 80 years, including through constellations such as the Quartet. If the organization is to last another 80 years, it cannot fail this central test of its credibility.

I thank you.