



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

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NEW YORK, 13 FEBRUARY 2012  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT BY STEFAN BARRIGA, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.  
ITEM 64: REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

Mr. President,

We welcome your decision to convene today's meeting, and we thank the High Commissioner for her briefing on the latest developments in Syria. This meeting is an important opportunity to signal to the Syrian people that their suffering will not go unnoticed or unsanctioned at the United Nations. Liechtenstein welcomes the constructive initiative of the League of Arab States to engage the Syrian authorities in a process to end violence immediately and to ensure a peaceful transition and accountability. This initiative deserves the full support of the United Nations, including the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General. It is the only game in town, and indeed the only hope for an end to the senseless bloodshed.

We therefore deplore the fact that two Permanent Members of the Security Council chose to veto a draft Security Council resolution that would have supported this initiative, despite the fact that the text had already been reduced to its bare bones after intense negotiations, and despite the fact that all other Council members voted in favor of the draft. In our view, such behavior is incompatible with the often stated commitment to cooperation with relevant regional organizations, it is incompatible with the legal and moral responsibilities of Permanent Members as the Council deals with situations involving genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity, and it is indeed incompatible with the purposes and

principles of the United Nations Charter. As the Security Council has so far failed to live up to its responsibility in this regard, the General Assembly must step in.

Since we have received the report of the Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry on Syria last November, the situation on the ground has heavily deteriorated. Already then, there were serious grounds to believe that crimes against humanity had been committed. Three months later, we are alarmed at the ever-intensifying indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population. The Syrian government must immediately put an end to all such acts of violence and allow unhindered access for humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, violations of international law, in particular all ongoing serious human rights violations, must be thoroughly and independently investigated to provide full accountability and to safeguard the rights of victims. At the current stage, the only realistic avenue for such accountability – at least for those bearing the greatest responsibility – is through a referral of the situation by the Security Council to the International Criminal Court. We therefore submit that the General Assembly should – in addition to lending its full support to the initiative of the League of Arab States – recommend that the Security Council consider such a referral.

I thank you.