



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

NEW YORK, 15 OCTOBER 2026

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (FOURTH
COMMITTEE)**

EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON RESOLUTION A/C.4/81/L.5

STATEMENT BY MR. MATTHEW EDBROOKE, POLITICAL COORDINATOR

Chair,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Iceland, Norway and my own country, Liechtenstein.

Chair, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein voted against the draft resolution entitled “Addressing contemporary forms of colonialism”.

The decolonization of the vast majority of the world to date is one of the UN’s signature achievements. Nevertheless, we agree it is past time for colonialism to be brought to an end, everywhere, and that its continuation anywhere is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. To this end, we agree that Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the subsequent agreements we have made to implement our commitments to uphold self-determination, including the Friendly Relations Declaration of 1970, should be implemented in full. We agree in addition that the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of States and countries precludes the full implementation of their right to self-determination and is also incompatible with the Charter.

Chair,

In this context, we note that implementing the principles on which the draft resolution is based in full would entail a significant policy shift by the drafter of the text. Its implementation of the resolution would surely require an immediate end to its ongoing aggression against Ukraine, as has repeatedly been demanded by the UN Membership since 2014. The drafter would also need to cease its ongoing security threats against many other UN Member States, in violation of their right to self-determination. It would perhaps seek to reckon with the legacy of its external political interference across many decades.

Chair,

One may wonder in this context why the drafter has put today's resolution forward. In turning to the operative paragraphs, we note that the drafter has added a new neo-colonial category: "unilateral economic, financial or trade measures". Chair, the drafting State is subject to sanctions that we have implemented alongside many other States as a result of the violations of the Charter that the drafting State is committing, even as it condemns them in its own resolution.

Chair,

When the drafter of this resolution ends its transnational repression of self-determination, including through the illegal use of force, we may be able to end the sanctions that cut off funding to its military apparatus. Unfortunately, as it stands today, we see this text as a cynical attempt by the drafting State to revise its own historical legacy, whitewash its ongoing illegal practices, and undermine attempts to end its conduct. We are therefore not in a position to support the draft.

I thank you.