



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY – PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

STATEMENT BY AMB. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

President,

Liechtenstein sees the peaceful settlement of disputes as part of the key work of the UN and fully supports efforts in the Council to make better use of its powers and functions under Chapter VI. We see the increased need for the pacific settlement of disputes across the globe, given that armed conflicts are taking an increasingly long time to resolve and with an increasing toll on civilians. The importance of Chapter VI has also grown due to the fact that it has been increasingly unable to use its Chapter VII functions to end ongoing conflicts. We note in this respect that, under Article 25 of the Charter, all decisions of the Council are binding in the same manner.

While the Council is explicitly charged with the peaceful settlement of disputes, we note that other bodies also can play an important role. The PBC and ICJ stand out, as well as the GA in the frequent scenario that the SC is able to take requisite action.

President,

The Membership has taken important steps in recent years to highlight the role of mechanisms under Chapter VI, notably under Action 16 of the Pact for the Future, which urges the Secretary-General to “ensure that the United Nations is adequately equipped to lead and support

mediation and preventive diplomacy”. Even at this time of financial stress for the organization, mediation and preventive diplomacy is an investment that pays many times over – not only in the cost of warfare averted but in the fundamental value of human life and dignity. Liechtenstein continues to extend our support in this regard to DPPA’s Mediation Support Unit and the Standby Team of Mediation experts.

President,

Processes of peaceful dispute settlement should also take into account the full range of conflict drivers. Liechtenstein notes that many conflicts begin in the responses of States to communities, including minority groups, seeking a greater degree of internal self-determination, including autonomy, self-governance, or self-administration. Such ‘self-determination conflicts’ constitute around half of the armed conflicts occurring since the 1960s. While self-determination claims are not the only driver of conflict in these situations, it is a dimension that we believe is under-studied by mediators and under-acknowledged by States. This is why for many years Liechtenstein has had its own initiative on preventing and resolving self-determination conflicts, which highlights the importance of possibilities for fulfilling the right of self-determination without resorting to secession, with the aim of defusing and preventing conflict at the earliest possible stage.

President,

The Charter builds in important and appropriate safeguards to protect its decision-making capacity in the case of disputes. We note in particular that Member States on the Council who are party to a dispute are required by the Charter to abstain from voting on relevant decisions under Chapter VI. This binding obligation, contained in Article 27 (3) of the Charter and reaffirmed by leaders in the “Pact for the Future” is clearly germane to the aim of Chapter VI – to seek a resolution at the earliest possible stage of disputes between Member States of this organization. The perception that one of those States might act as ‘judge in its own case’ in a vote of the Security Council could indeed harm prospects for dispute settlement. As part of the implementation of the Pact, we hope that Member States will collectively take steps to ensure the full and consistent implementation of this obligation.

President,

Finally, Liechtenstein encourages any incoming Secretary-General to use the tools at their disposal in order to foster the peaceful settlement of disputes. This should include a clear strategy for supporting credible and inclusive dialogue, including by working with regional organizations and with this Council, as well as invoking Article 99 as appropriate. 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.

I thank you.