



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

**HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President

Not too long ago we came together in Istanbul for the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit. The Summit may not have fully lived up to all expectations, but from our perspective it was still a successful event that set in motion a number of important initiatives. We particularly commend and support the “Grand Bargain”, which aims at ensuring sufficient funding for humanitarian assistance. Indeed, international solidarity through humanitarian assistance is one of the key pillars of Liechtenstein’s foreign policy. Our contributions in this field rank among the highest in the world on a per-capita basis. We will continue to pay particular importance to so-called forgotten or otherwise underfunded crises, in particular through our support for the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Investing in humanity is for us not just a matter of solidarity, but also a matter of enlightened self-interest: Humanitarian crises have been among the key drivers of large-scale displacement, which has led to a number of challenges. Some States, many of them developing countries, have been put under particular strain. Effectively assisting displaced people in such situations

helps reduce large-scale movements. Yet much work remains to be done to address the root causes and drivers of conflict and displacement, from armed conflict to climate change.

Mr. President,

The Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols stand out as landmark achievements in the history of international law, both in content and acceptance. But the lack of compliance has reached unprecedented and alarming levels: Attacks on medical facilities and staff, routine denial of humanitarian access and even deliberate attacks on displaced civilians are hallmarks of current conflicts – from Syria to Yemen and Afghanistan. We regret that the resolution adopted under this segment has missed several opportunities to foster compliance with international humanitarian law. In particular, a call on conflict parties to refrain from using explosive weapons with wide-area effect in populated areas would have been timely.

War crimes, along with genocide and crimes against humanity cause immense human suffering and force many people to leave their homes. Calls for more decisive action by the UN Security Council to end such crimes, in Syria and elsewhere, have had little result. This is a frustrating state of affairs that reflects poorly on all of us, Security Council members and otherwise – and it certainly undermines the standing of the United Nations. We have therefore come together with other like-minded countries and agreed on a Code of Conduct for Security Council action to end or prevent atrocity crimes: These States – currently 112 – have made a public commitment to be actively engaged to ensure that the Security Council will take timely and decisive action to that end. Implementing this commitment is a challenging task for all of us, especially for current and aspiring members of the Council. We therefore call on all those that have not yet done so to join this effort, and to join the Code of Conduct.

Mr. President,

We welcome the strong language contained in the resolution on preventing, investigating and prosecuting sexual and gender-based violence in conflict. Such violence deeply affects women

and girls, but also men and boys, during armed conflict – often escalating to the point where such acts amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity. Besides protection, it is essential to stop stereotyping women as victims. To this end, we need to combat any form of discrimination against women and empower them to claim their rights to justice, to sexual and reproductive health and to their full and equal participation at all levels of decision-making, as outlined in the agenda for women, peace and security and most recently in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. President,

If the World Humanitarian Summit has proven on thing, it is that we cannot continue with business as usual. We can no longer accept massive violations of international humanitarian law as normal. We can no longer treat massive displacement as a short-term phenomenon. We can no longer deliver humanitarian assistance in a manner that benefits the strongest more than it does the most vulnerable. More predictable funding, as promised by the Grand Bargain, is only the first step. We invite all Member States to join us also for the rest of the steep path ahead.

I thank you.