



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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SECURITY COUNCIL

ARRIA FORMULA – “UPHOLDING INTERNATIONAL LAW IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT”

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Thank you, Chair.

The discussion on upholding international law in situations of armed conflict naturally has a focus on IHL, but as you have pointed out in your very good concept note, other bodies of law continue to apply as well.

That is the case, first and foremost, for the UN Charter itself and its Article 2(4), and in particular, as it relates to the principles of territorial integrity and political independence of states. That is also the case for Article 51, providing for collective and individual self-defense that, under all circumstances, has to be proportionate and necessary. Human rights law equally continues to apply. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides essential protections of the right to life and the prohibition of torture, among others. Derogations are permissible only under narrowly defined circumstances and have to be communicated. The principle of non-refoulement under the Refugee Convention, the 75th anniversary of which we will celebrate next week, also continues to apply as it is part of customary international law.

As others have pointed out in the discussion, accountability is key. That is the case not only for war crimes, but also for genocide, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression, the crime of beginning wars itself, the four crimes that the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction over, and we continue to support its central role in providing for accountability.

Finally, with respect to IHL itself, we are witnessing two alarming trends with massive impacts, in particular, on civilians that enjoy broad protection under the Fourth Geneva Convention. We're witnessing the trend of IHL violations being used as a tactic of war, rather than being a byproduct of armed conflict. That manifests itself, in particular, through attacks on civilian targets, civilian infrastructure, use of weapons with indiscriminate effect, use of starvation as a weapon of war and mass forced displacement, including from occupied territories. Second, we are also seeing an alarming trend to ignore and dismiss IHL provisions altogether and thus to challenge their relevance.

The Geneva Conventions are among the most universally ratified bodies of law and have to be a central part of our response. We welcome the initiative of the ICRC and are thankful to the government of Jordan for hosting the conference in Amman on the 7th of December.

I thank you.