



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

NEW YORK, 24 SEPTEMBER 2026

**HIGH LEVEL MEETING
SEA-LEVEL RISE**

ADDRESS BY

**H.E. SABINE MONAUNI
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Co-Chair,

We in Liechtenstein believe that the rule of law protects every nation on an equal footing. And no State is more aware of the need for the rule of law than a small State whose territory is at risk of being inundated; whose people are losing their homes, the islands that anchor their blue ocean State to dry land. Sea-Level Rise is a clear demonstration of the inequities of climate change and of the international system. Like all the other problems we face, we can only address it by taking concerted and collective action. In the first instance, that means cutting carbon emissions as fast as possible. It also means standing up for international law and for the rule of law, for making that the basis of our cooperation.

Co-Chair,

No State should ever be at risk of losing their ability to speak for its people, especially those who have contributed the least to the causes of sea-level rise. Liechtenstein strongly believes that, under all, including the most extreme circumstances, all affected countries and States retain the right to self-determination, and as part of that right, we must strongly presume the continuity of statehood. It also means that those affected must have the opportunity to take further steps, including the fixing of their maritime baselines and zones. We appreciate that the International Court of Justice in its recent Advisory Opinion addressed both of these issues. Fundamentally, States and peoples have the right to determine their own destiny. As was said at the ICJ over 50 years ago: 'It is for the people to determine the destiny of the territory and not the territory the destiny of the people.'¹

Co-Chair,

Given the existential stakes of sea-level rise, Liechtenstein is pleased that we have been able to adopt today's historic outcome document. Today's declaration sets out in one place our collective commitments to those most immediately affected by sea-level rise. We highlight

¹ Western Sahara, Advisory Opinion of 16 October 1975, [1975] ICJ Rep. 12, at 122 (Judge Dillard, Separate Opinion).

paragraph 21 in particular, which, in the name of legal stability, certainty and predictability, affirms the presumption of continued Statehood and sovereignty, including Membership of this organization. No State will be forced to turn off their nameplate without their consent due to sea-level rise.

Of course, today's declaration is only a beginning. Now it is time to put our commitments into practice. We urge all Member States to recommit to action on sea-level rise, in service of international law and of the collective conscience of humanity.

I thank you.