



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UN AND REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: THE ROLE OF STATES, REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS

STATEMENT BY GEORG SPARBER, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.

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Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is grateful for this open debate and appreciates the presence of the Secretary-General as a briefer for this discussion. This underlines the importance regional organizations can play in the maintenance of peace and security, and serves as a reminder that effective conflict prevention and resolution can substantially benefit from the mechanisms enshrined in Chapters VI and VIII of the UN Charter. A recommitment to these tools and their better operationalization is therefore in the interest of all of us. In our region Europe the OSCE has played an invaluable role to ensure stability. It is therefore with great concern that we have been witnessing the constant violation of its fundamental principles.

Mr. President,

After World War II, which originated in Europe, our region has undergone successful political and economic integration. The European Union in particular has been an important element of

stability and an actor for peace – to the benefit of all European partners, including those who are not EU members, such as ourselves. Unfortunately, since the 1990's we have also witnessed a proliferation of conflicts and today we face growing tensions and a deteriorating overall security situation in Europe. With the INF treaty Europe risks losing a vital element of its security architecture. Liechtenstein supports the painstaking efforts in the framework of the OSCE to resolve European conflicts, including the conflicts in and around Ukraine, in Georgia, as well as the Transnistrian and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflicts. Its important work continues to take place while we seem to drift still further apart from a consensus on the fundamental principles of our common European security. This is both a reflection of the practical value of the OSCE in conflict prevention and resolution and an urgent task for Europe to underpin the OSCE's work with a renewed consensus on a set of strong and value-based principles on security and cooperation as reflected in the Helsinki Final Act and the UN Charter. Liechtenstein is strongly convinced that the OSCE continues to have an important role to play as a platform for dialogue in this regard.

The recent dangerous increase of tensions in the Azov Sea and Kerch Strait is of high concern to us. It has once again demonstrated that the conflict in and around Ukraine is driven by continued serious violations of international law. Against the backdrop of increasing militarization in the area, Liechtenstein joins the calls for utmost restraint and immediate de-escalation as well as a return to a rules based order in accordance with applicable international law. Liechtenstein reiterates its full support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea.

Mr. President,

The concept note rightfully points to the fact that many contemporary conflicts are internal crises, which are perpetuated or repeated in the absence of political processes to end them. This is the new reality of conflict that the UN needs to fully embrace if it is to play its role as the primary guardian of international peace and security, with help from regional organizations. In addressing such crises it appears that we often fall short of penetrating to their root causes.

Upgrading our toolbox in dealing with internal crises in order to strengthen the UN's ability to prevent conflict is a key aspect to the prevention agenda outlined by the Secretary-General, which we fully support. As a member of the Group of Friends on mediation Liechtenstein also welcomes the Secretary-General's commitment to inclusive mediation and to increase the UN's capacity on prevention and early action.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is a longstanding supporter of the right to self-determination as a means to prevent and resolve internal conflicts when applied in conformity with international law, including the principle of territorial integrity. Many of today's intra-state conflicts are rooted in the desire by a community for a greater measure of self-governance and resistance to their claim by the state. States should be encouraged to peacefully engage with communities with a view to finding an appropriate measure of self-governance, in order to prevent and mitigate conflict. We will continue our work in partnership with others to develop tools and strategies for mediators to identify and properly address intra-state conflicts that are driven by grievances about self-governance. We look forward to sharing the results of this work with all interested delegations.

I thank you.