



GOVERNMENT
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

MINISTRY OF
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND FINANCE

Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Daniel Risch

Minister of General Government Affairs and Finance

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Enhancing Multilateralism For International Peace and Security
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Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Inclusive and effective multilateralism, as we are discussing it today, is the very foundation of our collective success in the years to come. Safeguarding peace and security will remain one of the most pressing and challenging tasks. The United Nations – at its very core a peace organization – represents, like no other international organization, universal multilateralism – on the basis of international law.

This international rule of law functions as a guarantor of our sovereignty and basis for prosperity. And for a small state without armed forces like Liechtenstein, this is not meaningless, to say the least. The commitment to “save future generations from the scourge of war” is today more relevant than at any other time in the existence of this organization: In fact, we are facing the largest number of armed conflicts since World War II. With the aggression of a Permanent Member of the Security Council against a founding Member State of the United Nations we have witnessed new levels of escalation.

We are also seeing an intensification in some of the threats to security: Cyberattacks, nuclear threats, climate change and humanitarian disasters have all reached new and concerning levels.

We are looking at the Security Council to step out of its paralysis to deliver on its primary responsibility for peace and security. And we have to offer assistance from the outside. But it is also our responsibility to look for alternatives. Empowering the General Assembly will remain crucial, and certainly a priority for Liechtenstein.

By presenting the Veto Initiative, we have ensured that a veto in the Council is no longer the last word and that the General Assembly can take decisions when the Council is unable to do so.

The Pact of the Future gives us the basis for next steps – and to make sure that those who are party to a dispute cannot block Council action. Safeguarding international peace also means enhancing human security and addressing global threats holistically.

The challenges we are facing have one thing in common: They all require responses based on international law. Liechtenstein is well-known for its consistent and principled engagement for the rule of law at the United Nations.

You can count on us as a committed and vocal partner in the years to come.

I thank you.