



**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**

**at the  
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Maintenance of International Peace and Security:  
Leadership for Peace  
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President, thank you for your leadership in convening us today. This body, and this organization, were founded to take us from the age of those who led the world into conflict to one in which leaders work together to bring peace, stability, and development. In western Europe, we have benefitted from the peace dividend for nearly 80 years. The aggression against Ukraine is a painful reminder that we must not take it for granted.

President, we must see and demand leadership from those in positions of power that is committed to the UN Charter. That upholds the prohibition against illegal war-making by prosecuting those who violate it. Those who are unwilling to respect the Charter demonstrate that they are unfit to lead.

We also expect this organization itself to use the power we have collectively placed in its hands. The Secretary-General is empowered to lead this organization through difficult moments. Our task as States is to provide the necessary political backing to this end.

Earlier this week in our conversation, I was grateful for the President of the General Assembly's comment that the Veto Initiative is a "gift to humanity". We believe it is a symbol of our political backing for action – both by this body and in the General Assembly – in support of this organization and those it serves.

President, leadership requires us all to speak up where necessary. We are all equally affected by what is decided – and not decided – in this room. Therefore, we must call for the action that is needed. Leadership means seeing opportunities instead of lamenting crises - and looking for ways to act elsewhere if this Council is unable to deliver.

But leadership also requires us to listen – especially to those with different experiences and perspectives. We all know that people from my part of the world are overrepresented at this table. In the interest of this Council and our organization, this fact must change. Liechtenstein will continue to work towards a reformed Council. One where the world is equitably represented. One where those inside the room represent those outside. One where nobody can arbitrarily block the collective will of the membership. And one where more women are in leadership positions, including of the United Nations.

President, the United Nations is going through a difficult period. But let's imagine a world without this organization, founded on a vision for living together in peace, with respect for each other and for our planet. I agree with Dag Hammarskjöld when he said:

*«The United Nations was not created in order to bring us to heaven, but in order to save us from hell.»*

But we in this room will have to explain to our children and grandchildren why we haven't tried harder to bring our world closer to heaven.

Liechtenstein will certainly intensify our political investment in this indispensable organization. I hope that all of us will do the same.

I thank you.