



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

Liechtenstein's priorities at the United Nations 75th session of the General Assembly

Liechtenstein's engagement during the 75th session of the General Assembly is shaped by its longstanding foreign policy priorities to strengthen inclusive multilateralism, with an effective and fully functional United Nations at its center, to promote the rule of law, human rights and international criminal justice, to support the efforts of the international community to achieve sustainable development and comprehensive human security. Within these parameters Liechtenstein will pursue the following priority initiatives and activities:

FAST – Finance against Slavery and Trafficking

The FAST initiative is Liechtenstein's signature SDG project. Its Blueprint provides a collective action framework for the whole financial sector and professional service providers to accelerate action to end modern slavery and human trafficking. There are an estimated 40.3 million people in modern slavery, despite a blanket global ban on such practices. Finance is a lever to bring this figure closer to zero by 2030, that is to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals Target 8.7. Liechtenstein will focus its activities at the United Nations on the promotion and mainstreaming of the FAST initiative, including in its main intergovernmental bodies.

ICC - International Criminal Court

Liechtenstein is a strong and consistent supporter of the International Criminal Court, the centerpiece of the international fight against impunity. For the coming months, States Parties to the Rome Statute have to take crucial decisions, including on the selection of the next Prosecutor, the election of nine new judges and measures to increase the effectiveness of the work of the Court. Liechtenstein will also continue standing up for the Court in defense against political attacks and measures targeting the institution or individuals working for it, taken in response to the Court doing the work it is required to do under the Rome Statute.

IIIM – Syria Accountability Mechanism

The Mechanism was created upon the initiative of Liechtenstein and Qatar and assists in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for international crimes committed in Syria. Liechtenstein will continue its political advocacy and support for the Mechanism in the relevant United Nations fora, including in the General Assembly's Third and Fifth Committees, and for the inclusion of the accountability dimension in the ongoing political processes.

Establishing an electronic voting procedure for the General Assembly during emergencies

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about far-reaching and unprecedented restrictions on the work of the General Assembly, which was unable to meet in-person from March to August 2020. The key lesson learned for future emergency situations consists in equipping the General Assembly with the necessary tools to ensure its full functionality at all times, including a mechanism to vote while in-person meetings are impossible due to security reasons. Liechtenstein will pursue the adoption of a General Assembly resolution to establish the possibility of electronic voting during such emergency and exceptional situations.

Liechtenstein's membership in the Bureau of the Third Committee of the General Assembly

Liechtenstein has consistently accorded priority to the work of the Third Committee with a focus on promoting human rights standards and their implementation thematically – including the human rights of women and children, and the prohibition of the death penalty, torture and slavery – and with respect to individual country situations. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to significantly restrict the in-person meeting time at the United Nations, Liechtenstein serves as representative of the Western European and Other States Group in the Bureau of the Committee with a view to ensuring the most effective and results-oriented conduct of business for the Committee.

Veto initiative

The proliferating use of the veto in the Security Council has far-reaching negative consequences on the work and the standing of the United Nations. Liechtenstein supports measures to strengthen the General Assembly in cases when the Security Council fails to fulfill its mandate and proposes to discuss any use of the veto in a formal meeting of the General Assembly, without prejudice to the result of such a discussion. Liechtenstein will pursue the adoption of a General Assembly resolution establishing a mandate to that effect.

The Right of Self-Determination

Liechtenstein promotes the right of self-determination as a key principle of the United Nations, a precondition for the full enjoyment of human rights and an important tool to prevent and resolve conflict. Liechtenstein will soon release a handbook with practical suggestions for States, mediators and affected communities on how to find peaceful solutions to conflicts where unresolved self-determination questions exist. Among future self-determination challenges the consequences of climate change, such as sea-level rise and water subsistence, are a particular focus area. In connection with UN Day Liechtenstein will convene a meeting to discuss the past, present and future dimensions of self-determination with State representatives, academics and civil society experts.
