



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

MINISTERIAL MEETING “FRAMING THE VETO IN THE EVENT OF MASS ATROCITIES”

STATEMENT BY H.E. MS. AURELIA FRICK

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Co-chairs,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to **speak on behalf of ACT**, a cross-regional group of 25 Member States that advocates the improvement of the working methods of the Security Council. We would like to warmly thank France and Mexico for their initiative. Our group has engaged in long reflection on the veto, in particular on how to ensure that it does not hamper the Security Council’s response to atrocity crimes – genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

We share with France and Mexico the strong belief that the Security Council must be more effective in its response to such crimes, and that a voluntary regulation of the use of the veto would make a significant contribution to this end. It is for this reason that all 25 members of ACT support the Political Declaration presented at this meeting. We look forward to progress in the talks among permanent members of the Council and trust that the call from the wider membership will be helpful. The impressive number of signatures on the political declaration shows that this is an issue close to the hearts of many Member States.

ACT also believes that all Security Council members, and indeed all States, have a role to play in improving the Council's response to atrocity crimes and share ownership over this important issue. We have therefore **drafted a Code of Conduct on Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes**. We see this Code of Conduct as complementary to the Franco-Mexican initiative – they are two tracks towards the same destination and mutually reinforcing. This is best illustrated by the fact that our hosts today have also given support to the ACT initiative – we would like to thank you for doing so.

The Code of Conduct contains a **pledge to support timely and decisive Security Council action** in situations involving atrocity crimes, as well as a pledge not to vote against credible draft Security Council resolutions aimed at preventing or ending these. The Code is open for support by any current or potential future Security Council member – and therefore simply by all States.

I am pleased to say that as of today, a total of 53 States have committed themselves to the Code presented by ACT. We will officially launch this Code of Conduct on 23 October on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, with as many supporting States as possible. **I therefore call upon all States present here today to commit themselves to the ACT Code of Conduct**, and to do so as soon as possible. We also encourage you all to join **the political declaration proposed by France and Mexico**, as we have done ourselves. We look forward to continuing our common pursuit for a more effective Security Council.

I thank you.