



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

NEW YORK, 29 APRIL 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN DEBATE

**THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

**STATEMENT BY CHRISTIAN WENAWESER, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Mr. President,

I thank you for this opportunity to discuss the situation in the Middle East. Developments in different parts of the region call for regular exchange of the Council with the entire membership – a practice that should also apply to other crisis situations.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein reiterates its view that a two-State solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict remains the only viable avenue to sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians and for the entire region. Liechtenstein's position remains unchanged that settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, including in East Jerusalem, are illegal under international humanitarian law. The decisions taken by the Security Council in this regard, including its resolution 2334 of 2016, must be respected and fully implemented by all parties and relevant actors. With respect to recent developments on the Golan, Liechtenstein stresses that the prohibition of the annexation of territory is a cornerstone of the rules-based international order. The annexation of

territory as a result of any use of force runs contrary to established norms of international law. Annexation also amounts to an act of aggression – the worst form of the illegal use of force – not only forbidden by international law, but also subject to individual criminal accountability including under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Mr. President,

Last month marked the eighth anniversary of the beginning of the war in Syria. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed, many more injured and displaced. The country has suffered large-scale destruction. There is an entire generation of children who have not known a life without war. The entire region has been destabilized by an armed conflict shaped by foreign actors. The Security Council has failed in the task to address the crisis and the human suffering in any meaningful manner. Six single and six double vetoes have come with tremendous human costs and far-reaching negative consequences for the United Nations as a whole. By creating the IIIM, the General Assembly has stepped in to counter the Council's inaction to ensure that the worst crimes committed will not go unpunished. The mechanism is operational and fully part of the institutional framework of the United Nations as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. Last week's report by the IIIM to the General Assembly has made it clear that the mechanism currently represents the best hope that the Syrian people will one day see justice served. There can be no sustainable peace without justice – in particular not for a conflict characterized by the use of chemical weapons, the systematic use of torture and executions as well as sexual and gender-based violence and indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas. Justice must be an integral part of any political settlement and we welcome the strong signal to that effect coming out of the Brussels III conference. Despite the sobering track record of the Security Council we continue to call on the Security Council to finally refer the situation in Syria to the ICC.

Mr. President,

As many, we consider the Stockholm agreement of last December on Hodeidah a milestone that brought hope to the people of Yemen for progress to bring an end to the conflict. Its swift and

effective implementation is crucial for a sustainable political settlement. As many, we are disappointed at the painfully slow progress and call on the Security Council to put its full weight behind the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to ensure that all parties and stakeholders deliver on their commitments. The Council has a crucial responsibility to protect civilians from the most serious crimes under international law, including the deliberate targeting of civilian population and infrastructure and preventing the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid. With over 20 million people in need of assistance this responsibility is more acute than ever, We call on the members of the Security Council, in particular the ten signatories of the ACT Code of Conduct against mass atrocity crimes to live up to that responsibility.

I thank you.