



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THE SITUATION IN THE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF UKRAINE

**STATEMENT BY GEORG SPARBER, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.**

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mister President,

The conflict in and around Ukraine remains a crisis that calls for the urgent attention of the United Nations and we see a concerning increase of violence recently. In the spirit of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, sustained efforts have been undertaken within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to monitor the crisis and pursue possible avenues for political progress. Two weeks ago we heard the Chairperson-in-Office confirm to the Security Council that Ukraine remains at the top of his agenda. We regret that the Security Council has not been able to support efforts to bring peace to Ukraine, politically and through concrete actions. Today's debate is thus also an expression of complementarity between the General Assembly and the Security Council that Liechtenstein supports and is committed to.

Mister President,

Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm Liechtenstein's position in support of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The armed conflict, fueled by Russian intervention in Ukraine, has caused a humanitarian catastrophe, which continues to be acute as we hold this debate. More than 12,000 people have been killed in the course of the conflict, and many more have been wounded. Hostilities still affect the lives of more than 5 million people, 3.4 million of whom require humanitarian

assistance and protection. Almost 4 million people reside in the conflict zone, with forces being located in trenches as little as 15 meters from civilian houses. Attacks against schools have sharply increased in 2019 – they must be investigated with a view to holding the perpetrators to account. In addition, Eastern Ukraine is now one of the most heavily mined places in the world, with severe consequences for present and future generations of Ukrainians. 30 per cent of those in need are elderly - the highest proportion in any crisis in the world. Liechtenstein has consistently contributed to humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, and will continue its commitment to alleviate the suffering of civilians in this appalling humanitarian crisis on our continent. In this connection, Liechtenstein calls for full and unconditional access for the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as other international organizations, in particular to all detained persons as agreed by the Normandy Four.

Mister President,

Liechtenstein calls for immediate and full implementation of the commitments of the Minsk Agreements, including those undertaken by the Normandy Four Summit of last December, and hopes for the full revitalization of the political process. We recall the responsibilities of the signatories in that regard. Only a comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire can create the conditions to sustainably improve the humanitarian situation. As noted by the head of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine, this cannot occur before parties show the requisite political will. Liechtenstein welcome positive developments in this regard over the past year. In the meantime, there is a multitude of measures that would alleviate civilian suffering. The reconstruction of the bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska - a lifeline for those who have to cross the delimitation line - is a welcome example, as is the prisoner swap between Ukraine and Russia last December. Nevertheless, five years after the signing of the Minsk II agreements the ceasefire and other vital parts of the agreements continue to be violated on a constant basis – a state of affairs that is unacceptable and should be an urgent matter for discussion in this organization. Parties to the conflict must

withdraw their heavy weapons and respect the ceasefire. There must be free and unhindered access by SMM observers to all areas in eastern Ukraine.

Mister President,

Liechtenstein welcomes Ukraine's expressed commitment to domestic reform, in particular steps taken to strengthen the fight against corruption and for accountable institutions, in support of the rule of law. In addition, the provisions on self-governance and decentralization within the Minsk Agreements are particularly relevant in view of creating the best conditions for sustainable peace in Ukraine. In this connection, we note the importance of language policy in addressing inter-ethnic tensions in Ukraine.

Mister President,

Finally, many serious crimes committed in the course of the Ukraine crisis warrant a thorough criminal investigation. Liechtenstein has welcomed Ukraine's Article 12(3) declaration under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and reiterates its call on Ukraine to ratify the Rome Statute, including the provisions giving the Court jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. This would send a strong and unequivocal message that the government of Ukraine is willing to address impunity for international crimes comprehensively and irrespective of who the perpetrators are.

I thank you.