



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

---

NEW YORK, 6 JANUARY 2021

SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN DEBATE

**SECURITY COUNCIL HIGH-LEVEL VIRTUAL OPEN DEBATE ON “THE CHALLENGES OF MAINTAINING  
PEACE AND SECURITY IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS”**

**STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is grateful for this opportunity to consider the particular challenges fragile contexts pose to the Council’s efforts in the maintenance of peace and security. Focusing on the concept of fragility as a broader frame for efforts to uphold peace and security underlines the point that the Council’s work can only be successful if it takes on a similarly broad paradigm of human security. Attempts to restrict the Council to so-called ‘hard security’ issues of armed conflict, terrorism and comparable threats result in a myopic focus on militarized causes of and solutions to conflict instead of sustainable and comprehensive conflict prevention and resolution.

If the Council is to uphold security threats in all their aspects, the challenges resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and climate change urgently require its attention. On both of these issues the Council has the mandate to act, but as it stands Council members lack the necessary political will to avert impending catastrophe.

Mr. President,

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to wide-ranging human rights restrictions and increased risks of mass poverty and hunger, massive negative impacts on education, rising inequality and

heightened social tensions, as well as the erosion of trust in institutions, resulting in fragile contexts. Liechtenstein is pleased that the Council has addressed COVID-19, albeit in a limited manner, and encourages it to build on this precedent through a human security-centered approach. The Sustainable Development Goals remain our blueprint for 'building back better'; a roadmap for sustaining peace based on international law, human rights, cooperation, solidarity and multilateralism. Challenges to the rule of law and attempts to undermine democratic processes even in societies with long democratic traditions must be met by responsible leadership, long-term policy thinking, stronger commitments against corruption and organized crime, and an honest discussion about information and the role of social media. The fulfillment of SDG16 in particular is key to achieving sustainable development and to ensuring that the Council lives up to its mandate.

Mr. President,

It is increasingly possible that the next five years will see the world reach 1.5°C of warming - a threshold deemed the point of no return during the Paris negotiations and a frightening portent for our fragile world. Liechtenstein is pleased that the Council increasingly recognizes the value of addressing secondary impacts of climate change, such as involuntary migration, poverty, the loss of livelihoods and tensions between farmers and herders, and is supportive of the Council's efforts to tap into expertise across the UN Development System, such as the DPPA-UNDP-UNEP Climate Security Mechanism. The inaugural meeting in November of the Informal Expert Group of Members of the United Nations Security Council on Climate and Security is also a significant step forward for the Council's work. Nevertheless, systematic references to the impact of climate change on Council situations remain long overdue. Going forward, the Council must also address the root cause of these impacts. A small minority of its members combined are responsible for more than half of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and all States must uphold their responsibilities to present and future generations by urgently working to reduce them.

I thank you.