



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

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NEW YORK, 5 APRIL 2011  
UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION  
**GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**  
**STATEMENT BY MR. STEFAN BARRIGA**  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Chairman,

The ultimate goal of disarmament is to prevent human suffering. As a small, unarmed State, we approach disarmament in the context of human rights and international humanitarian law, and encourage cross-linkages to those thematic areas. We believe that it is imperative to strike the right balance between visionary goals and practical disarmament measures, which can serve to have an immediate effect.

Last year, the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) adopted a final document, which contained innovative and forward-looking measures especially in the action plan on nuclear disarmament. We recall, especially, the NPT Review Conference's recognition that international humanitarian law applies to nuclear weapons. We also recall the recognition of the legitimate interest of non-nuclear weapon States in the de-alerting of nuclear weapons. My delegation also joined the call of many others for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, in line with the Secretary-General's five point plan. Now is the time to translate the commitments made at Conference into actions, especially the commitment made by nuclear weapon States to discuss policies leading to eventual elimination of nuclear weapons.

Liechtenstein continues to support the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which we have ratified. The CTBTO's international monitoring mechanism has once again proven that it works. In the aftermath of

the recent nuclear catastrophe in Japan, the worldwide network of monitoring stations has been able to detect the smallest quantities of radioactive particles as they spread all over the globe.

We must utilise the renewed momentum in the field of disarmament to achieve true progress in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). The CD should heed the General Assembly's calls for an early negotiation of a Fissile-Material Cut-Off Treaty, which remains the most achievable of all the tasks on the CD's agenda. Continued inaction by that body, which since 1996 has but once been able to agree on a programme of work, can no longer remain acceptable. Similarly, the Disarmament Commission meets for three weeks every year but has, for the past twelve years, not succeeded in producing any substantive outcome, save substantial bills for conference services. Liechtenstein therefore believes the time has come to reconsider the purpose and working methods of this body. If the status quo persists, the General Assembly must necessarily reconsider the present disarmament architecture in its entirety.

Liechtenstein firmly believes in transparency as one of the most important confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. It is in this spirit that we report to the UN Register on Conventional Arms and the UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures. We encourage other states to do the same. However, as a small State with limited administrative resources, we are also aware of the heavy burden that the various disarmament resolutions place on States that wish to report and submit their views to the Secretary-General. We therefore encourage the UN to develop a consolidated reporting tool. This would ease the bureaucratic burden placed on small and developing States and encourage increased reporting.

I also take this opportunity to reaffirm Liechtenstein's support for a strong, effective and comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We were heartened by the quality of discussions at the second session of the ATT Preparatory Committee held last month. We were especially pleased by the strong support for the 7+1+1 formula that would include Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as Ammunition within the scope of the treaty. As with disarmament, the ultimate goal of the ATT should be to reduce human suffering. It is logical, therefore, that the protection of human rights and the promotion of international humanitarian law ought to be stated objectives of the treaty. We look forward to the final session of the Preparatory Committee and the negotiation of a strong and effective ATT next year.

I thank you.