



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MULTILATERALISM AND DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President

One year before its 75th anniversary, the greatest peace project in the history of humankind may well be facing its most challenging times. Today, as the living memories of the world wars fade, the rule of power seems to chip away at the rule of law and power itself seems to become again a feature of the few, not the many. The long-term vision of the Charter seems increasingly in contrast to the short-lived politics of election cycles. The international day of multilateralism is a welcome reminder that the Charter's vision of international cooperation and collective action on the basis of sovereign equality is its strength, not its weakness. But the day is also a reminder that we have to do better to realize that vision.

As members of the United Nations we all have our grievances with this organization. For some it moves too fast, for others it procrastinates, for some it spends too much money, for others it invests too little, for some it acts where necessary, for others it remains silent too often. These differences, while important, tend to obfuscate the vast common ground that unites us. We have all once sought membership in the United Nations to partake in the high ambitions enshrined in

the Charter, convinced that States affirm their sovereignty in cooperation, not isolation. We have to be ready to defend that conviction in order to preserve the potential for the United Nations to deliver.

Madam President,

The United Nations should do better in listening to the peoples it represents. Young people around the globe ring the alarm in light of our meager track record on climate change. We are putting their future at risk, while we have known for a long time that more action is needed. Disengagement from our joint commitments does not provide any solutions, but makes it harder for everybody to make a positive difference.

Women around the globe have had enough of discrimination and violence. Their powerful movement of solidarity has torn down barriers and abusive power structures. The United Nations should embrace their struggle as we approach anniversaries of such milestones as CEDAW or the Beijing conference. Continued leadership by the United Nations is crucial and we have a strong commitment to that from our Secretary-General.

Grass-roots organization have shaped the disarmament landscape and brought about significant change, the latest example of which is the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Such achievements show the need for continued multilateral engagement, in particular where the actions of a few can have consequences on the security of all others.

Victims of never ending cycles of conflict-related violence rightfully demand true and lasting peace. For that, there must be justice, there must be dignity and there must be hope for a better future for all. The Security Council that ought to act on behalf of all of us too often considers these elements as dispensable, thereby seriously hampering its own ability to implement its Charter mandate. We have to increase accountability for the Council's performance, or lack thereof, in particular in light of the increasing use of the veto. If the use of the veto is difficult to justify to the UN membership, we can imagine what damage it does to the outside perception of the United Nations. The General Assembly is not the venue to lament the failure of others. It is

the central policy-making body of the United Nations. The Charter mandates it to address any question it deems important. Whenever there is failure to implement the Charter's vision, the General Assembly should take issue.

Madam President,

When the General Assembly acts with determination and pragmatism it can achieve great things, such as the SDGs. And it brings with it the legitimacy needed for implementation, which is the true strength of multilateralism. From its European perspective, Liechtenstein considers multilateralism a necessity, and we see great potential in the General Assembly as its most important incarnation. We may not always achieve the optimum results in this forum, but we do not preclude such a result by discussing our shared interests together in a spirit of cooperation.

I thank you.