



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN DEBATE

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE

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

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President

Liechtenstein welcomes this opportunity to discuss the role of peacekeeping in the context of the broader UN efforts to sustain peace. We support the initiatives of the Secretary-General to strengthen the UN's focus on prevention and its ability to sustain peace. Peacekeeping operations under the authority of the Security Council can make a vital contribution to these efforts. Today's debate should thus feed into the broader agenda of making the UN fit for purpose to achieve our jointly agreed goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein supports General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) as they provide a basis for a more comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, spanning the entire conflict cycle and encompassing all three pillars of the United Nations, including human rights and development. Peacekeeping operations can make an important contribution to the achievement of the goals and targets agreed in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 16. Acting through its peacekeeping operations, the UN should place stronger emphasis on enabling and strengthening the rule of law and its institutions at the national and regional levels. In the framework of the review of the

peacebuilding architecture both the Security Council and the General Assembly have committed to a comprehensive approach to transitional justice as an important prerequisite for consolidating peace, preventing conflict and relapse into violence. A thorough translation of that commitment into peacekeeping mandates should therefore be a matter of priority for the Security Council and the rule of law components in the relevant field offices should be strengthened to this end.

Mr. President,

Deterrence is a key preventive tool and among the main achievements of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the central criminal justice institution. The ICC remains a court of last resort, the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute atrocity crimes remains with States. Joining the Rome Statute contributes to strengthening the rule of law and judicial institutions at the national level as States need to make sure that they are able and willing to hold perpetrators of Rome Statute crimes accountable. Fighting impunity is essential to strengthening the rule of law and its institutions, as set out in SDG 16. Joining and cooperating with the ICC is thus a practical example of implementing SDG 16. It is therefore particularly important that the Security Council, acting through its peacekeeping mandates, supports the work of the Court by ensuring full cooperation and coherence of action, including by sharing information and assisting States in protecting witnesses and executing arrest warrants.

Mr. President,

The Security Council has a responsibility to take action to end and prevent mass atrocity crimes in conflict situations. The ACT Code of Conduct on Security Council Action against Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity or War Crimes, so far supported by 113 States, is a strong expression of the willingness of the UN membership to hold the Council accountable to this responsibility. The potential for early and preventive action by the UN is particularly high, where peacekeeping operations are already on the ground. Accordingly, there is an expectation in the international community that the Security Council consistently equips peacekeeping mandates with the necessary means and flexibility to act decisively in such situations. At the same time there is also a growing sense of responsibility in the General Assembly, if the Security Council fails to prevent or end mass atrocities in a timely manner. The creation of the Syria Accountability Mechanism (SIIM) is a manifestation of this responsibility. Liechtenstein congratulates the newly appointed head of the mechanism, Ms. Catherine Marchi-Uhel, and calls on States to support the mechanism's work both politically and financially.

Mr. President,

The 2015 report by the high-level independent panel on peace operations called for renewed resolve on the part of UN peace operations personnel to engage with, serve and protect the people they have been mandated to assist. This call applies in particular to the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, both in its protection and participation pillars, as well as to a vigorous mainstreaming of human rights and gender equality throughout the peacekeeping architecture. Liechtenstein is encouraged by the Secretary-General's commitment to this cause and expects the Security Council to implement its own standards in this area more consistently. We also call on the Security Council to ensure stricter accountability in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by members of UN peacekeeping missions, whether civilian or military. The UN cannot tolerate, nor be perceived as tolerating any form of such misconduct or criminal behaviour among its ranks without proportionate consequences. While we acknowledge existing efforts in this regard, we continue to see both need and potential for the UN to make a qualitative step ahead.

I thank you.