



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

NEW YORK, 22 MAY 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 88

EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN A/73/L.84/REV.1

BY GEORG SPARBER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President,

I am taking the floor to explain Liechtenstein's position on the resolution contained in A/73/L.84/Rev.1 entitled "Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965".

Liechtenstein considers the International Court of Justice a key institution to promote and preserve the rule of law at the international level. Its Statute confers to the Court an important role in the peaceful settlement of legal disputes, including by way of advising the General Assembly on legal questions upon request. General Assembly resolution 71/292 requested the Court to issue an advisory opinion on whether the decolonization process with respect to the Chagos Archipelago was lawfully completed and on the legal consequences thereof under international law. In its national submission to the Court, Liechtenstein expressed itself in support of the Court's competence – a position unanimously shared by the Court's judges – and the use of its discretionary power to issue an advisory opinion. While Liechtenstein has not expressed itself on the merits of the questions posed to the Court, it notes that the Court responded with near unanimity on the substance of the request. Liechtenstein is of the principled view that advisory opinions provided by the Court should be considered with the utmost seriousness and swiftly implemented. Furthermore, Liechtenstein is of the view that the General Assembly is the appropriate venue for follow-up as it has been at the origin of the request. The resolution contained in A/73/L.84/Rev.1 reflects these views in general terms and Liechtenstein has therefore voted in its favor.

Madam President,

Since the beginning of its UN membership Liechtenstein has actively promoted the right of self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter. Common article 1 of the two human rights covenants defines the right of self-determination as an important basis for the full realization of human rights and establishes an inseparable link between them. Liechtenstein thus considers the protection of the human

rights of the Chagossians, including their right to return to their homeland in a way that meets with their free, prior, and informed consent, as part and parcel of any process leading to the lawful completion of the decolonization of the Chagos Archipelago. While the advisory opinion identifies a responsibility of the General Assembly in this respect, it is ultimately incumbent upon Mauritius to ensure that the human rights of the Chagossians are fully respected. A clearer commitment to that effect would have been an important element to strengthen the resolution contained in A/73/L.84/Rev.1.

I thank you.