



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

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SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN VTC ON THE MIDDLE EAST

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to today's Open VTC. Liechtenstein approaches today's meeting in an atmosphere of grave concern regarding the escalation in and around Gaza, and the violence in the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, including in East Jerusalem, as well as in Israel. Liechtenstein urgently calls on all actors involved to end violence, demonstrate utmost restraint and work towards de-escalation and a ceasefire.

Liechtenstein stresses the need for all actors to demonstrate respect for international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of military necessity and proportionality. The indiscriminate firing of rockets from Gaza must end; the deliberate targeting of civilians constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian law. The large numbers of civilian casualties, many of them children, caused by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza are unacceptable. The basic principles for the protection of civilians under international humanitarian law must be safeguarded at all times and there must be accountability for violating them.

Liechtenstein reiterates its belief that a two-state solution based on applicable international law, in particular international humanitarian law and relevant Security Council resolutions, remains the only viable pathway to a peaceful, stable and secure Middle East. Liechtenstein is gravely concerned over settlement activities, notably the threatened evictions of Palestinian families in East Jerusalem, and calls on Israel to cease these activities as it is obliged to do under

international law. The increasing violence, death and destruction we have seen in recent days must be a wake-up call to all who have influence, but in particular to the Security Council, to help bring about a cessation of violence and address the long-standing and well-known causes of the conflict, in line with the obvious historic obligation of the United Nations as well as the mandate of the Security Council. A sustainable solution can only be achieved if the parties are willing to embark on credible and constructive negotiations in good faith and are assisted in their effort to do so. It is long past time for these parties to demonstrate their commitment to peace through concrete actions, and refrain from unilateral steps to undermine it, in particular through acts that clearly violate decisions of this Council and are crimes under international humanitarian law. In this respect we call on the Security Council to take steps to ensure the implementation of its own resolutions, and we note the statement issued by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on 3 March.

I thank you.