



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

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SECURITY COUNCIL – UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: TRANSITIONS

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 address this important topic. In our brief comments, Liechtenstein wishes to highlight the role that the Council can play alongside partners to contribute to sustainable transitions. Fundamentally, the Council should see transitions not as a deadline, or set of deadlines, by which to leave, but as a part of the life-cycle of any operation. The process of transition should contribute to sustainable peace, notably through the fulfillment of SDG 16 on “peace, justice, and strong institutions”. As such, many of the most important decisions relevant to transitions must be made well in advance; sustainable, durable peace can only be created by wise, long-term planning. In this, Liechtenstein encourages a ‘multi-stakeholder’ or ‘whole-of-society’ approach, complementing close engagement with the national government with the meaningful participation of civil society and underrepresented groups, as applicable - minorities, women, young people and indigenous peoples. In this way, peacekeeping transitions can be made to be responsive to real issues and pressures, making their gains more sustainable - rather than beholden to theoretical plans laid out in UN documents.

One key decision that the Security Council can take in advance to lay the foundation for sustainable peace is to systematically include clear human rights and rule of law components across peace operations. Situations of armed conflict often jeopardize the enjoyment of human rights, but at the same time, violations of human rights can spark or intensify ongoing tensions or conflicts. By committing to the protection of human rights, and by strengthening or creating legal avenues for accountability and justice for such violations, human rights and rule of law components create the enabling conditions for sustainable peace even after the end of a

peacekeeping operation, in so doing easing the transition out of a peacekeeping operation. As it stands, the wide divergence in mandates among different peace operations is concerning. In order to more effectively address human rights violations as part of its peace and security mandate, the Security Council must also better coordinate with the human rights machinery of the UN, in particular the Human Rights Council, relevant special mandate holders and OHCHR.

The Council should also expand cooperation with the PBC, the body specifically designed to address post-conflict dynamics. The Security Council could contribute constructively to the work of the Commission in helping to reassess the criteria to establish configurations, and consider how their establishment can assist the transition process. More regular, or more formal, meetings between PBC configuration Chairs and Council members on country situations, where applicable, could be considered, building on previous annual IIDs. In line with the needed emphasis on the rule of law, the Council should also have an interest in introducing a clear justice and accountability component into the PBC's work. This is also important in light of the parameters for sustainable peace given in the 2030 Agenda, in particular those contained within SDG 16. The fulfillment of SDG 16 is vital to both Council and PBC mandates, and particularly so in situations of transition, where upholding peace and justice must be at the centre.

I thank you.