



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

NEW YORK, 27 OCTOBER 2021

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIRST COMMITTEE

EXPLANATION OF VOTE AFTER THE VOTE ON A/C.1/76/L.59 AS ADOPTED

STATEMENT BY MATTHEW EDBROOKE, POLITICAL ADVISOR

Chairperson,

I am taking the floor to explain Liechtenstein's vote on the resolution contained in L.59 "Joint courses of action and future-oriented dialogue towards a world without nuclear weapons" as adopted. Liechtenstein acknowledges the continuous efforts of the main sponsor in presenting this resolution to the First Committee and its commitment to bridge-building. At the same time, that commitment has not translated in the improvements in the text that we and others had asked for on previous occasions, which is why we have abstained again this year. We regret that the modest calls not to undermine existing obligations and commitments, have not been sufficiently addressed.

The overall concerning developments in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation call for the unequivocal support of our common acquis of past agreements, in particular in the framework of the NPT and its review conferences. The formulation in OP1, however, introduces a qualification to the clear obligations for nuclear weapon States under article VI of the NPT and undermines the unequivocal undertaking by nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals as previously agreed. Nor is it acceptable to take us further away from implementing those obligations and commitments as suggested in PP7. Ahead of the NPT review conference Liechtenstein considers such attempts at weakening what should actually unite us misguided and unhelpful. We strongly believe that the outcome of the 2020 NPT review conference must be fully in line with and not backtrack from past agreements.

As last year, Liechtenstein is also dissatisfied with the approach of the resolution towards the urgent entry into force of the CTBT. The resolution should issue a clear and strong call on all states who are yet to ratify and in particular the Annex II states to sign and ratify the CTBT without delay and without waiting for any other state to do so. While the text of OP3(d) has to some extent improved, it ultimately continues to fall short of a text that we can support in this regard. The fact that the CTBT has still not entered into force adds to the already significant insecurity non-nuclear weapon States experience as a consequence of the receding rule of law in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Liechtenstein therefore clearly distances itself from any message to the effect that the international community is reducing efforts towards entry into force of the CTBT.

Thank you.