



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

NEW YORK, 21 APRIL 2022

SECURITY COUNCIL - ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING ON CONFLICT AND HUNGER

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President,

We thank you for your very consistent leadership on this extremely important topic.

Liechtenstein is extremely concerned by the deteriorating conflict and hunger situation around the globe. Global food prices have risen to their highest ever levels in March – a third more than the same time last year, according to the FAO. These price increases will hit those who were already suffering the effects of drought and conflict the hardest.

As WFP has repeatedly warned us, including in Council briefings, the global food system was already on the brink of collapse for a while. We have seen devastating food crisis and resulting hunger at a massive scale in various so-called ‘hunger hotspots’, in particular Yemen, Nigeria, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Twenty or so more countries are at the risk of an acute crisis - to name only some, Afghanistan, the DRC, and Sahel region - with possible devastating impacts on millions of people. We are now, in the words of the agencies in charge “taking food from hungry children to feed starving children.”

As a result of the aggression against Ukraine, the country has gone from a producer of foodstuffs to a population in dire need of help, with an enormous additional burden on the already overcharged humanitarian assistance agenda. Even when it has been able to produce food, supply chains are preventing food from reaching the places where it needs to be. Ending the aggression and fully implementing the relevant General Assembly resolutions is therefore key to address not just the humanitarian situation in the country, but to prevent a possible collapse of the global food system, with devastating effects for millions.

Madam Chair,

Hunger is an appalling side effect of many armed conflicts, but in fact it is in fact often not just that: the intentional starvation of civilians is used all too often as a method of warfare, and has become a shocking pattern in the conduct of armed conflicts. This is a grave violation of international humanitarian law and must be prosecuted as a war crime. The ICC has jurisdiction over this crime and since 2019, also with respect to non-international armed conflicts.

Liechtenstein has ratified the relevant changes to the Rome Statute originally put forward by Switzerland, and we call on all States to do the same.

Madam Chair,

The Security Council has acted on this important topic by adopting Security Council resolution 2417 which has called on the SG to report swiftly on the topic we are discussing today. We understand that the last white note, though, was submitted in May 2021, and it would appear to

us that the global situation we are facing does require a more intense reporting to the Council. We also want to recall resolution 2573 dealing, as others have done, with the need to safeguard critical infrastructure. This is of relevant for the protection of civilians agenda more broadly but for the food security issue we are discussing today. We very much look forward to a continuation of your efforts in the month of May as part of the protection of civilians agenda during that month.

I thank you.