



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ELEVENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ITEM 5 - LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 2014 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/2014/136)

STATEMENT BY H.E. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Today we meet in Emergency Special Session, a year after Russia's decision to escalate its aggression against Ukraine in a manner that is both terrifying and carries very wide implications beyond the region. This past year has seen horrific crimes that are difficult to process in their scale and systematic nature. In the course of its aggression, Russia has systematically violated all fundamental principles of international humanitarian law – military necessity, distinction and proportionality. Civilians – including children – have been forcibly abducted to Russia. Unable to score the expected military gains, Russia has resorted to a tactic of terrorizing the resilient civilian population into submission, including through a pattern of attacks on critical civilian infrastructure, notably energy facilities. Furthermore, the Russian military and political leadership has sent hundreds of thousands of its own young men, many conscripted, including directly from prison, to an senseless and unnecessary death.

Mr. President,

The impacts of the aggression are being felt far and wide. Food security for tens of millions, while somewhat ameliorated by the progress of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, will further be set back

this year as Ukraine's natural environment is polluted with the detritus of war. The 'Doomsday Clock' is now set at 90 seconds to midnight – the closest it has ever been – after threats by the Russian political and military leadership of a nuclear apocalypse. Such threats are only compounded by Russia's suspension of participation yesterday in the New START treaty. Collectively, this aggression has seriously undermined global progress towards the 2030 Agenda and made a major contribution to a world in which displacement and hunger sit at record levels.

Mr. President,

Let us be clear about why we have this war. Ukraine did not want it. NATO did not want it. No peace-loving State wanted it. The political and military leadership of the Russian Federation – and they alone – wanted it and chose to invade a sovereign neighboring State. They did so in blatant violation of the founding principles of the UN Charter and the fundamental tenets of international law, with complete disregard for human life and for the devastating resulting fallout for people around the globe.

Mr. President,

The UN is a peace organization, created from the ashes of war in order to save future generations from experiencing its horrors. The Charter thus outlawed the use of force with two exceptions – authorization by the Security Council and self-defense. Russia's aggression is therefore manifestly illegal. Ukraine's efforts to defend itself, on the other hand, are not only legal under Article 51 of the Charter, they are fully in line with its object and purpose.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is proud to be an initial cosponsor of the draft resolution on UN Charter principles underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine. A "just peace" can be grounded only in the principles of the UN Charter, in particular that of territorial integrity. As this Assembly stated in March 2022, Russia must immediately and completely withdraw all of its troops from all of Ukraine. Only then will there be the necessary space for genuine diplomacy as well as

credible and fully inclusive peace talks. We call on all States to support the draft, which epitomizes the values of our organization.

Mr. President,

The resolution also highlights the role of accountability as a key element in a “just” and lasting peace. This includes in particular accountability for the crime of aggression, from which all the other international crimes committed in the course of the war flow. This Assembly has recognized individual criminal responsibility for the crime against peace – the precursor to the crime of aggression - as customary international law as early as in 1946. In 1974 it defined acts of aggression by consensus. And it has twice determined, with an overwhelming majority, in this Emergency Special Session over the past year that the Russian Federation has committed aggression against Ukraine. Ensuring individual criminal accountability for persons in political and military leadership positions is therefore an obvious task for this Assembly, both in line with the UN Charter and with its own landmark decisions from the past. We therefore appeal to all States to join the effort to create a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression, and in so doing to live up to our commitment to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

I thank you.