



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

SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

**MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: CONFLICT AND FOOD SECURITY**

**STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

CHARGÉE D’AFFAIRES

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein welcomes this open debate on conflict and food security as hunger reaches new and concerning levels. Conflict is a primary driver of food insecurity in seven of the eight cases designated as “hotspots with catastrophic conditions” by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It has a devastating impact on every part of a food system, from planting to distribution; often, it exacerbates already dangerous conditions for food insecurity. At the same time, food insecurity is itself a driver of further violence in regions like the Sahel, renewing the cycle of conflict and hunger. We therefore must take on a holistic approach that addresses the catastrophe of hunger both as a cause and consequence of conflict. There is enough food for us all; nobody on our planet should be going hungry.

Mr. President,

If hunger as such is an affront to human dignity, the weaponizing of food is an outrage and a criminal act. The intentional starvation of civilians is a war crime in international and non-

international armed conflicts, as reflected in the Rome Statute. We encourage all states to join us in ratifying the amendments to the Rome Statute presented by Switzerland that deal with the inclusion of starvation of civilians in internal armed conflict. In addition, Liechtenstein calls on conflict parties to adhere to their obligations under international law, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions, notably 2417 and 2573.

Mr. President,

In Ethiopia, armed conflict, along with a devastating drought, has driven more than 20 million people into food insecurity, a crisis which has persisted even after last year's ceasefire agreement. The conflict in Sudan, where reportedly over 40 per cent of the population is experiencing hunger, also threatens to have knock-on effects in Ethiopia and throughout the region. The humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains considerable and we condemn the recent killing of the head of WFP's office in Taiz, Yemen, as well as of WFP workers in Sudan earlier this year. These crises and incidents remind us of the imperative for all conflict parties to ensure unhindered humanitarian access and to protect humanitarian workers.

Mr. President,

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine exemplifies the outsized impact that conflict can have on food security both domestically and abroad. According to World Food Programme estimates, one in three households within Ukraine face food insecurity. Throughout the country, farms have been mined, water systems destroyed, and grain storage sites explicitly targeted in attacks. By withdrawing from the Black Sea Grain Initiative in mid-July, Russia once again acted in direct

opposition to the security of millions of people worldwide. We also deplore the Russian veto blocking cross border humanitarian aid to Syria last month.

Mr. President,

The challenges the world faces today – climate disaster, conflict, displacement, and food insecurity – are deeply interconnected. We encourage the international community, and particularly Member States of the Council, to address these interlinkages through the perspective of human security, which acknowledges that peace and security is about people, their survival, livelihood and dignity. We can begin by responding to the immediate needs of food insecure people around the world, including through increased funding for WFP and urging parties to armed conflict to protect food systems and infrastructure and refrain from turning access to food into a weapon of war.

I thank you.