



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

NEW YORK, 18 APRIL 2024

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, COUNSELLOR

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President,

Liechtenstein continues to be gravely worried by the catastrophic situation in the Gaza strip and the increasing escalation and instability in the wider region. We are deeply concerned by the large-scale loss of civilian life, in particular the shocking number of children killed, the massive displacement of the civilian population as well as the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation and acute food insecurity visited on the people of Gaza.

Three months on from the previous open debate on this topic, Liechtenstein was pleased to see the Council adopt a product addressing the ongoing protection of civilians crisis in Gaza by demanding an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan, many months after similar calls by the General Assembly. We commend in particular the E10 on their crucial role leading up to the successful adoption of Resolution 2728. However, we deplore that the holy month of Ramadan has now ended without its implementation.

We were also disturbed to witness a counterproductive and unfounded suggestion that Resolution 2728 might not be legally binding. We simply wish to quote the text of Article 25 of

the UN Charter that “(t)he Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.” If there is any doubt – especially in the minds of Council members – that this is an unequivocal statement on the legally binding nature of Council decisions, there is little reason left to aim for Council action.

Madam President,

Further action by the Security Council to protect civilians and to bring about an immediate, durable, and sustained humanitarian ceasefire is urgently needed. Such a ceasefire is crucial for unhindered and sustained humanitarian access as well as to enable the release of all hostages. In this regard we call upon all parties to fully respect international humanitarian law, including by granting immediate, full and unhindered access to humanitarian organizations. And we condemn again in the strongest possible terms the heinous 7 October terrorist attacks by Hamas and call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

Madam President,

Instability in the wider region is closer than ever to spilling over into active hostilities. Liechtenstein condemns the Israeli air strike against the Iranian consulate in Damascus at the beginning of this month. We also condemn in the strongest possible terms the drone and missile attacks by Iran against Israel last weekend. Liechtenstein calls on all parties to exercise utmost restraint. In all circumstances any use of force must strictly comply with international law including Articles 2 and 51 of the UN Charter, and all parties must strictly comply with international law at all times. Diplomatic buildings must not be targeted, and civilians and civilian infrastructure must in all situations be protected. De-escalation remains of the highest priority and we welcome any statements and concrete actions to end this cycle of violence in the region.

Madam President,

Liechtenstein is committed to the rule of law at the international level and supports the role of

the International Court of Justice in the settlement of disputes, including under the Genocide Convention. Liechtenstein is following the ongoing proceedings in the case brought by South Africa against Israel closely, including the consideration of provisional measures, and emphasizes the importance of compliance with any measures ordered by the Court.

Madam President,

To conclude, Liechtenstein reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and its strong support for a two-state solution as the only way to bring a peaceful, stable and sustainable solution for the region. Liechtenstein is of the view that Palestine fulfills the basic criteria for statehood under international law. In this regard we also note the renewal of Palestine's application for full UN membership.

I thank you.