



**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 MYRIAM OEHRI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES

Mr. President,

In the two weeks since the last meeting of the Emergency Special Session on Ukraine, there has been no let up to the horrors unfolding on the ground. Liechtenstein is shocked and outraged by the reports and images emerging from Bucha and other parts of Ukraine, documenting serious violations of international humanitarian law amounting to war crimes, including indiscriminate attacks against civilians and extrajudicial killings carried out in areas that were under the control of regular forces of the Russian Federation. These unacceptable crimes are ultimately just the most appalling testimony of the manner in which Russia has conducted its war of aggression in Ukraine, exemplified by indiscriminately attacking civilian infrastructure and inflicting mass civilian casualties in Mariupol. Russia's methods of warfare illustrate a systematic disregard for international humanitarian law, in particular the targeting of civilian populations, as they have carried out before in Syria. We must recall that two weeks ago this Assembly passed a resolution by an overwhelming majority, calling, among other things, for the protection of civilians at all times and under all circumstances, the prohibition of attacks on critical civilian infrastructure at all times and the absolute prohibition of illegal weaponry.

Accountability for these crimes remains key. We support efforts underway to gather and preserve evidence, welcome the independent investigation by the International Criminal Court, and look forward to the swift operationalization of the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine that has been established by the Human Rights Council. Justice must and will be served.

Mr. President,

General Assembly Resolution 60/251 establishes both criteria for membership of the Human Rights Council and the possibility of the suspension of the rights of membership for a member “that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights”. The continued violations of international human rights law by Russia in Ukraine – and also in Russia – make it abundantly clear that the aforementioned criterion has been met. It is thus the responsibility of this Assembly to act, in accordance with the terms of resolution 60/251, and suspending the rights of Russia’s membership is necessary. We have taken our responsibility as member of this Assembly under the founding resolution of the Council seriously when casting our ballot in the relevant elections held in this Assembly. And we have done so today by voting in favor of the draft resolution before us, which we have cosponsored.

Mr. President,

We should be clear about what the General Assembly’s decision to suspend Russia’s membership rights means, and what it does not. The Russian Federation remains bound by all human rights obligations and remains a State Party to all the treaties it has ratified. The suspension only affects its political role in the Human Rights Council. The lifting of the suspension measure is possible if there is a recognizable reason for doing so, as stated in the resolution itself. Implementing the resolutions adopted in this Emergency Special Session on 2 and 24 March, as well as the provisional measures order by the International Court of Justice of 16 March, would be an obvious and necessary first step in this direction.

I thank you.