



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

NEW YORK, 19 MAY 2022

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

Madam President,

Thank you for convening this timely open debate on conflict and food security. The growing attention being paid to this issue is indeed justified. Food insecurity is at an all-time high, and the number of people requiring urgent life-saving food assistance is rising alarmingly. On a planet where we have enough food to feed everyone, last year 193 million people were considered as being in ‘crisis’ or as having a more serious designation by the Food and Agriculture Organization. Liechtenstein is particularly concerned about so-called ‘hunger hotspots’ including Yemen, Nigeria, South Sudan and Ethiopia, as well as the many countries at risk of an acute hunger crisis. Without concerted action, the devastating impact of hunger will soon be felt by millions more people.

The war in Ukraine continues to have devastating humanitarian consequences, not only for the people of Ukraine and of the region, but indeed around the globe. The people of Ukraine, one of

the world's largest food producers, have seen their lives and livelihoods destroyed. And although Ukraine's grain silos are full, as reported by the World Food Programme, their supplies cannot reach the millions of people worldwide who depend on them. We appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General and the G7 to highlight the urgency of the issue, and hope for a solution that unblocks food supplies while guaranteeing the safety of the port of Odessa. In addition to this acute crisis, the massive displacement and destruction of infrastructure, as well as rising grain and fertilizer prices are disrupting Ukraine's planting season, which will lead to even more catastrophic food shortages in the future. The unprovoked, unacceptable aggression against Ukraine must end immediately, and the relevant General Assembly resolutions must be implemented, including with regard to the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian military forces from the territory of Ukraine as a matter of urgent priority.

Madam President,

Food insecurity is also a crisis in the area of protection of civilians. While hunger is an appalling side effect of many armed conflicts, it is in fact often not just this. Starving people and in particular civilian populations into submission has become a shocking pattern of warfare. The intentional starvation of civilians is a grave violation of international humanitarian law and must be prosecuted as a war crime, including through the International Criminal Court.

Madam President,

The challenges the world faces today – food insecurity, climate disaster, displacement and

conflict – are interconnected. Their causes and effects are interlaced and felt widely. Without immediate actions to address human contributions to climate change, extreme weather events will become even more frequent and bring further disruptions to the global food supply, displacement and social and political instability. Relevant UN bodies and agencies must work together closely to reverse these trends. We welcome the establishment of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, and the publication of its first brief. However, more holistic action to uphold human security is needed by the international community. This is the time to work together, urgently, to ensure no one starves today and to achieve zero hunger by 2030 in line with the SDGs.

I thank you.