



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 69: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

STATEMENT BY NOAH OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

With the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the General Assembly adopted one of the first landmark documents of this very organization seventy-five years ago. It set out, for the first time, all human rights and fundamental freedoms to be universally respected. It has inspired, and paved the way for, the adoption of more than seventy human rights treaties at global and regional levels in the following decades. And up until this day, it continues to undergird the pursuit of equality, fundamental freedoms and justice in all corners of the globe. Like all anniversaries, however, this one not only calls for reflection on the on-going legacy of the UDHR, but also for critical scrutiny of our recent track-record to further strengthen human rights. It should thus also serve as a reminder for us that much work needs be done to effectively develop our normative framework, address the impact of ensuing crises on the safeguarding of human rights and respond to new challenges that have arisen since 1948. In line with the draft resolution on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary presented by the Chair, however, we first and foremost need to redouble our efforts to implement the provisions enshrined in the Declaration.

One of the central pillars of the UDHR is the recognition of the rule of law as a cornerstone for the realization of human rights. The preamble clearly affirms that without the protection of

human rights by the rule of law, humanity would be “compelled to have recourse to rebellion against tyranny and oppression”. The mutually reinforcing nature of human rights and the rule of law has become even more evident in the context of the historic challenges we are facing today, including armed conflicts and the climate crisis. Our shared commitment to build a more prosperous, sustainable and peaceful future not only relies on the upholding of fundamental rights and freedoms but, in line with SDG16, also on the provision of access to justice to defend these hard-won rights as well as the promotion of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to enact them at all levels. The rule of law and accountability for human rights violations are indeed critical for the prevention of conflict and violence, for sustainable peace and the achievement of sustainable development for all. For that same reason, the rule of law should constitute a cornerstone of the Pact for the Future to be negotiated in the lead up to next year’s Summit.

Article 3 of the UDHR recognizes the right to life, liberty and security of a person. Notwithstanding the duty of all states to protect this inherent right of every individual, the number of civilian casualties in armed conflicts remains staggeringly high. It has never been more important than today to stand up for the protection of civilians and to ask for the respect of international humanitarian law by conflict parties. Illegal warfare is also a clear human rights violation and must be recognized as such. Acts of aggression are a direct violation of the right to life, as acknowledged by the Human Rights Committee. They affect in particular civilians and vulnerable individuals such as persons with disabilities and children, but also soldiers who are forced to fight illegal wars and whose unlawful killing goes unrecognized. Enforced disappearance, torture, unlawful detention, cruel and inhuman treatment as well as sexual and gender-based violence are among the most frequent violations that are regularly documented in the context of armed conflicts. The aggression against Ukraine is not only the most brazen violation of the UN charter since the founding of this organization, but in concrete terms it has caused a human rights catastrophe. Accountability for aggression contributes to the prevention of such violations by prosecuting the very behaviour that stands at the beginning of the causal chain – the decision to resort to the illegal use of force. In order to ensure justice and help deter future aggression, the perpetrators of the crime of aggression must be held accountable.

Mr. Chair,

The climate crisis, as we are all aware, is also a human rights crisis – if not the most severe and urgent, as it constitutes a threat to the right to life of all humanity. States have an obligation to take effective measures to mitigate climate change, to respect human rights, and to ensure intergenerational justice. Recent cases brought forward before domestic and international courts have demonstrated a trend to explore legal avenues to fight climate change which take human rights obligations into account. These efforts, notably the advisory opinion of the ICJ on the obligations of states in respect of climate change, are an important expression of a commitment to the rule of law and deserve our active and constructive engagement.

I thank you.