



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIRST COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Chair,

The main objectives of multilateral disarmament and arms limitation efforts are the prevention of armed conflict and subsequent human suffering – as well as the preservation of international stability. All States must do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control. More importantly, disarmament efforts must take due account of applicable human rights law and international humanitarian law in order to maximize their legitimacy and implementation by all actors.

Mr. Chair,

Real security will never come about as long as there are weapons of mass destruction. States must take all feasible measures to stop their proliferation and prevent their development and use. Unfortunately, the current trends are not positive. We are appalled by the recurring use of chemical weapons in Syria as confirmed by the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) and ask for full accountability for the perpetrators of these crimes. We are also alarmed by the reported chemical weapons attacks in Darfur and urge the Government of Sudan to fully cooperate with any future OPCW investigations.

Mr. Chair,

The recent nuclear test conducted by the DPRK deals an additional blow to the non-proliferation and disarmament regime under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Not only this recent nuclear test, but also the lack of progress in bringing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force continues to undermine global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. This constitutes an ongoing risk to international peace and security. The balance of the regime established under the NPT has been undermined by the lack of progress in the area of disarmament, one of its main pillars. There is only one guarantee that gives full protection from nuclear weapons: full disarmament. The NPT is an important building block in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. It is therefore essential, that we achieve universality of the NPT without further delay. But we must in particular become serious about the implementation of all three pillars.

Nuclear weapons are the only type of weapons of mass destruction not yet prohibited by an international Convention, even though their massive humanitarian and environmental consequences are well known. We therefore commend the initiative of a cross regional group of countries [Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, Nigeria and South Africa] to take forward discussions on a nuclear weapons ban. This initiative is a step towards pursuing nuclear disarmament negotiations in good faith, as specified in article VI of the NPT. Such a ban should also build on the CTBT and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaties.

We support the convening of a universal and inclusive conference in 2017, to negotiate a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons with active civil society participation. National action is also crucial to make nuclear weapons a thing of the past. Liechtenstein has already prohibited all weapons of mass destruction as well as all the financing, brokerage, development, production, acquisition, transfer to anyone, import, export, carry in transit, storage or possession. We hope that other States will take similar legislative action.

Mr. Chair,

Conventional weapons remain the primary cause of casualties in armed conflict, especially among civilians. In recent years, one of the key causes of harm to civilians has been the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The humanitarian impact of these weapons is of great concern to us. It is for this reason, that Liechtenstein committed itself at the World Humanitarian Summit to promote and enhance the protection of civilians and civilian objects by working to prevent civilian harm resulting from the use of these explosive weapons in populated areas. Liechtenstein also strongly supports the Secretary General's call upon parties to conflicts to refrain from using these weapons and to elaborate a political commitment to this effect.

I thank you!