



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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE

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THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

Chair,

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Declaration of the High-Level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels. 10 years ago, we collectively emphasized the need to strengthen the linkages between the rule of law and the three main pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development. Liechtenstein remains strongly committed to this objective, including through relevant efforts in line with the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda report.

Recently, the rule of law has been increasingly challenged. Not least, by the COVID-19 Pandemic that has disrupted our societies. Inequality, justice and security for all, protection of human rights and the delivery of basic services has been stress tested by the pandemic, eroding public trust in the rule of law. We must urgently rebuild confidence in the rule of law. This includes elaborating the role of international law in the prevention and management of future pandemics. This should begin by taking stock of the lessons of the COVID-19 Pandemic to be prepared for possible pandemics of the future.

Chair,

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Pandemic was not the most brutal recent disruption to the rule of law. The Russian aggression against Ukraine should serve as a wakeup call to us all. It is not only a brazen attack on a founding member of the UN but an attack on the rules-based international order anchored by the UN Charter. We have all agreed to the provisions of the UN Charter when joining this Organization. And, the prohibition of the use of force enshrined in the Charter is a cornerstone of that agreement. In order to strengthen the Charter's prohibition on the use of force, Liechtenstein was proud to work with other States to secure the activation of the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. By criminalizing aggression, the ICC can not only provide justice to the victims of aggressive war-making, but help deter future wars. We welcome that 43 States have ratified the ICC's crime of aggression amendments. Liechtenstein will continue to work towards the universal ratification of the Rome Statute in its amended version as well as support removing the ICC's jurisdictional limitations over the crime of aggression.

The crime of aggression, however, must not remain a paper promise to the victims of war. As long as universality of the Rome Statute is not achieved and the UN Security Council fails to refer relevant situations to the ICC, **we should** look for alternative paths for accountability. Accordingly, Liechtenstein supports the creation of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression (StCoA) for Ukraine. **This is a** crisis moment, but also an important opportunity to strengthen the international rule of law by holding those that decided to commit the aggression against Ukraine to account, thus hopefully deterring future aggression.

Chair,

We have a duty to ensure the rule of law can respond to 21st century challenges such as the digitization of warfare, global health crises and climate change. **We should** come together, like we did in 2012 when we adopted the high-level declaration, to develop ways to strengthen the rule of law for more peaceful, healthy, sustainable, just and democratic societies everywhere. In this respect, we stress the need to pay attention to the rule of law challenges posed by insufficiently governed digital spaces and new technologies, including the spread of

disinformation in cyberspace. For our part, Liechtenstein – together with 10 other States – created a Council of Advisers to explore the role of the ICC in the criminalization and deterrence of cyber-attacks. During international law week last year, the Council of Advisers presented their final report on the Application of the Rome Statute to Cyberwarfare. We hope this report triggers further thinking on the application of international law in cyberspace.

Lastly, our work to address the UN's role to safeguard peace and security must embrace a comprehensive notion of security that includes climate change. Our collective action in the framework of the COP process remains instrumental to addressing climate change. But, it may not be enough by itself. This is why – in line with our commitment to the rule of law – we are working together with our friends to explore legal avenues to fight climate change, including a request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. Protecting the planet and saving the livelihoods of present and future generations are the biggest challenges of our time – challenges that the rule of law can help us meet.

I thank you.