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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTH COMMITTEE: THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

STATEMENT BY MS. MYRIAM OEHRI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Chair,

The current state of world affairs makes clear that the rule of law cannot and must not be taken for granted. Recent illegal uses of force, failures to uphold international humanitarian and human rights law, military coups, as well as growing inequality, widespread corruption, and limited access to justice illustrate the need to redouble our efforts to strengthen good governance and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, as indeed envisioned by SDG 16. The Declaration of the Rule of Law – the 10th anniversary of which we celebrated last year – will remain a key reference document for our collective action. And, the Secretary-General's New Vision for the Rule of Law, especially its emphasis to put people at its center – offers an opportunity to recommit to and strengthen our efforts for the rule of law, which should also be the basis for the New Agenda for Peace as well as for the Pact of the Future – given its crucial role for the three pillars of this Organization: peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.

Mr. Chair,

The Russian aggression against Ukraine is the most brazen attack against the international rule of law, since the founding of the United Nations. We have all agreed to the provisions of the UN Charter when joining this Organization which at its very core is a peace organization. The

prohibition of the use of force enshrined in the Charter is a cornerstone of that agreement. For this prohibition to be effective, it must be backed up by accountability when being violated.

The activation of the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression was a major step in this regard. We welcome that 45 States have ratified the ICC's crime of aggression amendments and we will continue to work towards the universal ratification of the Rome Statute in its amended version. At the same time we will work with Germany and other partners to expand the ICC's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression in line with its jurisdiction over its other core crimes. This will not only allow the ICC to provide justice to the victims of aggressive war-making, but help deter future wars.

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 must, in very exceptional circumstances, look for alternative paths for accountability. This is why Liechtenstein supports the creation of a Special International Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression (SITCoA) as requested by Ukraine. This is a crisis moment, but also an important opportunity to strengthen the international rule of law by holding those who choose to commit aggression to account, thus reinforcing the UN Charter and helping to deter future illegal wars.

Mr. Chair,

The UN and this Committee in particular has a responsibility to ensure the rule of law can respond to 21st century challenges. For climate change, the most existential threat for people and planet, we must be guided by law as well. This is why Liechtenstein – in line with our commitment to the rule of law – was part of Vanuatu's core group supporting the General Assembly's request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the question of climate change and will make a submission itself. We are confident that the Court will help us have clarity regarding the complex legal questions concerning climate change and thus assist in our common fight against this most existential threat.

We are also committed to address rule of law challenges posed by cyberwarfare, which we have increasingly witnessed in recent times. It is one of the most extreme and blatant examples of misuse of new technologies which we are discussing under this year's rule of law subtopic.

Liechtenstein, together with partners, has assessed the application of the Rome Statute of the ICC to cyberwarfare, which helps us increase our legal certainty and ensure accountability for cybercrimes. We are also pleased to see the announcement of the ICC Prosecutor that his Office will begin to investigate cybercrimes and produce a cyber policy paper. There can be no doubt that the UN Charter's prohibition of the use of force must be enforced everywhere, including in cyberspace.

I thank you.