



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

NEW YORK, 24 SEPTEMBER 2012

General Assembly
**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE RULE OF LAW
AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

STATEMENT BY H.E. MS. AURELIA FRICK
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

I am delighted to participate in this debate, which is devoted to a topic that is very important to my country, Liechtenstein, and very dear to me personally. It is humbling to see so many Heads of State and Government convene in this hall to address an issue that, only six years ago, was not even on the agenda of the General Assembly. In 2006, Mexico and Liechtenstein jointly requested the inclusion of the agenda item "The rule of law at the national and international levels". Since then, much progress has been made in the United Nations system. We applaud the hard work of the UN's Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, and we are confident that under the leadership of the new Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Jan Eliasson, the Group will rise to new levels.

Mr. President,

Given the short time available, I would like to focus on those issues on which Liechtenstein has submitted pledges.

Our first pledge is to continue to promote the ratification and implementation of the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court regarding the crime of aggression. The importance of the 2010 Kampala compromise for the rule of law, and for the United Nations, cannot be overstated. It is not just a technical matter to define the crime of aggression in international law. And it was no small thing for ICC States Parties to agree on the conditions under which the ICC will in the future be able to investigate and prosecute perpetrators. The ICC would be prosecuting leaders who are responsible for the most serious forms of the illegal use of force against other States. Ultimately, what the Kampala compromise did, was to establish a new mechanism to enforce Article 2, paragraph 4 of the UN Charter, which prohibits States from using force against another State in any manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations. In the future, the ICC will bring justice, and its deterrent effect, to a whole new

place. It will protect States from aggression by other States. It will protect and enforce the United Nations Charter.

Liechtenstein was proud to be the first State to ratify the amendments on the crime of aggression on 8 May this year, the anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. We have decided to support the ongoing ratification process through advocacy and with technical assistance and look forward to receiving requests for assistance at any time. We are convinced that more States Parties will ratify the amendments in the coming years, in a joint effort to promote the rule of law at the international level, and to strengthen the implementation of the UN Charter and thus enable the activation of the Court's jurisdiction in 2017.

Our second pledge is to continue to promote the strengthening of political support for the ICC, in particular by convening an informal ministerial network. I will launch this initiative in two days here in New York, with a number of ministers who are personally committed to the ICC. I believe that such an informal network at the political level is precisely what the Court needs as it continues to carry the flag of justice in a challenging international environment. It goes to the core of the dilemma that the Court is confronted with: the ICC is a purely judicial institution that mainly stands up for itself by delivering professional, independent and non-political investigations and prosecutions. It is not designed to and therefore does not have the necessary tools to withstand political headwinds. This is particularly true in situations where it is mandated by the Security Council to undertake delicate investigations, and even more so as the Security Council fails to fully support the Court after it refers a situation. We supporters must therefore stand up for the Court in the political arena. Have we done enough in this regard in recent years? In my view, far from it. And this is why we are launching this new collaboration in support of the ICC.

Our third pledge is to submit to the UN Security Council suggestions on ways to strengthen the UN sanctions system. We have been working with like-minded countries for several years to improve the listing and delisting process and to bring some measure of due process to targeted sanctions. We applaud the Security Council for the improvements made in some areas, in particular by establishing an Ombudsperson for individuals and entities that have been identified as being associated with Al-Qaida. We also acknowledge that these procedural improvements were not easy, because the Security Council is originally not designed to deal with individuals. Today, fair and clear procedures for sanctions listing and delisting are no longer an experiment. Higher standards for listing as well as the Ombudsperson process have improved the accuracy of the Al-Qaida sanctions list and therefore its credibility. It is a prime example of how promoting the rule of law is not just something for lawyers, but a tremendous political tool. Now is the time for the Security Council to learn the lessons from these early developments, and to apply them to other sanctions regimes as well. We look forward to working with our like-minded partners to make concrete suggestions in this regard.

Mr. President,

To conclude, let me once again emphasize the full commitment of Liechtenstein to the rule of law. Today's debate is a milestone in the promotion of the rule of law at the United Nations, and I sincerely hope that we can build on this success to make even greater progress in the future.

I thank you.