



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTH COMMITTEE: THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
LEVELS

STATEMENT BY MS. MARIA WARZINEK, LEGAL ADVISER

Mr. Chair,

The rule of law at the international level anchored in the UN Charter is critical to our peaceful and productive co-existence. This is particularly true for small and medium-sized states. However, the proliferation of illegal uses of force globally – most notably by Russia’s aggression against Ukraine – as well as brazen violations of international humanitarian law, especially in the Middle East are undermining the post-World War II system that we built together to ensure the peace and security of all of our nations.

We must recall why this Organization was created in the first place: “to save future generations from the scourge of war.” What does that mean in practice? It means the *raison d’être* of this Organization is to end aggression and the war crimes that inevitably flow from it. We have all agreed to the provisions of the UN Charter with the prohibition of the use of force as its cornerstone. For this prohibition to be effective, it must be backed up by accountability when violated. This is why we need to establish a special international tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine. And, this is why we must work quickly to bring the ICC’s jurisdiction over the crime of aggression in line with its jurisdiction over its other core crimes. No leader that has committed aggression should have impunity. Ending impunity for the crime of

aggression not only brings justice to the victims of illegal war-making, but also helps deter future 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, from climate change to cyberwarfare. We must have the legal tools to respond to the most existential threats for people and planet. This is why Liechtenstein – in line with our unwavering commitment to the rule of law – was part of Vanuatu's core group elaborating the General Assembly's request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the question of climate change. We look forward to the ICJ's advisory opinion on this important question and to participating in the oral proceedings in December.

We are also committed to address the rule of law challenges posed by cyberwarfare. We must do better to regulate the misuse of new technologies. Liechtenstein, together with partners, has produced a report on the application of the Rome Statute of the ICC to cyberwarfare, which we hope will lead to more accountability for cybercrimes. We were also pleased to see the announcement of the ICC Prosecutor that his Office will produce an official policy paper on investigating and prosecuting cybercrimes and we look forward to contributing to its elaboration.

Mr. Chair,

Finally, the full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system should be guaranteed, for States and for individuals. For States, this means whether you're big or small, from the north or south, you must have an equal say in the development of international law. In fact, small States are the natural torchbearers of international law because the protection of law is crucial for our national security. We must also ensure inclusive

representation, including gender equality, in all international legal fora. Sadly, the reality is starkly different: 28 out of 34 members of the International Law Commission are men and only 4 of 15 judges of the International Court of Justice are women. In comparison, the bench of the ICC is gender balanced. We must do better to achieve the same for the UN's highest court. The benefits of full, equal, and equitable participation in the international legal system are far-reaching. It will allow us to better tackle major global challenges from conflict prevention to climate change. Inclusivity ensures that all voices are heard and represented, fostering fairer solutions and stronger institutions.

I thank you.