



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIRST COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT BY MR. STEFAN BARRIGA, MINISTER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Chairman,

The main goal for disarmament is the prevention of armed conflict and the human suffering caused by it, while guarding international stability. In pursuing this goal, we must strike a balance between visionary aims and feasible measures. We further believe that initiatives in this context should take due account of applicable human rights law and international humanitarian law in order to maximize their legitimacy and implementation by all actors. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was a very positive example in this regard.

The prolonged and ongoing deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) can no longer be disregarded. At the same time, we cannot simply put the CD aside as an ineffective tool – much rather, we must make it work. Like many other states, we had hoped that this Assembly at its last session would set a deadline for the CD to achieve real progress.

Mr. Chairman

The High-level event on Nuclear Disarmament recently held in the General Assembly highlighted the need to make progress on this important agenda, which is an integral part of the overall architecture reflected in the non-proliferation treaty (NPT). But much more needs to be done to achieve the long-term goal of a world free of nuclear weapons – and indeed free of all weapons of mass destruction. It is essential that we achieve universality of the NPT without further delay. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is a key instrument for advancing non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. We therefore encourage all Member States, especially those listed in Annex 2 of the treaty, to ratify it. We warmly welcome the decision of Indonesia, as an Annex-2 State, to do so. In addition, we would like to underline the obligation of nuclear weapon States to consider the legitimate interest of non-nuclear weapon States in further reducing the operational status of nuclear weapon systems.

Mr. Chairman

We welcome the fact that the Security Council has responded to the use of chemical weapons in Syria and decided to destroy all chemical weapons in the country. These developments have illustrated the importance of the prohibition of the use chemical weapons, as well as the crucial role of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. We hope that this will create a new momentum for the universal ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The recent focus on weapons of mass destruction must not overshadow the fact that conventional weapons, and in particular small arms and light weapons, cause the vast majority of casualties in armed conflict, especially among civilians. We welcome the adoption of a resolution on small arms and light weapons by the Security Council a couple of weeks ago. The most important development in this area by far, however, was the adoption of the ATT earlier this year – the greatest achievement in international law in the recent past.

The ATT will fill an important gap curbing the proliferation of weapons. We have seen time and time again how illegally-traded arms can intensify a conflict and cause widespread suffering among civilian populations. Liechtenstein signed the ATT on the first day and welcomes the strong positive response the ATT has received from Member States since its adoption. We commend those States that have already ratified the treaty and are thereby contributing to its early entry into force.

Earlier this year, Liechtenstein ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Our domestic legislation goes beyond what is required by the Convention and also prohibits the funding of cluster munitions, both directly and indirectly. A similar prohibition is in place regarding the funding of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, as well as anti-personnel mines. Furthermore, Liechtenstein's parliament recently approved the ratification of the Palermo Protocol against the illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms; the instrument will soon be deposited.

Finally, we would like to draw attention to the heavy burden that the various disarmament resolutions place on States that wish to report and submit their views to the Secretary General. We encourage the Secretariat to develop a consolidated reporting tool to make it easier, especially for smaller States, to comply adequately and in due time.

I thank you.