



EMBASSY  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

BOTSCHAFT  
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

**53<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States**  
**“Strengthening a culture of democratic accountability**  
**with human rights promotion, protection, and equality in the Americas.”**

*Written Statement by Ambassador Georg Sparber,  
Permanent Observer of the Principality of Liechtenstein  
to the Organization of American States,*

*on the occasion of the Dialogue between the Heads of Delegation of OAS Member States,  
the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General with Permanent Observers*

Washington, DC  
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Liechtenstein is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the exchange between Member States of the OAS and Permanent Observers. The longstanding tradition in the OAS of engaging observers in the work of the Organization is a best practice for inclusive multilateralism. Liechtenstein thanks the Secretary General, his team, and Member States for the support and cooperation throughout the year.

As the oldest regional organization, the OAS embodies the principles of democracy and the rule of law, and has consistently contributed to advancing human rights and comprehensive security in the Western Hemisphere and beyond. The clear condemnation by the OAS of Russia’s illegal war against Ukraine is as case in point. Russia’s crime of aggression constitutes a grave attack on the international rule of law on which all peaceful States rely for their security. In order to preserve the international legal order for the future, the international community must respond with a strong and principled call for accountability. Together with a growing number of like-minded States Liechtenstein advocates for a Special International Tribunal, mandated by the UN General Assembly, to prosecute the Russian leadership for its illegal warfare. Such a Special International Tribunal will complement the efforts of the International Criminal Court to hold those to account who are responsible for committing atrocity crimes in Ukraine. In parallel, we will pursue efforts to ensure that the jurisdictional reach of the Court over the crime of aggression is identical with that over the other core crimes. We are hoping to get strong support from OAS members in this endeavor. As a key constituency of the International Criminal Court, the Western Hemisphere has an important role with respect to the two arrest warrants already issued by the ICC in the context of Ukraine. Liechtenstein looks forward to engaging with all interested Member States in also bringing the crime of aggression to justice and thereby corroborating the primacy of the law against the rule of might.

Within the OAS, Liechtenstein continues to be a proud supporter of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). Gender equality and the empowerment of women is a key component of democracy and democratic accountability in every country and an essential element of human security and sustainable development. It also remains an area where our legal obligations and political commitments face enormous implementation gaps. For Liechtenstein, the protection of vulnerable groups remains a priority, in particular in the framework of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Liechtenstein will also continue to engage with OAS partners in fighting human trafficking, in particular in humanitarian settings through financial inclusion. The public-private partnership initiative “Finance against Slavery and Trafficking”, or FAST, aims at mobilizing the financial sector to this end.

Liechtenstein also sees great potential in the principle to “follow the money” when it comes to environmental crimes. As an initial supporter of the Basel Institute’s Green Corruption program, Liechtenstein supports developing tools to fight environmental crime by identifying illicit financial flows and prosecuting corrupt practices and financial crimes associated with environmental degradation, from illegal mining and logging to wildlife trafficking and waste dumping. The OAS region is an important partner in this agenda, including by highlighting success stories and developing best practices.

Liechtenstein shares the OAS’s grave concern about the situation in Haiti and welcomes the Organization for its proactive approach in support of the country. Over the years, Liechtenstein has endeavored to be a reliable bilateral partner of Haiti in response to the most pressing humanitarian needs, in the context of natural disasters, the Cholera and other health emergencies, food insecurity and pervasive violence. Liechtenstein’s efforts focus on support for schools and the education system, sustainable construction and financial inclusion. At the same time, it is clear that the rule of law needs to be reestablished urgently in the country as a “sine qua non” condition to bring Haiti on a path towards peace, democracy and sustainable development. Liechtenstein supports OAS and other international efforts to that end.

Finally, as Liechtenstein looks forward to assuming the presidency of the Council of Europe - the OAS’s sister organization - later this year, we extend a hand to our partners in the Western Hemisphere to continue working together on our common priorities.