

**EOV „Combating the glorification of Nazism...“**

***check against delivery***

I am taking the floor to explain the positions of Iceland, Switzerland and my own country, Liechtenstein, on resolution L.56 as revised and just adopted.

Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein are strong supporters of all measures to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including Nazism and neo-Nazism. We have ratified the relevant conventions and fully support the work of the UN bodies and the Council of Europe in this regard. The growing support in many countries of extremist political parties, in particular parties with extreme right-wing ideology, is a reason for concern. However, so is the labeling of groups or political parties as endorsing “Nazism”, for political expediency, when such groups do not subscribe to the ideology that led to the World War II and the unspeakable crimes committed by the Nazi regime.

The resolution just adopted contains some very important elements contributing to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. While we do agree with many ideas presented in this text, we regret that changes proposed by other delegations to broaden the scope of the resolution were not taken on board. We also question the timeliness of adopting a resolution with a near exclusive emphasis on Nazism and neo-Nazism, as many current forms of racial discrimination and xenophobia do not have their roots in the Nazi ideology.

Also, concerns persist with regards to paragraphs *de facto* restricting the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association as well as the rights to freedom of opinion and expression. We believe that a careful balance must be struck between freedom of expression and the fight against racism, as reflected in consensual resolutions adopted by this Assembly and the Human Rights Council. Enabling and encouraging a free exchange of ideas contributes to a well-informed and politically mature population, able to decide for itself where hate speech begins and freedom of expression ends.

For these reasons, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein decided to abstain during the vote on this resolution.

I thank you.