



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
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**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
68TH SESSION**

**ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN
AND GIRLS BY ADDRESSING POVERTY AND STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND FINANCING WITH A
GENDER PERSPECTIVE**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chair,

I am delighted to be at this 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, since we are for the second time member of the Commission. The CSW remains one of most important events in the UN calendar. It has helped bring about much progress for the empowerment of women since its creation. Its convening power is impressive, but unfortunately not always matched by the impact of its outcomes. It is pivotal for the UN membership to work together in determining more effective working methods and meaningful products of the Commission, especially in light of the global backlash against women's rights, the proliferation of misogynist as well as anti-feminist rhetoric and policies across the globe.

The 2030 Agenda is clear that gender equality is a cross-cutting topic, and a necessary foundation for achieving a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future. But with the current rate of progress, we will reach effective gender equality only in almost three centuries. This worrying trend is unacceptable and needs to be urgently reversed. We cannot effectively address and overcome pressing challenges like climate change and armed conflict as long as half of the world's population does not enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

Mr. Chair,

Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are not only important in and of themselves, but also integral to the empowerment of women and girls and to address the feminization of poverty. We all must do our part to reinforce the

increasingly fragile trust in public institutions and fight corruption, especially practices which constrain women's access to health care services, education and the judiciary. A particularly dramatic example of structural discrimination and exclusion is the draconian curtailment of the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. Together with a group of fellow Women Foreign Ministers at the Munich Security Conference last month, we have called upon the Taliban to put an end to the systemic gender persecution, which could amount to crimes against humanity.

Strengthening the rule of law both at the national and international level is also fundamental to end predominant cultures of impunity regarding sexual and gender-based violence. In this regard, we are particularly alarmed by the findings of the recent report by Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, on conflict-related sexual violence committed on October 7 and its aftermath. All reported incidences of conflict-related sexual violence must be vigorously investigated and prosecuted. There must be accountability for the most serious crimes under international law, including through the ongoing investigation of the International Criminal Court which has jurisdiction on the territory of the State of Palestine and crimes committed by Palestinian nationals.

Mr. Chair,

Preventing and combating violence against women as well as human trafficking is also among Liechtenstein's priorities as we currently hold the rotating presidency of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers. With the Istanbul Convention,

the Council of Europe has taken a leading role in preventing violence, protecting victims and survivors and ensuring accountability for these crimes. I very much look forward to welcoming the experts of national coordinating bodies established under the Istanbul Convention in Liechtenstein next month.