



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 29: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

Since its creation over 70 years ago, the United Nations has achieved important results in advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls. This includes the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women as well as the adoption of various milestone agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. While some forms of discrimination against women and girls have diminished, gender inequality remains one of the major challenges of our times. It continues to hold women back and deprives them of basic rights and opportunities. Empowering women requires addressing structural barriers such as unfair social norms and attitudes as well as developing progressive legal frameworks that promote equality between women and men.

Earlier this year, the Liechtenstein Government adopted its national implementation strategy for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Based on a gap analysis, the Government decided to prioritize a set of specific Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 5 on gender equality is among the eight SDGs which is given highest priority in the national implementation. In

particular, the Government commits to a more active gender equality policy and signals its readiness to provide financial support for specific gender equality projects at the domestic level.

Mr. Chair,

Sexual and gender-based violence is another issue which is still prevalent despite our common efforts to eliminate it – and it is often times a consequence of gender inequality. Harmful gender stereotypes and abusive power dynamics form the basis on which systemic and widespread sexual violence can thrive. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender based violence. However, there are also numerous men and boys among the victims. In fact, men and boys make up the majority in certain contexts, such as recruitment or detention settings in armed conflicts. Sexual violence against men and boys continues to be underreported, owing to cultural taboos and fear of being stigmatized. Only if we understand the underlying factors of this crime, irrespective of the victims' gender, can we find comprehensive and sustainable solutions for all.

Mr. Chair,

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking are among the most severe human right violations of our times. There is an estimated 40 mio. people who live in slavery-like conditions. While the number of men among detected victims of trafficking has significantly increased over the past 10 years, in most areas of the world women and girls still make up the overwhelming majority. Women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labor and forced marriages and they are victims of other forms of exploitation, such as domestic servitude in family households and begging.

Modern Slavery and human trafficking are multifaceted and complex phenomena which require comprehensive and holistic responses. We are glad that the 2030 Agenda acknowledges this reality and contains specific targets that address these crimes: in particular target 5.2, target

8.7 and target 16.2. In its resolution 71/167 on trafficking in women and girls, the General Assembly urged Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls.

The fight against modern slavery and human trafficking is a high priority for Liechtenstein, both at the national and international level. In the last revision of the Foreigners Act which entered into force earlier this year, the sentences for human trafficking were tightened, especially in cases of trafficking of groups of persons and dangerous circumstances of transportation. The new provision imposes imprisonment for up to ten years for human trafficking in certain severe cases. At the international level, Liechtenstein is determined to use its expertise as a financial center to identify and disrupt financial flows associated with modern slavery and human trafficking – an illegal business which generates overall revenue of USD 150 billion a year. In cooperation with Australia and the United Nations University, we developed the “Liechtenstein Initiative for a Financial Sector Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking”. This public-private partnership brings together actors from retail banks, hedge funds, global regulators, institutional investors, survivors as well as the UN and the anti-slavery movement who will develop measures for the global financial sector to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking. We hope that this initiative will contribute to the elimination of modern slavery and human trafficking and the protection of women and girls who are particularly vulnerable to it.

I thank you.