



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

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NEW YORK, 6 NOVEMBER 2013  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRD COMMITTEE  
ITEM 62: UNHCR

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT BY MR. CLAUDIO NARDI, SECOND SECRETARY**

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein appreciates the strong leadership by the High Commissioner for Refugees and thanks him for the latest report presented before the Committee. Liechtenstein is deeply concerned about the high number of newly displaced persons, which in fact has never been higher during any twelve month period since the beginning of this century. The emergency response capacity of UNHCR and its partners has been severely stretched by the four acute and simultaneous crises in the DRC, Mali, Sudan/South Sudan and Syria. Liechtenstein commends the work accomplished by the High Commissioner in such difficult circumstances and shares UNHCR's assessment that the combination of new crises and drawn-out emergencies reflect the limited capacity of the international community to address the root causes of conflict. Without a strong international consensus aimed at prevention and early conflict resolution, the humanitarian landscape will become increasingly unpredictable and ever harder to manage.

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein also thanks the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons for reminding States of their responsibilities in protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons. While the international community can assist with

the implementation of durable solutions for and provide humanitarian assistance to displaced persons, Member States bear the primary duty and responsibility to ensure such assistance. Member States are under an international obligation to ensure the immediate, safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian personnel, supplies and equipment and may not deny access to humanitarian personnel, supplies and equipment on arbitrary grounds. Rather than instrumentalizing access for political purposes, Member States should simplify and expedite procedures in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting Internally Displaced Persons. Unfortunately, we continue to receive reports to the contrary from Syria where we experience the most urgent human rights and humanitarian crisis in recent times with over 2 million persons having sought refuge in neighboring countries and more than 5.1 million displaced internally.

Mr. Chairman

We wish to offer our sincere condolences to the families of the two UNHCR staff members who recently lost their lives while on duty. Humanitarian workers in general continue to be exposed to significant personal risk in the context of persistent insecurity, even as the number of security incidents affecting UNHCR staff dropped in 2012. The main responsibility for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel continues to remain with States. We urge all states to provide legal protection for humanitarian workers operating under their jurisdiction by ratifying and implementing the Convention on Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its Optional Protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

In conflict situations the involved parties have the responsibility to facilitate the work of international humanitarian organizations, in particular the ICRC and the UNHCR. The parties should provide and secure the necessary humanitarian space and access, in accordance with international humanitarian law. Liechtenstein is particularly concerned that many internally displaced children lack access to education in all phases of displacement owing to attacks against schools and damaged or destroyed school buildings. We call upon Member States to

ensure the right of internally displaced children to quality education. Furthermore, parties to a conflict have the primary responsibility to hold perpetrators of grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law accountable in order to put an end to the widespread climate of impunity for such crimes. An independent and objective judicial examination of criminal responsibilities during conflicts is the first step towards post-conflict reconciliation and can thus contribute to the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return of IDPs to their homes.

I thank you.