



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE SYRIA CRISIS HOSTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AURELIA FRICK
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Liechtenstein welcomes the European Union's continued commitment to address the devastating humanitarian crisis in Syria as follow-up to the Brussel's conference earlier this year.

Liechtenstein has consistently stood in solidarity with the international community in addressing this crisis: 23 Syrian refugees were resettled from Turkey to Liechtenstein in 2014/15 and we are committed to relocating additional refugees. Since 2012, Liechtenstein has provided CHF 2.6 million for humanitarian projects in the Syria context, with a strong focus on education and integration programs. With a per capita contribution of USD 67, Liechtenstein belongs to the top donors in this category. For the years 2017 and 2018, Liechtenstein pledges to contribute additional CHF 500'000 for projects in the Syria context.

It is crucial to continue contributing what we can to alleviate the humanitarian consequences of the conflict. But it is just as important to address the causes of the humanitarian tragedy in Syria.

The conduct of the conflict parties is the core of the problem. A crucial driver of displacement is their disrespect for the most basic rules on international humanitarian law. I therefore recall the importance of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) for the crimes committed in Syria, established in December last year. The Mechanism takes us a decisive step forward to ensure accountability for the atrocities that have characterized the conflict in Syria. I salute the 30 States that have contributed more than USD 11 million to the budget of the Mechanism, with the biggest contribution coming from the European Union. This takes us close to the budget requirements for the first year of operations of the mechanism. The response also illustrates the political acceptance the mechanism enjoys among States. I also echo the call of the Secretary-General on States to cooperate with the Mechanism. The Liechtenstein authorities are working to ensure that we have the necessary legal basis in place to share information and documentation in our possession.

I thank you.