



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
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SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

**PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS**

**STATEMENT BY MR. STEFAN BARRIGA, MINISTER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I.**

*Speaking Points (check against delivery)*

Liechtenstein aligns itself with the statement by Friends of POC (Switzerland); additional points:

Protection challenges of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict

- Context: 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SCR 1325 (Women, Peace and Security); 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; global study implementation 1325.
- Reviews on Peace Operations/Peacebuilding: take POC into account.
- **Protection cannot be separated from participation:** make sure that women are part of the solution: empowered members of society, with the right to participate at every level of decision-making. Address vulnerabilities *before* conflicts break out, invest in empowerment of women and promoting gender equality.
- Increased recognition of women’s vital role in preventing and solving conflicts and peacebuilding, not just vulnerability (DPKO, PBC). Translate commitments to change on the ground.

- **Implementation of existing commitments is key:** UN leadership (SG, heads of missions, SRSGs, force commanders, Special Envoys, etc.) must lead by example: deploy sufficient gender advisors, focus on including women in conflict resolution efforts (cf. South Sudan/Hilde Johnson; Great Lakes Region/Mary Robinson). Not a matter of lacking resources, but prioritizing existing funds.
- **Deterrence through criminal accountability:** important role for national and international justice mechanisms, such as the ICC. Increasing evidence of deterrent effect of ICC, especially with regard to actors that seek some degree of legitimacy. ICC Prosecutor has declared focus on sexual and gender-based violence. Criminal accountability at domestic level (e.g. mobile courts in DRC).

#### Protection challenges of persons with disabilities in conflict and post-conflict

- Persons with disabilities are highly vulnerable in conflict, multitude of challenges exacerbated by barriers to the environment and to communication, as well as attitudes:
  - o difficulty fleeing from violence because of physical barriers; difficulty communicating during or understanding the nature of an emergency.
  - o 15% of the general population are estimated to have a disability, higher rates in conflict zones: conflict is a cause of disability, both physical and psychosocial, and conflict disproportionately affects persons with disabilities.
  - o Women and girls with disabilities are at particular risk of sexual violence, especially during conflict.
  - o Problem is understudied and needs urgent attention, including by humanitarian actors and the Security Council.