



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

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRD COMMITTEE
ITEM 28 (A) AND (B): ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
STATEMENT BY Ms. ANTONIA STRACHWITZ, ADVISOR

Mr. Chairman,

This year we have witnessed a number of remarkable events in the area of women's rights and their advocacy. We secured the historic adoption of strong agreed conclusions on violence against women during the 57th session of the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, an important step forward in safeguarding and strengthening women's rights. We urge all States and relevant entities of the UN system to live up to the agreements contained in that document. States need to implement their commitments at national level accordingly and expeditiously.

My delegation welcomes the adoption of Security Council resolution 2106 earlier this year that further advances our efforts to end **sexual violence in conflict**. Sexual violence not only constitutes a major infringement on the dignity and physical integrity of the victim but also tears at the fundamental social fabric of a community. We welcome the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict initiated by the United Kingdom and have joined the 123 States that have endorsed it so far. The Declaration sends a clear message that sexual violence is unacceptable, and that we all must redouble our efforts in this fight.

Liechtenstein also welcomes the appointment of Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-NGCuka as new Executive Director of **UN Women**. We look forward to working closely with her and her team during our membership in the Executive Board in 2014.

Mr. Chairman,

One of the major challenges in the area of women's rights, specifically in the area of violence against women and sexual violence, is a continuing **culture of impunity**. This is not only detrimental to the victim's healing process; a systematic lack of accountability is also conducive to new violence. Therefore, justice and the rule of law have to be strengthened at all levels. It is the primary responsibility of States to ensure that those who violate women's human rights will be held accountable. States need to raise awareness, build trust in their **national judicial systems** and make them effective and universally accessible; they must also train officials to provide victims with the support they need and make sure they receive protection and redress. The Rome Statute of the **International Criminal Court** (ICC) has significantly advanced international law through its recognition of sexual violence as a war crime and crime against humanity. In addition, chief prosecutor Ms. Fatou Bensouda has declared sexual violence in conflict as one of the main focuses in her work. Currently, 18 individuals in 14 of the Court's cases are being charged with sexual crimes.

Mr. Chairman,

Women continue to be excluded from decision-making, as stakeholders in peace processes and as mediators. As a result, their rights and needs are often neglected in peace accords and institutional arrangements. States must do more to protect the **rights of women to participate on equal terms and at all levels**, even more so in times of political transition. My delegation hopes for a strong outcome of the Security Council's Open Debate on 18 October dedicated inter alia to transitional justice. The Council should make sure that special emphasis is put on the importance of women's equal participation at such a crucial point in a country's history. So far, the participation pillar of SCR 1325 has received too little attention. The UN must lead by example and appoint more women as leaders in mediation and other transitional processes. In

this regard, Liechtenstein welcomes the appointment of Mary Robinson as Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region and her active engagement to involve women.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite repeated commitments and advances in the legal framework to strengthen women's rights and to protect them from violence, **violence against women** continues to prevail. In fact, the agenda has suffered a backlash in recent years. It is worrisome to see that the standards contained in the **Beijing Platform for Action**, a document that was agreed upon almost 20 years ago, are still considered negotiable. Our focus should be on moving things forward now, while ensuring that progress also benefits vulnerable groups, such as migrants, women with disabilities, indigenous women and women living in remote areas. Gender-based violence does not only constitute a clear human rights violation, studies have also proven that there is a direct correlation between gender equality and development: violence against women hampers productivity, reduces human capital, undermines economic growth and hinders their full participation in all aspects of society. Against this background, Liechtenstein strongly supports the inclusion of a stand-alone gender goal and the mainstreaming of gender issues throughout the **post-2015 development agenda**.

I thank you.