



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

NEW YORK, 25 APRIL 2014

SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

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

Madam President,

The recent Secretary-General’s report on conflict-related sexual violence once again illustrated the **alarming increase in sexual violence**, often used as a method of warfare. With the adoption of Resolution 2106, the Council has provided us with important tools to end this abominable practice. Nevertheless, we continue to face a **major gap in the actual implementation of these measures**. A lack of prioritization, capacity, adequate training, services and ultimately resources are the main reasons. Liechtenstein was therefore pleased to be among the 144 States that endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict initiated by the United Kingdom last fall. The Declaration sends a clear message that we all must redouble our efforts in this regard. We sincerely hope that the upcoming **summit in London** this June will help to bring about increased impetus and better implementation.

Madam President,

A major barrier to the effective protection of women from sexual violence is the continuing **culture of impunity**. We welcome the ICC Prosecutor’s focus on the fight against sexual

violence in her work. Crimes of sexual violence play a role in nearly every case under investigation. This speaks both to the startling prevalence of conflict-related sexual violence as well as to the ICC's commitment to holding perpetrators of these crimes accountable. Nevertheless, in practice the fight to end impunity has barely begun: justice for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence continues to be the exception to the rule and holding perpetrators accountable has proven to be exceedingly difficult. This was once again illustrated by the ICC's recent verdict against Germaine Katanga, which acquitted him from charges of rape and sexual slavery. Generally speaking, it is crucial that **evidence** is professionally collected at the earliest possible stage. This process may be assisted *inter alia* by Justice Rapid Response (JRR). Liechtenstein proudly supports JRR's work on sexual and gender-based violence.

Survivors of sexual violence only rarely receive **reparations**. In this context we particularly commend the work of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims, which adopts a gender perspective across all its activities and assists survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Madame President,

Protection issues are crucial, but we need the same level of emphasis on the participation pillar of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. The Secretary General reported that sexual violence is also specifically **being used as a method of curtailing the participation of women and girls in public life**. This is a worrisome development. Indeed, the voices of survivors, especially of sexual violence, are rarely heard. Victimization often comes with stigmatization and many choose to remain silent. We must do more to ensure that survivors and their representatives and organizations are at the table when we work toward ending sexual violence. We are convinced that this will have a strong impact on the willingness of the relevant actors to bring about change.

I thank you.