



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

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NEW YORK, 27 JUNE 2019  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY – PLENARY MEETING ON THE  
**RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT**  
**STATEMENT BY Ms. MYRIAM OEHRI**  
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES, A.I.

Madam President,

Liechtenstein welcomes this third formal debate of the General Assembly on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the Group of Friends of R2P. The agreement on the Responsibility to Protect is one of the most important achievements of the 2005 World Summit. Liechtenstein continues to be fully committed to the R2P norm and consistently supports measures to further improve its operationalization.

Madam President,

The concept of R2P enjoys broad political support, but much remains to be done in practice. The responsibility of each State to protect its population from mass atrocities is uncontested, but in committing to the R2P norm we have also collectively agreed on a joint obligation when authorities are unable or unwilling to live up to this responsibility. R2P can be implemented

through a broad variety of measures, from diplomatic engagement to more vigorous action, including action taken by the UN Security Council. As the situations in Myanmar, Syria and Yemen prove, the responsibility to protect continues to be elusive in practice all too often. It is with increasing frustration that we have been observing the inability of the Council to do its work.

Madam President,

In an important commitment to improve the performance of the Security Council, 119 States have signed on to the ACT Code of Conduct on mass atrocities. They thereby commit to take measures to end and prevent atrocity crimes, when serving on the Council, and not to vote against credible draft resolutions put forward to that effect. The Code of Conduct is an essential political commitment that can change the political culture in the Council when faced with the risk or occurrence of atrocity crimes. In spite of the strong support for the Code of Conduct, the use of the veto has significantly increased in recent years, in most cases preventing Security Council action in response to mass atrocities. Liechtenstein supports a strong and active role of the General Assembly, in particular where the Security Council fails to address atrocity crimes in accordance with its Charter mandate. The Syria Mechanism (IIIM) is a positive example of the potential the General Assembly has in this regard. Liechtenstein is also of the principled view that any veto cast in the Security Council should automatically be discussed in the General Assembly, independently of the subject matter and without prejudice to the outcome of such a discussion. We are pleased to see that this approach finds interest in the membership.

Madam President,

Liechtenstein agrees with the Secretary-General that a stronger focus on prevention is necessary. We very much welcome his new strategy against hate speech, which can trigger and sustain a spiral of escalation and violence that may result in atrocity crimes. Under pillar 1 of the responsibility to protect States have a clear responsibility to act preventively against such developments. A vocal stance against hate speech by the political leadership can send a strong message to that end. In addition, States must promote and make full use of the rule of law when mass atrocity crimes are committed. Criminal accountability for mass atrocities is of paramount importance to break recurring cycles of violence and deter the commission of future crimes. The International Criminal Court can play a direct impactful role with respect to preventing mass atrocity crimes from occurring and we will continue to support the Court and its important work, including by promoting the universality of the Rome Statute.

I thank you.