



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

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SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President,

I would like to start by thanking the United States for holding this debate, and the Special Representative as well as the other briefers for their information and analysis. While we welcome the Secretary-General's annual report, we are once again appalled by its findings: Children around the world continued to suffer serious violations of their rights, including unlawful recruitment and use as soldiers, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abductions and denial of humanitarian access in 23 conflict situations in 2013. Since then, the plight of children has gone from bad to worse in several situations, including in Gaza, Syria, Iraq and Nigeria. Liechtenstein particularly condemns the unspeakable violence committed by Boko Haram and fully supports its listing in the annex to the report as well as its inclusion in the Council's Al-Qaida sanctions list.

Madam President,

We would like to congratulate the SRSO and UNICEF for the success of their "children not soldiers" campaign. Liechtenstein commends Chad for having implemented the Action Plan and its delisting from the Secretary General's report. We are also pleased by the progress achieved

with the governments of Yemen, Myanmar, Afghanistan and South Sudan. Nevertheless, we note that 51 of the 59 parties listed are non-State actors. Most of them have been listed for at least five years and are hence considered persistent perpetrators. We therefore continue to support the SRSG's efforts to engage with *all* relevant parties to conclude action plans and promote their implementation. We welcome in this regard the commitments made by non-State actors in South Sudan, the Philippines and Syria.

We hope that these will soon be followed by action and tangible progress on the ground.

Madam President,

Of the 23 conflicts profiled in the Secretary-General's report, 17 included targeted attacks on schools, students and teachers. In 15 conflicts, parties used schools for military purposes. Liechtenstein reiterates its condemnation of these practices, which gravely endanger civilians and deprive children of their education. We urge States to take steps nationally as well as internationally to end these serious violations of international humanitarian law and to protect children's right to education. We therefore welcome the draft Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict and hope for their widespread implementation. We commend the leadership role that Norway has taken in this regard.

Madam President,

We cannot continue to tolerate inaction and impunity with regard to the atrocious crimes committed against children every day. Liechtenstein believes that the Council should make more frequent use of its power to refer situations to the International Criminal Court (ICC) which can play an important role in this regard. Furthermore, efforts aimed at resolving conflicts must take greater account of children's needs. Mediation processes and peace negotiations and their outcomes should include the perspective of children at the earliest possible stage – this will lead to broader understanding and acceptance and ultimately better implementation. We therefore call on the Security Council, relevant UN entities and Member

States concerned to consistently integrate and address the needs of children in all relevant decisions and policies and most importantly in their work on the ground.

I thank you.