



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

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NEW YORK, 18 OCTOBER 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

**ITEM 72: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY**

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

Next year, we commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Charter. One of the purposes of the UN reflected in it is to “promote and encourage respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all.” In the years after its adoption, the International Bill of Human Rights and several core treaties were created – one of the proudest achievements of the UN in the area of standard-setting. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are thus clearly defined in international law, but, for too many their enjoyment remains utopic. Human rights are inherent to all human beings, and interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. Over 25 years ago, the VDPA affirmed the universal nature of all human rights. But today, some States increasingly opt for a ‘pick and choose’ approach, implement human rights selectively, or – even worse – commit human rights violations.

The trend to undermine human rights standards goes hand in hand with increasing attacks against multilateral achievements, in particular in the area of international law. The upcoming anniversary of the UN Charter, more than anything else, is a moment to reaffirm our commitment for multilateralism and the international rules-based order. The Alliance of Multilateralism which

we have endorsed is an excellent initiative that helps us rally in support of the agreed human rights standards. We also see it as a platform for small States who rely in particular on the respect for international law – and who can only counter these dangerous trends when working together. We need to stand up for a rules-based order and the rule of law to prevail over the perilous rule of might.

Mr. Chair,

One area where the rule of law is particularly challenged is our work on accountability. Last year, with an overwhelming majority, the Human Rights Council created an accountability mechanism for the heinous crimes committed against the Rohingya and other religious minorities in Myanmar. This is a crucial first step to guarantee accountability, which is indispensable for the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya refugees and forcibly displaced persons. In this regard, we deplore that this year's resolution of the Human Rights Council omits relevant references to accountability, including the important steps taken by the International Criminal Court in the context of forced deportation. It is particularly unsatisfactory that last year's language on the progress made with respect to accountability is no longer reflected in the resolution. In the same vein, we regret that the important steps taken by the ICC regarding the human rights and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, a State Party to the Rome Statute, could not be reflected accordingly in either of the two resolutions adopted by the Council. In both country situations, accountability is of obvious high relevance to achieve the human rights challenges the respective resolutions seek to address.

Mr. Chair,

Liechtenstein will continue its political investment in the Human Rights Council. This also includes honoring its founding resolution 60/215 which stipulates among other things that Council members "shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights" and "shall fully cooperate with the Council". If we continue our decision-making in the context of Council elections in a manner that is obviously inconsistent with these provisions, we weaken the

Council and make it more vulnerable to political attack. In the past, we have abstained from supporting a number of candidatures who in our view do not meet the agreed standards and we will continue our policy in the future, also in the cases of clean slates in regional groups. Liechtenstein's commitment to a functioning Council and other UN bodies is also reflected by paying its contribution to the UN regular budget in full and on time. The ongoing precarious financial situation being faced by the UN will negatively affect its ability to fully implement its mandate, including in the field of human rights. We urge all States who have not yet done so to pay their full contributions without further delay.

I thank you.