



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN DEBATE

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

Mr. President,

Since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 almost two decades ago, remarkable progress has been made in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. We have acknowledged that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all levels of decision-making. In practice, however, gender inequality and discrimination against women remain major challenges of our times. To allow women to be agents of change, and to contribute to a more peaceful, sustainable and prosperous world, we need to ensure that they can fully enjoy their rights and realize their potentials. We need to create an environment that is enabling and inclusive, free of discrimination, unfair social norms and attitudes. Only then can we hear the voices of women human rights defenders, women political leaders, women justice and security sector actors, women peacekeepers and mediators, women journalists, activists and civil society leaders – and these voices are indispensable for sustaining peace and security.

We call upon the Security Council to invite more female briefers, including from civil society. In the same vein, we welcome efforts in integrating gender perspectives and promoting women's meaningful participation and representation in the UN's work on conflict prevention, conflict resolution and sustaining peace, including the Secretary General's Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy 2018-2028. As part of our pledges in light of the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, Liechtenstein will sustain the strong focus on the Agenda's

participation, prevention and protection pillars in the context of its international humanitarian and development cooperation.

Mr. President,

Gender inequality, including harmful gender stereotypes and abusive power dynamics, is the root cause of sexual and gender-based violence. While women and girls are disproportionately affected by sexual violence, there are also men and boys among the victims. The annual report of the Special Representative of Sexual Violence in Conflict and reports by the Liechtenstein-based human rights organization All Survivors Project document rape, gang rape, forced nudity and other forms of inhumane and degrading treatment of men in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and the Syrian Arab Republic, primarily in detention settings. The most recent report by the Secretary General on children in armed conflict in Afghanistan documents that the majority of reported cases of sexual violence affected boys.

Among the most recent achievements of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is Security Council Resolution 2467 and its survivor-centered approach. It focuses on groups that are particularly vulnerable or may be specifically targeted for conflict-related sexual violence. It requests that the monitoring, analysis and reporting focus more consistently on the gender specific nature of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations against all affected populations in all situations of concern, including men and boys. This is of utmost relevance as sexual violence against men and boys in particular continues to be underreported, owing to a lack of legal frameworks, cultural taboos and fear of stigmatization. In addition to implementing resolution 2467 and the resolutions it builds upon, we call upon the inclusion of conflict-related sexual violence as designation criterion in targeted sanction regimes.

Mr. President,

Accountability is an essential part of the fight against conflict-related sexual violence. The international criminal justice system has done ground-breaking work. Earlier this year, the International Criminal Court found the DRC warlord Bosco Ntaganda guilty of 18 counts of war

crimes and crimes against humanity. It is a milestone verdict as sexual violence crimes committed against men were held to the same standards as those committed against women. It clearly affirmed that they constitute acts of rape and were not classified under labels of lesser severity. While the Bosco Ntaganda verdict brought justice to survivors in the DRC, in other countries affected by conflict, including Syria and Myanmar, perpetrators of sexual violence continue to enjoy impunity, and victims and survivors are left alone. We call upon the Security Council to refer these situations to the ICC and we will continue our strong support for the accountability mechanisms created by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, respectively. We remain committed to strengthening criminal justice and accountability for sexual gender-based violence in conflict, including by supporting the important work done by UN Women and Justice Rapid Response.

I thank you.