



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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**UN SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA FORMULA MEETING
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madame President, Excellencies,

It is my honor to participate in this Arria Formula meeting today, and I thank you, dear Viola, and Switzerland, for uniting two UN milestone agendas in such a creative and timely manner. The promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls – both during times of conflict and during times of peace – is a longstanding priority of Liechtenstein's foreign policy. While the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Women, Peace and Security agenda are proof of our shared commitment to empower women and girls, we also observe an increasing backlash against their rights across the globe. And nowhere is this more obvious than in the numerous armed conflicts we are witnessing today. As a result of escalating violence, militarization and weakened rule of law, civilians bear the brunt of armed conflict, with a disproportionate effect on women and girls.

The topic of our discussion today is a timely reminder to reconsider the interaction of the policy and normative frameworks developed at the UN to address these crises. The WPS Agenda and CEDAW share a symbiotic relationship as they both aim to protect women's rights and promote their full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making processes. CEDAW's General Recommendation Number 30 has further reinforced this relationship by exploring the full panoply of the role and rights of women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, including as agents of change. Critically, it allows CEDAW to use the concluding observations to take a concrete stance on the state of implementation of many of the core policies of WPS, including women's participation at all decision-making levels in the armed forces, police, courts and transitional justice mechanisms dealing with conflict.

Madame President,

CEDAW and WPS also complement each other on the protection pillar. Trafficking in women and girls is often exacerbated during conflict, owing to the breakdown of political, economic and social structures. Building on Art. 6 of the Convention, General Recommendation Number 30 addresses the unique demand structures for women's sexual, economic and military exploitation in conflict and post-conflict situations and calls upon member states to adopt a

policy of zero tolerance based on international human rights standards. Liechtenstein has for many years been committed to the fight against this heinous crime. Together with the Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST) Initiative, we have mobilized the financial sector to tackle trafficking and slavery, including by enhancing the financial inclusion of women and girls to prevent vulnerability in the first place. Together we must protect and empower all women and girls – a necessary precondition for a more peaceful, just, inclusive and sustainable world.

I thank you.