



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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRD COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT BY GEORG SPARBER, SECOND SECRETARY**

ITEM 69 B/C: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS / HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Chairman,

Every human person is entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. Governments have the core responsibility to guarantee and promote this comprehensive right to development for their people. The Arab world has witnessed heroic struggles for the full enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms. The uprisings have shown us that governments cannot stand forever in the way of people's right to development in all its dimensions. While some governments continue to respond to the call of their people with oppression and violence, it has become clear that their legitimacy is irreparably damaged and that the end of their regimes will come. Where change has come, the international community and the United Nations have a particular responsibility to help ensure its irreversibility and accountability for those responsible for crimes against international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The performance of the United Nations has improved in this regard, but will crucially depend on the international community's sustained commitment to assist interested States in providing their people with a life in dignity and security. The new-gained freedom of those who have liberated themselves from autocratic regimes must be followed by prosperity and peace.

Mr. Chairman,

Once again, the High Commissioner for Human Rights has been at the helm of the United Nations's efforts to raise our awareness for human rights emergencies in a non-selective and facts-based manner. Her advocacy has been crucial in creating political momentum to address many grave human rights violations. Unfortunately, politics have sometimes been in the way of effective follow-up. As the central United Nations forum dedicated to the promotion and protection of Human Rights, the Human Rights Council has reacted swiftly to address emergency human rights situations in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and Syria. By responding to these situations the Council has strengthened its authority and relevance. While more must be done to ensure accountability in all cases of grave human rights violations, the Council has made a substantial step toward a more comprehensive fulfillment of its mandate. The largely technical review of the Council accomplished in June is an expression of the increased support for the work and the functioning of the Council and of its perception as a well-matured institution. We believe that the Council is well positioned to meet its upcoming responsibilities, the most important of which will consist in ensuring implementation of UPR recommendations during the second cycle of the peer review.

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein will continue to work for the independence of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and for upholding the system of accountability established by consensus in General Assembly resolution 48/141, as well as for the independence of the system of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. At the same time, we welcome efforts to enhance transparency in the staffing, execution and financing of these mandates, whenever they serve to enhance their effectiveness of the mandates in question. The regular budget allocation to the Office of the High Commissioner falls far short from matching the importance Member States have accorded to human rights at the 2005 World Summit, as one of the three pillars of this organization. Moreover, this year has shown that the Office faces immense financial difficulties due to the implementation of urgent human rights mandates. Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from such mandates have a direct negative impact on other Office activities. We hope that the Fifth Committee will address this situation and provide the High Commissioner with access to the Unforeseen and Extraordinary Expenses mechanism.

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein has been a longstanding supporter of a strong and independent Treaty Body system. We recognize that the workload for the Treaty Bodies has steadily increased over the past years, while no systematic discussion on how to improve their work and functioning has taken place. The current work backlog is directly detrimental to our steady call for timely reporting on the comprehensive implementation of the major human rights treaties. Due to their often urgent nature a backlog is indeed unacceptable when it comes to the consideration of individual complaints. The ad hoc solutions with which this Committee has so far responded to Treaty Bodies are clearly insufficient to address this problem. In this regard, we call for more innovative approaches to rationalize Treaty Body proceedings, like the format to meet in parallel chambers. The core responsibility to reform their work and functioning lies with the Treaty Bodies themselves. While improvements such as the List of Issues Prior to Reporting and the expanded Common Core Document are important steps in the right direction, the Treaty Bodies must do more to decrease the reporting burden for States. Coordination among the Treaty Bodies and, in particular, with the UPR mechanism should be further enhanced with a view to better mitigating the reporting burden for States. Given the difficult political environment, the Secretariat has a particular responsibility to encourage innovative and pragmatic measures to address both the work overload of Treaty Bodies and to promote further rationalization of their proceedings. We are looking forward to the report of the High Commissioner in that regard. We welcome recent initiatives spearheaded by the High Commissioner of Human Rights to launch a constructive dialogue between Treaty Bodies and Members States and look forward to intensified discussions in this regard.