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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN DEBATE

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

STATEMENT BY Ms. MYRIAM OEHRI

CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES

Madam President,

Thank you for convening this important open debate on Women, Peace, and Security. Liechtenstein thanks your delegation in particular for bringing the membership back to the Security Council chamber for the first truly “open” debate since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that this meeting will set a precedent for the return of the wider UN membership in a safe manner to this chamber, in the true spirit of multilateralism.

Women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution has been a key pillar of the Women, Peace and Security agenda since its inception in 2000. Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions acknowledge gender-responsive approaches for sustaining peace and women’s crucial role as agents of change. Resolution 2594 from September, for instance, recognizes the role of women and girls in peacekeeping transitions. In many parts of the world women have brought political change and contributed to sustainable peace, as peacekeepers, mediators, lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders, among others. Women’s participation in peace talks has increased the probability of peace agreements lasting two years by 20 percent, and those lasting 15 years by

35 percent.¹ Yet, women remain largely underrepresented such as in the UN's peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, and their contribution is often overlooked and understudied.

The relationship between the WPS Agenda and respect for international humanitarian law is one area that deserves further research, especially given the increasing erosion of the respect for this body of law in recent times. To this end, and in light of the 20th anniversary of the WPS Agenda, Liechtenstein has launched a research project with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security to better understand the effects of the presence of women in armed forces on the respect for international humanitarian law. The recently published study "Women in Uniform" shows how the changing gender make-up of the military affects its operations and culture, which can also impact IHL compliance.

Madam President,

We remain deeply concerned about the situation of women and girls in conflict, such as in Yemen, Myanmar, and the Tigray region of Ethiopia. We note in particular the precarious situation of women and girls in Afghanistan who have fought with great courage and resolve for their rights and freedoms. Their hard-won gains are now under serious threat, and the Security Council has an obligation to ensure that these gains are not reversed. Liechtenstein calls for the respect and protection of all human rights, including women's and girls' rights to free expression, movement, quality education and employment. Liechtenstein calls on those who are effectively in control to comply with their obligations under international human rights law and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, such as UNSC 2593 (2021). This resolution encourages all parties to seek an inclusive, negotiated political settlement, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women that responds to the desire of Afghans and adheres to the rule of law. Peace cannot be built by imposing a patriarchal society on women and girls. Any backsliding on women's political participation would be disastrous for Afghanistan's future and its prospects for peace.

I thank you.

¹ <https://wps.unwomen.org/participation/>