



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 65: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

**STATEMENT BY NATHALIE HOFFMANN, ADVISOR**

Mr. Chairman,

The promotion and protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child, are at the forefront of Liechtenstein's engagement at the United Nations. We fully endorse the Convention of the Rights of the Child and look forward to its universality which would establish a global protective framework for the rights of children. We support the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to ensure full implementation of the Convention. The Committee has also played a leadership role in adopting innovative working methods to make its proceedings more efficient and effective. It is our responsibility as Members of the General Assembly to provide the Committee with sufficient resources to carry out its work most efficiently. Liechtenstein will engage constructively in the search for a sustainable resourcing solution that will allow the Committee to consider in a timely manner all reports States parties are obliged to submit. At the same time, we must adopt urgent measures this fall to allow the Committee to function properly in the short term.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome this year's focus of the report of the Secretary-General on implementing the rights of indigenous children as they face particular challenges and marginalization, through

multiple forms of discrimination in vital areas such as health care, quality education, birth registration and require special protection mechanisms from violence, abuse and economic exploitations, including contemporary forms of slavery, child labor and human trafficking. The report illustrates that indigenous peoples are disproportionately affected by poverty, illiteracy and unemployment and that they form one third of the world's 900 Million rural people living in extreme poverty. This makes it all the more regrettable that indigenous peoples have often been excluded from national monitoring and reporting processes on the achievement of the MDGs. We strongly call for the full inclusion of their perspective in the post-2015 development agenda. We hope that the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 will play a key role in this process, on the basis of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Access to education is the key to strengthen empowerment of rural populations, in particular women and children. Therefore, Liechtenstein continues to support development projects aiming at educating and empowering rural women and children. We must ensure the participation of indigenous children in decisions that have an impact on their lives. To this end, it is imperative to ensure birth registration for indigenous children as a first step to enable them to fully realize their human rights and fundamental freedoms. A lack of registration can hinder children's access to education, overall protection by the State and makes them particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, especially girls. We must join efforts to once and for all ban harmful traditional practices, such as female infanticide, child and forced marriages, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation, by law and through awareness-raising, information campaigns and human rights education. It is important to also specifically target men and boys with a view to changing attitudes and to effectively protecting girls from those practices. Access to health care services must be improved, physically and economically, as must information and counseling in the field of sexual and reproductive health, particularly on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and is an active member of the Group of Friends of Children in Armed Conflict. We welcome the appointment of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Leila Zerrougui, and reaffirm our strong support for her work and mandate. We continue to be concerned about the number of persistent perpetrators listed in the Annex of the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict. To strengthen accountability we call on the Security Council to use all the tools at its disposal. The Council must expand, where relevant, the mandates of existing Sanctions Committees and consider allowing the Working Group to directly apply targeted measures against individuals and further develop its role in the area of accountability. The sentencing of rebel leader Tomas Lubanga Dyilo by the ICC for recruiting children proves the vital role of the Court in our efforts to protect the rights of the children in armed conflict. The ICC acts in the spirit of the principle of complementarity, meaning that international courts only get involved as a last resort. We therefore call on all Member States to strengthen the capacities of national courts and on the United Nations to support such efforts if requested. To further strengthen the child protection agenda of the United Nations, Liechtenstein has developed in close partnership with the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, a mobile application which seeks to provide policy makers with key documents vital for negotiating new mission mandates of peacekeeping operations. In addition, the App provides a comprehensive overview of the United Nations child protection system. You can all download the App from the App store, just search for Children and Armed Conflict.

I thank you.