



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

SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA FORMULA MEETING

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE AS A CENTRAL PILLAR FOR PREVENTION

STATEMENT BY CHRISTIAN WENAWESER, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Thank you Madam Chair,

We appreciate your presence here and we want to thank your delegation for playing such a dynamic role since having joined the Council, in particular in this area. We believe that this is a very meaningful debate and a good format. We appreciate these opportunities to have an exchange on issues and we hope that it can inform the decision-making in the Council. Ultimately, this is obviously left to the Council members but in our view, it should be based on the input from the wider membership, on whose behalf you do your work.

I want to make three points here, being conscious of the time. First, I want to thank those who have referenced the more recently created accountability mechanisms, the IIIM on Syria and the IM on Myanmar. We agree that these are important steps, having led the effort on the IIIM and having strongly supported the Accountability Mechanism for Myanmar. These mechanisms are meant to assist in criminal proceedings, which need to take place in courts. These mechanisms are not courts themselves. They are extremely important but in and of themselves they are not sufficient.

As the speaker of the Global Justice Network has pointed out with respect to Syria, there is a lot of encouraging work going on on the basis of universal jurisdiction, which is much less the case with respect to Myanmar. It was striking to us when we saw the submission of the Government of Myanmar before the CEDAW Committee. I think it is good that you mentioned it because it is a very clear indication of how the authorities in Myanmar continue to look at this. The point here is that we still need courts and we still need Council action. If you look at the jurisdiction that the ICC has with respect to Myanmar, you can see that its jurisdiction is very narrow and it excludes

everything that we are discussing here. In order to have these crimes adjudicated before the ICC or before another international court we need action from this Council.

The second point that I wanted to make, which others have referenced as well, is on the importance of talking about sexual violence against men and boys. We believe it is crucial to do so because this type of violence is driven by the same gender stereotyping as sexual violence against women and girls. These acts are often used in a systematic way to terrorize and humiliate perceived enemies. It is clear that in some circumstances, for example in situations of detention, in situations when boys have refused to join armed groups or when they are members of armed groups, they are especially vulnerable to this type of crime.

In particular, we want to commend the work of the All Survivors Project, an NGO that has dedicated itself to conduct research on sexual violence against men boys as well as women and girls. The NGO is based in Liechtenstein and we are proud to support them. They have done meaningful work on the situation in the Central African Republic, for example. I regret not being able to ask a question to the prosecutors but we hope to have that conversation later on.

In my short final point I want to echo what the Global Justice Network has said here on the importance of gender participation and representation. We too noted that the election chart of nominees for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) stood out and we have been vocal about this on social media. While looking at the list of nominees, which was also rather underwhelming with regard to other aspects, we found the absence of female nominees hard to comprehend. Unfortunately, we can see this issue in many other international legal bodies as well. It seems that there is a particular problem with respect to gender representation in the area of international law, despite the fact that there is really no shortage of good international women lawyers. In the International Criminal Court, the problem has been effectively addressed by introducing a specific system. It is not a gender quota, but minimum voting requirements to ensure that there is always a good gender balance and a representative bench.

I thank you.