



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN DEBATE

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

We reiterate our strong support for the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The adoption of eight resolutions by the Council on this topic reflects the important progress we have made in this area. However, we are still very far from achieving the goals we have set ourselves and have to tackle a significant gap between decisions on paper and reality on the ground.

Mr. President,

The data in the latest report of the Secretary-General point to significant barriers in women's meaningful participation in mediation processes. This includes limits in the overall participation of women, in requests and inclusion of gender expertise, in consultations with civil society and in the inclusion of gender-sensitive provisions in peace agreements.

The full participation of women in mediation is essential to achieving sustainable peace. Root causes to conflicts cannot be fully addressed and societal traumas cannot be overcome when half of the population is excluded from peace processes. In addition, women often shoulder a large share of responsibility in communities during conflict and recovery, which makes their

participation even more important. Inclusive mediation, through the full engagement of women – both as parties to mediation and as mediators – as well as of other stakeholders such as women’s organizations is therefore of crucial importance. In addition to their role in preventing and resolving violent conflict, the inclusion of women in mediation processes also contributes to women’s empowerment and gender equality in line with SDG 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. President,

Access to justice is a crucial component of peaceful, just and inclusive societies, as reflected in SDG 16. But structural inequalities, poverty and discrimination often hinder women’s access to justice and security as well as transitional justice processes. Gender-responsive legal and judicial systems are fundamental for building and sustaining resilient societies. Liechtenstein is proud to be a member of the pathfinders for peaceful, just and inclusive societies, who lead on the implementation of SDG 16 and provide a basis for exchange of best practices in this area.

Mr. President,

The latest SG report on conflict-related sexual violence documents 19 situations, involving 46 parties to conflict, of committing or instigating patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence. While women and girls are particularly vulnerable to become victims of such violence in conflict situations, men and boys are also targeted. It is well documented that, among other purposes, armed forces or groups, including groups involved in violent extremism, recruit both girls and boys for sexual purposes. Moreover, men and boys often represent the majority of detainees during armed conflict and are highly vulnerable to sexual violence. A prevailing culture of silence and harmful stereotypes often prevent male victims from coming forward, which further reduces the prospects for accountability. Transitional justice mechanisms often adopt a gender-binary interpretation of sexual violence, identifying women as victims and men as perpetrators. As a consequence, male survivors face limited or no access to important reparations and psychosocial and medical services. At the same time, stereotyping women as victims can hinder them in fully using their potential to live a life in dignity.

Mr. President,

Sexual and gender-based violence can constitute a crime against humanity and a war crime and, in specific circumstances, elements of genocide. These are the core crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the centerpiece of our common fight against impunity for the serious crimes under international law. The most efficient protection against conflict-related sexual violence is ensuring that it does not happen in the first place. Liechtenstein commends the Secretary-General for his focus on prevention and would like to recall that 114 States have signed the ACT Code of Conduct on Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes – pledging to support timely and decisive action to prevent and end such crimes. We call on the remaining States to join the Code of Conduct and thereby help ensure that the Council delivers on its mandate to protect civilians from mass atrocities.

I thank you.