



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 26: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

The coming months will herald anniversaries of milestone achievements of the United Nations for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls – the 40th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 20th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda of the Security Council and, later this month, the 10th anniversary of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Gender equality furthermore cuts across all SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, whose 5th anniversary we will be celebrating next year.

These dates give us reason to be proud. And they should also serve as an incentive to stand firmly against attacks to undermine these landmark achievements – a regrettable and dangerous tendency we have observed in the last months. The anniversaries should also be the moment for an honest assessment of our achievements. Some forms of discrimination against women and girls have decreased over the last decades. But, gender inequality still remains one of the major challenges of our times. It continues to hold women back and deprives them of basic rights and

opportunities. Only if we acknowledge the potential of women and girls as agents of change can we find solutions for the global challenges we are facing. Empowering women requires addressing structural barriers such as unfair social norms, attitudes and stigmas as well as developing progressive legal frameworks that promote full gender equality.

Mr. Chair,

Modern slavery and human trafficking are among the most severe human right violations of our times. An estimated 40 mio. people are directly affected by it. In most areas of the world, women and girls still make up the overwhelming majority of victims. They are trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labor and forced marriages. They are victims of other forms of exploitation, such as domestic servitude in family households and begging.

Modern Slavery and human trafficking are multifaceted and complex phenomena which require comprehensive and holistic responses. In its resolution 73/146 on trafficking in women and girls, the General Assembly encourages Member States to strengthen cooperation among all relevant actors to identify and disrupt illicit financial flows stemming from trafficking in women and girls. This is a highly relevant approach as modern slavery is an illegal business model which generates USD 150 billion in revenue every year.

Liechtenstein's Government, but also its private sector, are strongly committed to this fight. As a result, together with our partners from Australia and the Netherlands, we launched a public-private partnership, the "Liechtenstein Initiative" for a Financial Sector Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking during the General Debate of the 73rd session of the General Assembly. Only twelve months later, we were able to present the final product of the FSC – ["A Blueprint for Mobilizing Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking"](#). It equips the global financial sector to prevent and combat these human rights violations, by means of sustainable and innovative financing, responsible lending and investment, as well as compliance and regulation.

The General Assembly, and in particular its Third Committee, Special Procedures created by the

Human Rights Council, as well as the Security Council can play an important role in disseminating the blueprint and thus help better protect women and girls who are particularly vulnerable to slavery and trafficking.

Mr. Chair,

Gender inequality, including harmful gender stereotypes and abusive power dynamics, is the root cause of sexual and gender-based violence. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by it. However, there are also numerous men and boys among the victims, especially in the context of recruitment and detention settings in armed conflicts – as also documented by the All Survivors Project. Sexual violence against men and boys in particular continues to be underreported, owing to a lack of legal frameworks, cultural taboos and fear of stigmatization. Security Council Resolution 2467, adopted earlier this year, highlights the vulnerability of men and boys and requests that the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence focus more consistently on the gender specific nature of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations against all affected populations in all situations of concern. Only if we understand the underlying factors of this crime, irrespective of the victims' gender, can we find comprehensive, effective and sustainable solutions for all.

I thank you.