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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
66TH SESSION

**SIDE-EVENT: UPHOLDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN:
AN URGENT MOMENT FOR UNAMA RENEWAL**

STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORT

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Your Royal Highness, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for putting the spotlight on the situation of women in Afghanistan during this CSW session. The women and girls of Afghanistan deserve our continuous and steadfast support given the very precarious situation they find themselves in. There is a special obligation for all of us – and for the United Nations – to ensure their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Afghanistan must have a peaceful and prosperous future. And women can and must play a decisive role in shaping it: as mediators, lawyers, civil society leaders, human rights defenders and in political positions. Sadly today, we are very far from this goal – instead, women are denied equal access to education, employment and freedom of movement. We have to impress on those exercising effective control in Afghanistan their obligations under international human rights law as one indispensable prerequisite for the recognition they are looking for. We also must insist on an “inclusive, negotiated political settlement, with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women“, in line with Security Council Resolution 2593.

Afghan women and children have always been disproportionately impacted by the conflict that has plagued the country for such a long time. Their misery is being compounded by a collapsing economy and deteriorating humanitarian situation. We will continue providing humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population. There is a special role for the United Nations in addressing the challenges ahead. It is therefore essential that UNAMA’s mandate is renewed in a robust manner that allows it to play a key role in responding to the needs of the Afghan people and in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development, in accordance with the past decisions of the Security Council.