



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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67TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN – GENERAL DISCUSSION

STATEMENT BY Ms. MYRIAM OEHRI

CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES A.I., DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam Chair,

Gender inequality in the physical world is unfortunately replicated in the digital world, with manifold consequences for those who cannot participate equally in our ever more digital societies and economies. The digital divide indeed not only reflects global inequalities, with people in developing countries in rural areas having more limited access to technologies, but also the lack of progress on SDG 5. Women and girls face particular obstacles in terms of safe and secure access with regards to digital literacy skills, data protection and user privacy standards as well as the rise of online harassment and abuse. In order for us to bridge this gender digital divide, we must strive to create a safe and accessible digital environment for women and girls which upholds the respect for human rights and in which (technology-facilitated) gender-based violence has no place. Equal access to justice remains a key element as well. Only in so doing can we ensure that new and emerging technologies benefit all members of society and contribute to our common endeavor to build a peaceful, just, inclusive and prosperous future for all.

Madam Chair,

As it has been emphasized time and again in light of the school closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic, equal access to education is a cornerstone of gender equality. In Liechtenstein, we launched an interactive laboratory called pepperMINT – MINT standing for mathematics, IT,

natural sciences and technology, aimed at helping children, and especially girls, deepen their interest and knowledge in STEM disciplines. Since 2017, almost 20'000 children and youth participated in the laboratory. We are hopeful that the skills they acquired will empower them to be agents of change and enter STEM careers – not only to explore their full potential in a more diverse and inclusive career path, but also to play an integral part in our collective efforts to address global challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and inequality.

Madam Chair,

Gender gaps in education in some regions and for marginalized groups, such as girls from the poorest households in rural areas, remain highly concerning, as does the significant reversed progress in some countries. It is the role of the Commission on the Status of Women to flag and respond to situations where human rights violations of women and girls are particularly grave. Since the takeover of the Taliban in 2021, women's and girl's rights and freedoms have been drastically curtailed in Afghanistan. Their limited or denied access to education, employment and public spaces not only constitute violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, but also further aggravates the humanitarian crisis affecting large parts of the country – with women and girls particularly in need.

Liechtenstein also strongly condemns the killing of Mahsa Amini, and of many others participating in peaceful protests for women's rights and freedoms in Iran. The arbitrary detention, widespread use of force and death penalty against protesters by the Iranian authorities is unacceptable and must be met with accountability. By removing Iran from this Commission, the international community has made it clear that such behavior is not tolerated at the UN, and nowhere else. To conclude, I wish to reiterate what Liechtenstein's Foreign Minister H.E. Dominique Hasler has declared together with her female counterparts a few weeks ago: "We stand by the side of the brave women and men of Iran in their daily fight for their rights and their freedom. Their struggle shows that only where women are safe everybody is safe. Not only in Iran, not only in Afghanistan, but all over the world."

I thank you.