



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 68: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

This year, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – a milestone document in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. It is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and it has helped transform children’s lives around the globe. Yet, the CRC still has to achieve universal ratification, and it lacks full implementation. Millions of children continue to suffer violations of their rights every day.

Modern slavery and human trafficking are among those violations. Children make up almost a third of all trafficking victims worldwide. They are exploited for numerous purposes, including domestic servitude, agricultural and factory work, mining, begging and stealing, and commercial sexual exploitation and abuse. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development we all agreed to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. We also committed to eliminate worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and to end child labor in all its forms by 2025. Liechtenstein, along with its partners, makes its own specific contribution to this end. The [“Blueprint for Mobilizing Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking”](#) – which we launched together with the Netherlands and Australia during high level week – will better equip the global financial sectors in fighting the illegal business of

child slavery and trafficking. It defines five ambitious goals and provides a concrete toolkit in the field of sustainable and innovative financing, responsible lending and investment, as well as compliance and regulation. We furthermore call upon all Member States to ratify the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Reaching universalization of the Protocol is essential in protecting children from being trafficked and trapped in modern slavery.

Mr. Chair,

420 mio. children live in conflict situations. They are not responsible for these conflicts, yet they often suffer the most – from abuse and exploitation, separation and deprivation, as well as trauma. It is particularly devastating that children continue to be used as human shields and sex slaves. Last year, almost 1'000 cases of conflict-related sexual violence against children were verified by the Secretary-General. The highest figures continue to be documented in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Sexual violence against children remains significantly underreported, in particular when perpetrated against boys, owing to stigma, cultural taboos and the lack of services, as also documented by the All Survivors Project. Accordingly, impunity for sexual violence against children remain endemic. The monitoring mechanism established by Security Council Resolution 1612 to document grave violations against children in conflict situations is an important tool in the protection of children's rights. And Security Council Resolution 2467 helps better inform our responses for all affected populations, including girls and boys. Together with Member States, the All Survivors Projects and the Offices of the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict and on Sexual Violence in Conflict, respectively, we will be hosting an event today on hidden victims of sexual violence in the context of detention. We hope that many of you will be able to join us.

Mr. Chair,

Optional Protocol 3 to the CRC is another important tool to promote and protect the rights of the child. It allows children, groups of children or their representatives to bring a complaint regarding

a violation of their rights before the Committee on the Rights of the Child. This is an effective way for children to seek justice if the national legal system has not been able to provide a remedy for the violation. It empowers children and makes them agents of change themselves, as a reflection of the spirit of the CRC. Liechtenstein has been among the few States to ratify the OP 3. We call upon all States who have not yet done so to ratify this and the other Optional Protocols in order to give children a voice and, ultimately, protect their rights.

I thank you.