



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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 26: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

STATEMENT BY Noah OEHRI, First SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly transforming our world – neither necessarily for the better, nor inevitably for the worse. According to the recently published report of the High-Level Advisory Board on AI, technological advancement has enormous potential to promote progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, but also risks widening digital divides, undermining information integrity and upending the world of work as we know it. We are particularly concerned by the potential harms resulting from AI for women and girls, who are affected disproportionately by technology-facilitated violence, such as the spread of sexualized deepfakes and other forms of gender-based violence as well as job displacement through automation. In light of the fact that AI models are fed with data which unfortunately lack diverse gender perspectives, it is unsurprising that gender biases have been reproduced by such systems at a large scale. And while women reportedly have more expertise on the ethics and governance of AI, they have less technical expertise to develop and implement the technology or assessing data for misrepresentation. Addressing these new forms of social vulnerability created by AI should remain a priority for us in our continuing discussions at the UN on how to shape global AI governance in follow-up to the adoption of the Global Digital Compact. In so doing, we also need to continue advancing the education and leadership of women and girls in STEM. For that purpose, Liechtenstein has launched an experimentation laboratory 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. Only by challenging

the persistent gender biases and digital divides can we reshape the technology ecosystem to not mirror harmful stereotypes and prejudice, but truly benefit all of society.

Mr. Chair,

As we celebrate 45 years and the almost universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, we cannot forget the plight of those women and girls whose most basic human rights have been drastically curtailed over the last three years. The Taliban have indeed obliterated decades of hard-fought progress towards gender equality with a system of oppressive directives that target the very existence of Afghan women and girls. Having been previously excluded from public life and education in manifold ways, women and girls are now even prohibited from speaking in public. These draconian measures leave women in isolation and despair, with a freedom of movement so reduced that, paraphrasing actress Meryl Streep, every female cat and bird is left with more rights than women and girls in Afghanistan. The situation in Afghanistan not only constitutes a test to our willingness to stand up for gender equality, but also to ensure that there is accountability for such grave human rights violations. Gender persecution under the Taliban in our view amounts to crimes against humanity, and thus the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction and a role to advance accountability for that crime, among many others committed in Afghanistan. Together with her fellow women foreign ministers reunited in Toronto in September, our Foreign Minister has spoken out in support of those whose voices has been silenced. And Liechtenstein has also supported the initiative brought forward by Australia, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands to hold Afghanistan accountable for grave violations of CEDAW. Afghanistan's future can only be peaceful, just and prosperous if women and girls are allowed to shape it – in full enjoyment of their very rights and freedoms.

Mr. Chair,

To accelerate the advancement and achievement of gender equality at a global level, we also need to critically reflect upon the role and engagement of the United Nations. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) remains the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to this issue, attracting thousands of high-level political attendees, gender experts and civil society representatives from all over the world. As decided upon in the Pact for the Future, it is important to reconsider how we can make best use of this unique gathering taking place every year. We are thus looking forward to actively participating in the intergovernmental process to explore options for the revitalization of CSW with a view to make it fit for purpose to deliver concrete outcomes for the empowerment of women and girls as well as the effective promotion and protection of their human rights.

I thank you.