



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

**NEW YORK, 13 OCTOBER 2015
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRD COMMITTEE
ITEM 29 (A) AND (B): ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
STATEMENT BY Ms. KATHRIN NESCHER, 2nd SECRETARY**

Mr. Chairman,

The “advancement of women” seems increasingly out of sync with the advancement of the world. Today, we have more computing power in the palms of our hand than what was needed for humans’ first landing on the moon; a world where HIV/Aids is no longer a death sentence; a world of progress so fast it seems that science and technology will provide solutions to almost any problem. Yet this is also a world which treats half of its population like lower-class citizens. In 2015, women earn 20-30% less than men for the same work; they make up only one in five legislators; and there are more CEOs by the name of John than there are women CEOs. Worldwide, women aged 15-44 today are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, war and malaria combined. A staggering 38 percent of women who are murdered are killed by their partners.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations has worked to promote gender equality since its very beginning, and we have seen many milestones since then: The establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1947, the adoption of CEDAW in 1979, the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, the Security Council’s Women, Peace and Security Agenda in 2000, the creation of UN Women in

2010. Many UN organs, including this Committee, have adopted countless documents declaring the commitment of Member States to fight discrimination against women. We *know* what we need to do. So what does it take for us to actually do it? Discrimination against women is *not* a women's issue. It harms us all. It costs the global economy 8 trillion dollars each year¹. And it is present in every society. Is there a better argument for us to act?

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein was very happy to witness the adoption of Agenda 2030 last month. The document not only includes a strong standalone goal on women, but also contains a number of targets of particular importance to women in other goals, such as SDG 16 on peaceful societies. Agenda 2030 acknowledges once and for all the significant role women need to play in our development efforts. The MDGs have been a powerful driver for international development for the last 15 years, but they failed to sufficiently include women. The SDGs present us with a great opportunity to do better. It will be vital to develop a comprehensive set of gender-mainstreamed indicators to monitor progress, and to support the HLPF in its function as a monitoring body. Agenda 2030 is not a pick-and-choose menu. It's a comprehensive road map for all of us – not just for developing countries. And none of us can say that we have achieved SDG 5 today.

Mr. Chairman,

If we look at the statistics tracking violence against women globally, we have to conclude that overall, there have been no large victories in eradicating this scourge². This is a sad assessment but should serve to motivate us all to renew our efforts in this regard. The culture of impunity around violence and sexual crimes against women is simply unacceptable. These are not trivial offenses. Violence against women is a human rights violation and the tool of choice of those seeking to oppress women. Underreporting is a serious factor contributing to impunity – due in

¹ "Post-2015 Consensus: Conflict and Violence Assessment", Anke Hoeffler and James Fearon, Copenhagen Consensus Center, 2015: http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/conflict_assessment_-_hoeffler_and_fearon_0.pdf

² <http://www.womanstats.org/newmapspage.html>

particular to justice personnel lacking gender sensitivity, lack of psychosocial support for victims, long judicial processes and low conviction rates. What is needed is a paradigm shift that stigmatizes the perpetrators of domestic violence and rape, not their victims. And it is the responsibility of States to build the necessary systems to eradicate it.

Mr. Chairman,

As we speak, the Security Council is conducting its review of resolution 1325 on WPS and the Global Study will be launched on tomorrow. At the same time, experts are meeting in Geneva this week in final consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit, inter alia discussing women's role in the humanitarian system. We have a number of great opportunities in front of us to pursue a more comprehensive and holistic approach to furthering women's empowerment and their human rights. All we need to do is seize them.

I thank you.