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**United Nations Human Rights Council**

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**Panel on realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl**

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**Statement Liechtenstein**

Mr. President [Madam Vice-President],

The right and the access to education for all is of fundamental importance for the sustainable development of every community and state. Too often girls are denied access to education due to a whole range of barriers, among them deeply rooted gender stereotypes and discrimination. Girls have even been targeted and attacked due to the fact that they go to school.

Having the post-2015 development agenda in mind, Liechtenstein is pleased that the SDGs not only take primary education into account but also early childhood development, secondary education and the commitment to end all forms of violence against children. In order to further gender equality in education and the access of girls to education it is important to tackle discrimination against women and gender stereotypes.

We would like the panelists to outline how we can make parents understand that sending their daughters to school is the best investment they can make for the future of their child, their family and of their communities. Could participatory and community based school management and structures help form ownership on the community level and subsequently secure better access to education?

Mr. President [Madam Vice-President],

Especially in times of war, conflict and crisis the right to education is under pressure.

Liechtenstein has been actively engaged in furthering the Children and Armed Conflict agenda of the Security Council and condemns all attacks against schools. Two weeks ago in Oslo 37 states have endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration and the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use. In this regard, Liechtenstein commends the tireless efforts and facilitation by Norway and Argentina as well as of the Global Coalition (GCPEA) which lead to the elaboration and endorsement of these important tools. The Declaration and the Guidelines are still open to endorsement, and we call on all UN member

states to join. Liechtenstein considers this documents as an important step to ensuring the right to education also during crisis and armed conflict and making schools safe places of learning and hope.

Having the Safe Schools Declaration in mind, how do you think can the Council deal with the fact that in times of conflict parents may choose not to educate their daughters due to concerns for their security and their subsequent marriageability?

I thank you.