



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

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HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AURELIA FRICK
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

The World is currently facing the largest movement of refugees and migrants since World War II - a record number of 65 million displaced persons all over the world. People have to leave their homes because of conflicts, natural disasters, climate change, lack of economic perspectives, persecution and many other reasons. Grave violations of international humanitarian law, human rights and fundamental freedoms continue through the inaction of the international community and create new situations for mass displacement. We have to change something.

Liechtenstein is actively engaged in different areas to mitigate the suffering of today's refugees and migrants and to prevent other crises from erupting. One of our priorities is combatting impunity for human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law. Holding perpetrators accountable for their crimes not only brings justice to their victims, it also has a deterrent effect. In situations where mass atrocities have occurred, accountability becomes particularly important. A person committing one murder is often more likely to be punished for their crime than a person committing one thousand murders. We look for stronger action to ensure accountability for mass atrocity crimes, in particular from the UN Security Council who also has the authority to end and prevent these crimes. I therefore invite every Member State which has not yet done so to join the ACT Code of Conduct on Security Council action against atrocity crimes. The intent of this important political commitment is straightforward: to take action to prevent or end atrocity crimes and not to vote against credible draft resolutions to the same end. So far 112 countries have joined, more than half of the membership –we view support of the Code of Conduct as a prerequisite for membership in the Council.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is currently providing 2.4 Million Swiss Francs annually for international refugee and migration assistance – this amounts to over 65 USD per person just for this category of aid. In the context of the conflict in Syria, we have provided more than 2 Million Swiss Francs for

projects in Syria's neighboring countries. Since 2012, around 20'000 refugee and local children could benefit from Liechtenstein school projects in Jordan and Lebanon. International solidarity has a long tradition in Liechtenstein. We offered a large number of refugees protection during the armed conflicts following the breakup of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s and are undertaking a similar effort today for those displaced by the Syrian conflict and other crises, in order to help alleviate the burden on Syria's neighbors in particular. Liechtenstein has decided to participate in UNHCR's resettlement program as well as the EU's relocation scheme. When receiving asylum seekers, we pay particular attention to their early integration. Our newest initiative, "Liechtenstein Languages", focuses on teaching the basics of the German language in just a few weeks. This allows them to quickly start interacting with locals and public officers – with a side effect of decreasing xenophobia.

Mr. President,

We try to focus our humanitarian and development aid on long-term initiatives. Education, as I have mentioned in the context of Syrian refugee camps, is part of this approach. Other areas include the building of sustainable institutions, anti-corruption initiatives and women's empowerment. All of these issues can be found in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda reads like a manual to avoid mass displacement and we must treat it as such if we are serious about avoiding future large movements of migrants and refugees.

I thank you.