



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 26: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

STATEMENT BY Noah OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

Midway to 2030, the state of implementation of the sustainable development goals requires our urgent critical scrutiny. The multiple crises we have been witnessing over the last years have significantly slowed, or even reversed, progress on many goals. And in many instances, they have disproportionately affected women and girls and thus further accentuated existing gender disparities. Currently, more than 80% of the indicators for SDG 5 are moderately to severely off track. With this rate of progress, we will not reach effective gender equality within the next seven years, but only in almost three centuries. As the Secretary-General has emphasized multiple times, this worrying trend is unacceptable and needs to be reversed. We cannot effectively address and overcome pressing challenges like climate change and armed conflict as long as half of the world's population does not enjoy equal rights and opportunities. It is therefore more important than ever that we re-commit and strengthen our efforts towards the advancement of gender equality as both a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future.

Mr. Chair,

This lack of advancement also translates into the striking underrepresentation of women in leadership positions in the workplace, both in private sector and in national governments. Two weeks ago, only 21 women leaders stood at the rostrum of the General Assembly Hall during the General Debate –merely 11% of all speakers at the opening of the 78th session of the General Assembly. Women around the world continue to face societal and legal barriers which prevent them from full and equal participation in decision-making processes, let alone accessing positions of leadership. Often among the most active agents of change at grassroots level, they routinely face discriminatory practices that exclude them when legislation is negotiated and adopted. Once elected, women in politics across the world face online abuse, harassment or even violence at an alarming rate. According to a study by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, for instance, over 80% of female Members of Parliament in Europe suffer psychological violence in the course of their term in office, while more than half are subject to sexist attacks online. Liechtenstein has long made the empowerment of women and girls a priority of its foreign policy. We believe in women as agents of change and support their full, equal and meaningful participation in all decision-making bodies as a condition for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. States must do more to uphold the rights of women to engage on equal terms throughout all phases of political transition, to guarantee their right to speak and to assemble freely, and to protect them from intimidation and violence.

Mr. Chair,

Two years after the military coup in Myanmar and the takeover of the Taliban in Afghanistan, women and girls continue to suffer disproportionately under the respective regimes in place. Due to rising violence and fear from mass arrests and summary executions, women in Myanmar face increasing difficulty accessing basic health care services and struggle to secure sufficient income. In Afghanistan, women and girls have been barred from education while continuing to face an ever-growing list of restrictions on their lives. And in Iran, those who bravely protested against restrictive veiling laws are facing increasing levels of gender-based persecution. In line with our firm commitment to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, we reaffirm the need for full, equal and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and peace reconstruction process. To do so, we must listen to, invest in and include women who have thus

far been neglected and ignored. In the context an increasingly polarized world with a record number of protracted armed conflicts, promoting gender equality indeed remains a crucial, but unfortunately still undervalued factor, for the restoration and maintenance of international peace and security.

I thank you.