



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

NEW YORK, 10 MARCH 2025

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
69TH SESSION

**30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND THE ADOPTION OF
THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chair,

I am delighted to be at this 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. We are meeting at a pivotal time for the empowerment of women and girls. In recent years, we have witnessed a backlash to gender equality. It has manifested in various forms, such as legislative rollbacks as well as the proliferation of misogynist and anti-gender rhetoric, including in parliaments and public office. Unfortunately, these setbacks are not isolated incidents, but part of a global trend that threatens to reverse the slow but steady progress we have made towards gender equality.

The unprecedented number of armed conflicts globally, moreover, constitute human rights crises that disproportionately affect women and girls. And despite strong evidence of the contribution that women make at various stages and levels to resolve conflict, exclusion rather than inclusion has remained the norm in formal peace processes. In the context of the Munich Security Conference this year, we – like-minded Foreign Ministers of the Feminist Foreign Policy network – issued a joint statement emphasizing that Syria’s transition process must include the leadership and meaningful participation of women. The anniversary of Beijing, as well as the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda are, more than anything else, stark reminders that we still have a very long way ahead of us to achieve gender equality.

Mr. Chair,

Despite efforts undertaken since the adoption of milestone documents such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, gender-based violence continues to be one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. Across their lifetime, 1 in 3 women are subject to physical or sexual violence. As a committed State Party to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as the “Istanbul Convention”, Liechtenstein has set up a Coordination Group that allows for regular exchanges with civil society and professionals from relevant authorities and NGOs on how to further improve our legislative and policy framework. The Istanbul Convention is open for ratification to non-Council of Europe members as well. I invite all of you, who have not yet done so, to ratify this key instrument – which is complementary to relevant UN documents and contributes to the work of the CSW.

Mr. Chair,

While we all wish that progress on gender equality was faster and more significant, we cannot lose sight of the small but important wins that have been achieved over time. In my country, the number of female members of parliament has increased fourfold since 1995. At the legislative elections last month, women had, for the first time, a higher chance of being elected than men. And it seems very likely that the next Prime Minister of Liechtenstein will, also for the first time, be a woman. This is a historic step towards women’s equal full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making at the national level, that will hopefully inspire more women and girls to run for public office.

Thank you.