



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

NEW YORK, 23 SEPTEMBER 2020

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
76TH SESSION**

**ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE RESPONSIBILITY TO
PROTECT: “THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT AND THE ROLE OF
WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CONFLICT PREVENTION”**

ADDRESS BY

**H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORT
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

Dear Colleagues,

Liechtenstein continues to be fully committed to the R2P norm. The crimes subsumed under R2P are the most harrowing expressions of brutality and disregard for human value and dignity. Liechtenstein was proud to be part of the core group that brought forward the Human Rights Council to mark the 15th anniversary of the Responsibility to Protect.

It is deeply disappointing to reflect that, 15 years into its existence, the R2P norm is yet to be operationalized on a regular basis. R2P can be implemented through a broad variety of measures, from diplomatic engagement to more vigorous action, including action taken by the UN Security Council. However, in situations from Myanmar to Yemen and elsewhere, the world has observed the Council's inability to live up to its mandate. It also deprives itself of basic tools of prevention, such as institutionalized briefings from relevant parts of the UN system, as well as civil society. This points to significant untapped potential for the Security Council to support pillars 1 and 2 of the Responsibility to Protect.

States must promote and make full use of the rule of law when mass atrocity crimes are committed, condoned or incited. Criminal accountability for such acts is of paramount importance to break recurring cycles of violence and deter the commission of future crimes. The Rome Statute of the ICC has played a pioneering role in establishing a comprehensive and victim-centered framework to expansively and efficiently respond to conflict-related sexual violence crimes. For the first time in history, it firmly established conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence as crimes against humanity and war crimes.

As we meet today, it is particularly urgent to remind those in power and ourselves of the responsibility to protect the women and girls of Afghanistan. The reports we are receiving are disturbing indeed, and we join those who have raised the issue in this meeting to call for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls in Afghanistan. This includes freedom of movement and full access to education as

well as their full and unhindered participation in decision-making processes. We see an essential role of the UN system in this effort and are fully committed to joining it.

Ensuring women's participation is also critical in peacekeeping and reconstruction. The impact of the participation of women in armed forces on the respect of international humanitarian law is a relevant and largely unexplored dimension of this discussion. To this end, Liechtenstein has launched a research project on the interplay of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and international humanitarian law together with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. The findings of this research project will inform our efforts to increase compliance with IHL, and in turn help to prevent the seeds of further conflict from being sown in the conduct of hostilities.

Liechtenstein firmly believes that there can be no peace without justice – and no justice without peace. And there can be no justice without justice for all women, a conclusion also reached by the SG in his Common Agenda report. Structural inequality, discrimination and poverty all too often hinder women's access to justice, including transitional justice processes. Upholding SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies is central to our long-term efforts to prevent future atrocities.

I thank you very much.