



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

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2026

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

STATEMENT BY MR. CLAUDIO NARDI

COUNSELLOR, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

President,

Liechtenstein is deeply troubled by the fact that, for another year, children continue to be increasingly affected by conflict around the world. The Secretary-General's latest report verified 38,000 grave violations affecting more than 24,000 children in 2025, setting a record for the highest number of children affected since the establishment of the mandate. The killing and maiming of children have reached unprecedented levels in the reporting period, illustrating the widespread disregard for the special protections afforded to children under international humanitarian law.

We welcome today's focus on protecting education: schools should be spaces where children are protected from violence and where they can feel safe to grow, learn and play. According to the most recent report by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, however, schools continue to be attacked or used for forced recruitment at an alarming rate. Over the last two years, there were more than 8,500 attacks on education and instances of military use. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every child can be spared the scars of war – the protection

of educational facilities, alongside hospitals and health facilities, is crucial in this respect. We call upon all States to implement Security Council resolution 2601 and the Safe Schools Declaration as well as commit to strengthening accountability for these violations of international humanitarian law committed against civilians connected to schools, including children and teachers.

President,

Let me now turn to specific situations of grave concern discussed in the report of the Secretary-General. In Ukraine, the Russian Federation is committing all six grave violations against children at an increasing rate. We are deeply troubled by the more than one and a half million children under occupation, subjected to indoctrination and militarization, and by the forcible transfer and deportation of children that the Commission of Inquiry has found may amount to crimes against humanity. In this regard, we recall that the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants against Russia's President and Children's Rights Commissioner. In line with General Assembly Resolution ES-11/9, we encourage the Secretary-General to step up his good offices and to coordinate UN action for the immediate, safe and unconditional return of Ukrainian children. In Sudan, thirteen million children have been out of school for two years. A number have experienced or witnessed unspeakable atrocities. This catastrophe requires a credible international mediation process, and we welcome efforts to convene parties including the recent conference in Addis Ababa. For yet another year, the highest number of grave violations against children – almost a third of all violations globally – was verified in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Most of these violations, including the killing, maiming and detention of Palestinian children, were attributed to the Israeli armed and security forces. We strongly condemn the continued and widespread killing of innocent civilians, and particularly children, and reaffirm that attacking civilians and civilian objects constitute war crimes.

President,

The integrity of the listing process is fundamental to the credibility of the CAAC mandate. The Secretary-General's report must be evidence-based and hold all parties to the same standard. The annex should offer a complete, accurate, and rigorously verified list, with a transparent process for listing and de-listing applied consistently across every situation, without political interference. For this reason, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism also needs to be matched by sustained resources. As a strong supporter of the CAAC mandate, Liechtenstein is proud to continue our financial contribution to its important work.

I thank you.