



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

NEW YORK, 2 OCTOBER 2026

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

GENERAL DEBATE

STATEMENT BY NOAH OEHRI, First SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Chair,

Human rights are one of the three pillars of the United Nations, alongside peace and security and sustainable development. As we look ahead to the continuation of discussions on UN reform, we must ensure that all our actions are firmly grounded in this understanding. Upholding and advancing human rights is an essential foundation for everything we do to strengthen the Organization's relevance and effectiveness in the years to come. Yet the ongoing UN80 reform process has so far engaged only lightly with human rights issues — even though this remains the least funded pillar of the Organization's work and, in the view of many Member States, the one most consistently overlooked in reform discussions.

Liechtenstein believes this moment calls for more deliberate attention: reform processes that leave the human rights pillar as an afterthought risk undermining, rather than strengthening, the mutually reinforcing nature of the UN's three pillars. It is in this spirit that we have recently convened discussions to identify practical and politically viable pathways for strengthening the human rights system, both within the UN80 process and beyond. These conversations also spoke directly to the work of this very Committee, most notably with regards to the need to improve cooperation and coordination with the Human Rights Council. In this regard, Liechtenstein welcomes the roadmap of the 3C and HRC Bureaux as a first important step and looks forward

to continuing the conversation with all delegations on how we can ensure that our work avoids unnecessary overlap and repetition while remaining meaningful and impactful.

Chair,

The UN system can only fully and effectively deliver on its human rights mandate with the necessary financial means. As the donor with the highest per capita voluntary contributions, Liechtenstein remains committed to supporting the important work of Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which already relies heavily on voluntary funding. The human rights pillar has historically received less than 7% of the UN's regular budget and less than 1% of overall UN expenditure. We remain concerned about the continued disproportionate cuts to the already underfunded human rights pillar in the 2027 budget proposal, in which OHCHR is the third most affected budget post. The continuous cuts have detrimental impacts across the human rights pillar, including on the meeting time of UN treaty bodies, the number of country visits by UN special procedures and the number of OHCHR field offices on the ground. Adequate funding for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and for UN human rights mechanisms is essential not only for justice and accountability, but also for the UN's credibility and for the effectiveness of its work in peace, security, and development.

Chair,

Nowhere is the urgency of grounding our work in human rights more evident than in the governance of artificial intelligence. Over recent years we have witnessed mounting harm from AI, ranging from the generation of sexualized deep-fake imagery to the deployment in surveillance as well as in automated warfare with little to no transparency, let alone accountability. Frontier models have more recently also been implicated in a widening set of highly mediatized incidents. These are not isolated technical failures — they are a preview of what unregulated deployment of increasingly powerful systems can mean for the promotion and protection of human rights and human dignity. Last month, the High Commissioner for Human Rights warned us that artificial intelligence represents an existential risk and that we are on the cusp of irreversible change affecting generations to come. Even the leaders of the most powerful and well-capitalized companies have echoed these calls for more regulation. Liechtenstein believes that the UN has a central role in ensuring that AI governance is grounded in international

human rights law and we echo the High Commissioner's call for meaningful action to close the narrowing window of opportunity to get this right.

Chair,

Sexual and gender-based violence remains one of the most pervasive and persistent human rights violations of our time, and one of the clearest illustrations of the gap between legal commitments and lived reality. It is not a problem confined to conflict zones. The Gender Snapshot 2025 reminds us that even in peacetime, around 12.5 per cent of women globally experience intimate partner violence, and countries with comprehensive measures on violence, covering laws, policies, services, prevention, and data, record rates 2.5 times lower than those with weak protections. Thirty years after Beijing, the lesson is unambiguous: without comprehensive legal frameworks, sustained investment, and genuine political will, commitments to end violence against women remain aspirational rather than real. Against that background, Liechtenstein remains a committed State Party to the Istanbul Convention. To further increase our efforts to combat gender-based violence, Liechtenstein now offers forensic nursing consultations to survivors of domestic violence. This year's Commission on the Status of Women offered a timely opportunity to advance both prevention and accountability. The CSW70 Agreed Conclusions, focused on access to justice for all women and girls, call on governments to strengthen legal frameworks, address structural barriers, and ensure accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence. Liechtenstein was proud to co-facilitate this outcome and to help secure a text that reflects a shared recognition that justice must be accessible and survivor centered.

Chair,

The right to self-determination is a cornerstone of the UN Charter and a prerequisite for the genuine enjoyment of human rights. As climate scientists have warned us for many years, that right is threatened not only by political repression, but by the physical erosion of the conditions on which it depends. Sea-level rise poses an existential challenge not just to the territories of Small Island Developing States, but to the political agency, cultural continuity, and legal standing of their peoples. The ICJ's advisory opinion of July 2025 affirmed that the disappearance of a State's constituent elements does not necessarily entail the loss of statehood. Liechtenstein

strongly believes that, including in the most extreme circumstances, all affected countries and States retain the right to self-determination. We therefore strongly welcome the recent adoption of Political Declaration on Sea-Level Rise, which underscored that sovereignty, UN membership, and maritime entitlements must be preserved consistently with international law, regardless of physical changes to territory.