



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 28 (A) AND (B): ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

STATEMENT BY ALESSANDRA GREGG, ADVISOR

Chairperson,

From the outset, let me express our satisfaction with the new focus on the role of women that the creation of UN Women has brought about. UN Women is off to a strong start, spearheading important initiatives and we look forward to seeing it continue to lead the way. UN Women's commitment to providing concrete and measurable results and its strengthened regional and country presence has the potential to improve the lives of millions of women.

Chairperson,

Women continue to face discrimination and exclusion from decision-making processes. We have seen in the recent events of the "Arab Spring" that women are a driving force for change. Yet as some countries are transitioning to a new era, women risk being excluded from the very processes that their actions initiated. Active at grassroots level, they face discriminatory practices that exclude them when laws are codified and constitutions are written. States must do more to protect the rights of women to participate on equal terms throughout all phases of political transition, to guarantee their right to speak their minds, and to assemble freely. The UN must support efforts to fully include poor and otherwise marginalized women in democratic processes. This General Assembly should continue to reaffirm its relevance by reflecting on events occurring today. This year's Third Committee resolution on Women and Political Participation is an opportunity for it to do so.

Almost 11 years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 women continue to be underrepresented as stakeholders in peace processes. Women's issues receive too little or too late attention in conflict resolution processes. Women's rights and needs are therefore often neglected in peace accords and institutional arrangements. Women must be fully involved from the earliest opportunity. UN Women's training programme for women mediators will be a crucial step towards empowering women to participate at the decision-making level at all stages of conflict prevention and resolution. The UN must also lead by example and appoint more women as leaders in mediation and other transitional processes. With regard to conflict related sexual violence, Liechtenstein places high hopes in the new Monitoring and Reporting Arrangements on sexual violence in armed conflicts, as these will provide information on the use of sexual violence as a method of warfare, as well as information on perpetrators.

Chairperson,

Ending violence against women in all its forms continues to be a priority for Liechtenstein. Harmful practices such as early child marriage, female genital mutilation, domestic and other forms of violence should be addressed as a matter of urgency. Not only are these violations of the rights of women, but they cause significant harm to the physical and mental health of women and constitute a major challenge for development. We fully support the Elder's initiative "Girls not brides" to foster the political will to end these violations and to remind States of their obligation to protect women from all forms of violence.

Chairperson,

Impunity not only intensifies the subordination and powerlessness of the targets of violence, but perpetuates revictimization and future acts of violence. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has significantly advanced international law through its recognition of sexual violence as a war crime or crime against humanity. The principle of complementarity, one of the main pillars of the ICC, enshrines the primacy of national judiciaries. Efforts by the Team of Experts on Rule of Law to help strengthen domestic accountability mechanisms are a perfect example of the so-called "positive complementarity." Investigation, prosecution, protection and redress measures, offered to women victims of

violence will have a direct effect on the prevalence rates of such violence, but formal justice systems often lack the required resources to prosecute perpetrators. A case in point: In 2010 mobile courts in the Democratic Republic of Congo adjudicated 186 cases, 116 of which were rape cases that resulted in 95 convictions. However, we are alarmed by recent reports, which suggest that pervasive violations of the human rights of women in the DRC continue to be perpetrated with impunity. Efforts towards strengthening the domestic justice system must be scaled up dramatically. In addition, victims' protection and support must be ensured so they can testify freely and without fear of retaliation.

While accountability is of paramount importance, efforts to end impunity will ultimately depend on addressing structural discrimination, including access to justice, and ensuring the protection and legal empowerment of women. Promoting legal skills and an understanding of government, especially for poor women and those living in rural areas, is key for building the confidence and the full participation of women in society and political processes.

