



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**
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SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. President,

The year leading up to today's review of the Security Council's landmark resolution 1325 has been an important one for **women at the United Nations**. Only two weeks ago, we saw the historic adoption of Agenda 2030, which affirms the important role women play in development. And around 80 Heads of State and Government spoke up at the Global Leaders Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment to express commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action. We look forward to the official launch of the Global Study of resolution 1325 tomorrow. Based on the advance copy we can already say that it provides an excellent assessment of challenges and recommendations for the future.

Mr. President

Resolution 1325 stands out as perhaps the biggest achievement of the Council in its thematic work. At the same time, the Council has long struggled to address the poor **implementation** of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. To remedy this problem, we will not need the adoption of "another 1325", or more promises and declarations. Commitments have been made, and many powerful tools are already available. The question is no longer *what* to do, but *how* to do it more efficiently. We have to move away from the silo approach so common within the United Nations and adopt a more efficient, holistic approach. It will remain impossible to implement the WPS Agenda, unless we start tackling the root causes: gender-based

discrimination, exclusion of and violence against women. These manifest themselves long before conflicts break out. Studies suggest that rising levels of violence against women are quite reliable indicators of impending conflicts. Armed conflicts aggravate such problems to the point where they may have to be considered as war crimes or crimes against humanity.

SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 16 on peaceful societies are therefore major achievements for the WPS Agenda. They establish a long overdue link between the work of the Council and our development efforts. SDG 16 in particular addresses a number of core issues of the WPS Agenda, such as participation, access to justice, ending violence and reducing the illicit flow of arms, to name just a few. Agenda 2030 will thus be an important tool to improve the implementation of the WPS Agenda. Another opportunity will be the **World Humanitarian Summit** next year. Including women in humanitarian work enhances efficiency – the Global Study is only the latest document to deliver proof of this fact.

Mr. President,

The Global Study also provides unequivocal evidence that full and equal participation of women at all levels, especially in decision-making and conflict resolution, is essential for the establishment and maintenance of peace. However, ensuring *meaningful* participation of women will only be possible if we **change attitudes** and make sure everybody is on board – including men and boys. Harmful stereotypes and violent ideas of manhood persist in many parts of the world. The only way to change cultural patterns is to educate the young, *before* they adopt discriminatory attitudes towards women. We therefore commend projects such as the “Young Men Initiative” by Care International, reaching out to teenage boys in post-conflict situations; UNFPA’s “husband schools”, informing men and boys about the many benefits of preventing early pregnancies and keeping girls in schools; or Women Without Borders’ work with mothers to combat violent extremism.

Mr. President,

Another element that will be essential for the success of the WPS Agenda is justice. We must finally put an end to the continuing **culture of impunity**. This is all the more true with regard to crimes of conflict-related sexual violence, which have seen a frightening increase in recent years. Extremist groups in particular strategically use rape and sexual slavery as a weapon of war to damage and undermine communities. The long-term consequences of these crimes are devastating, and we urgently need to eliminate this practice. We welcome the ICC's policy paper on sexual and gender-based crimes and the Prosecutor's focus in this regard. Conflict-related sexual violence plays a role in nearly every case under investigation and prosecution by the Court. At the same time, justice for survivors of sexual violence continues to be a great exception to the rule, and holding perpetrators accountable has proven to be exceedingly difficult. To ensure effective prosecution and accountability, it is crucial that evidence is professionally collected at the earliest possible stage. This process may be assisted *inter alia* by the Justice Rapid Response initiative (JRR); Liechtenstein is proud to have supported its work on sexual and gender-based violence for years.

Mr President,

In closing, I would like to stress the importance of **sufficient funding**. Women's human rights and empowerment, as well as promoting the WPS Agenda are, and will remain, a high priority for Liechtenstein's budget for international cooperation. We hope that other countries, especially major donors, will take the same approach.

I thank you.