

**ITEM 61**

**REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**SECOND SECRETARY**

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

**NEW YORK, 2 NOVEMBER 2010**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the High Commissioner for the report he has presented before the Committee. Almost 60 years after the creation of the UNHCR the world faces displacement of enormous dimensions. With 36.5 million persons of concern to UNHCR, including 10.4 million refugees, the work of the Office is as indispensable as ever. In light of these numbers, we commend the High Commissioner for further increasing the capacity of his office to reach more of the affected population and for continuing to remind us of the individual lives at stake behind the statistics. We also commend the High Commissioner for the increased efficiency in the work of his organization as a result of the internal reform activities that secure more financial resources to support affected populations. We are convinced that UNHCR today is well equipped to relieve the plight of refugees, internally displaced or stateless persons and asylum seekers.

Mr. Chairman,

Unfortunately, threats against United Nations staff and in particular against humanitarian workers are on the rise. We welcome the active approach taken by the UNHCR to strengthen its system of security management in cooperation with the Office of Internal Oversight. However, the main responsibility for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel continues to remain with states. We urge all States to provide legal protection for humanitarian workers operating under their jurisdiction by ratifying and implementing the Convention on Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its Optional Protocol, which has recently entered into force. In conflict situations the involved parties have the responsibility to facilitate the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental humanitarian organizations, in particular of the ICRC and the UNHCR, by providing for and securing the necessary humanitarian space and refraining from politicization of their work in accordance with international humanitarian law. They must grant unconditional and immediate humanitarian access to refugees and IDPs under all circumstances

Mr. Chairman,

Refugees and IDPs that live in camps or temporary settlements continue to be entitled to their fundamental rights, including the freedom of movement, and parties to conflict must provide civilian oversight over camps in order to secure their humanitarian character. They are also fully responsible to protect refugees and IDPs from military recruitment, in particular children, as well as from violence, in particular sexual violence. Parties to conflict have the primary responsibility to hold perpetrators of grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law accountable in order to put an end to the widespread climate of impunity for such crimes. The Security Council's watch list and sanctions regime as well as the International Criminal Court provide possible ways to ensure accountability should there be no ability or willingness for national prosecution. An independent and objective judicial examination of criminal responsibilities during conflicts is the first step towards post-conflict reconciliation and can thus contribute to the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return of IDPs to their homes. In light of the current low levels of voluntary repatriation, reconciliation efforts must be seconded by better reconstruction and development policies as well as the assurance of property rights, in particular for women.

Mr. Chairman,

We are concerned about the number of stateless persons that is estimated to come close to 12 Million, only 6.6 Million of which are duly identified as such by the UNHCR. The large shadow number is symptomatic for the notorious difficulties of stateless persons to claim their fundamental rights and to participate at equal terms in society. There is a serious risk for statelessness to increase due to new challenges stemming, for example, from climate change induced migration. Liechtenstein is therefore committed to assume its responsibility in reducing statelessness and has recently acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the status of stateless persons and to the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness. We will continue to work together with the UNHCR to

improve our legal framework for stateless persons and those who have been forced to leave their homes.

I thank you.