



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, 55TH SESSION

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WEINAWESER,  
Permanent Representative  
of the Principality of Liechtenstein  
to the United Nations

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me congratulate the establishment of UN Women. In the era of even stronger commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, the leadership of UN Women is essential. It is clear that the success of UN Women will be measured on the ground. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are central preconditions for the achievement of the MDGs in their entirety. As a member of Group of Friends of Women, Peace, and Security we particularly value the fact that strengthening the women, peace, and security agenda and highlighting it as a key area among the thematic priorities of UN Women is an important priority for the Commission on the Status of Women and UN Women to form an effective working relationship.

We further hope that the momentum generated by the creation of UN Women will contribute towards the universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its optional protocol and renew the commitment to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its renewal mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

Education and training are a human right and an essential tool for the empowerment of women, in particular their economic empowerment. It is worth noting that educational gains have yet to be translated into equal access to full employment and decent work and consistent enforcement of the years' priority initiative and underscores its value for achieving the MDGs. The gender divide in science and technology education and careers must be addressed through gender sensitive strategies which take into consideration the current under-representation of girls and women in these fields.

At the national level, the Government's Office of Equal Opportunity is playing a central role in the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Priority 5 Strategy. A central tool in that regard is our domestic Equal Opportunity Act. Progress has been made in the areas of education and employment, in particular regarding the compatibility of family and work and in providing state aid for female victims of criminal offenses. De iure equality has been largely achieved in Liechtenstein. The realization of complete de facto equality remains a challenge. For instance, in recent years Liechtenstein has seen some success in promoting better representation of women in political bodies. Women currently hold 40 percent of the cabinet-level seats in the Government, however, women

presented in Parliament and in the municipal councils. Therefore further efforts have to be made in the coming years.

Mr. Chairman,

Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, harms the physical and mental health of women and undermines their commitments, skills, talents and productivity, reduces human capital and undermines growth. At the International Institute for Democracy and Election Administration, particular emphasis is on the plight of women in armed conflict who often suffer a disproportionate and illusive impact. Liechtenstein and Switzerland jointly financing a project that aims to promote the full implementation of Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security. The project which is executed by the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security produced a Handbook and an accompanying iPhone App as a result of which more action is to be taken on the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

We are encouraged by the efforts of the International Criminal Court. These efforts must become an integral part of our work in the area of women, peace and security. Taken together, the Rome Statute and the Security Council resolutions represent a framework for participation, prevention, recovery and justice.

Another initiative worth mentioning is our membership in the Humanitarian Working Group of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. The Alliance was launched last September with a commitment to saving lives, improving livelihoods, protecting women and children, and combating climate change by creating a global market of clean cookstoves. In this context, we would like to extend an invitation to all delegations to the side event which we are hosting in partnership with Canada and the Women's Refugee Commission on the role of education in preventing gender-based violence. The event is entitled *Live!hoolish m dsi n die ple n sent setti ng u u h u e s a c i t a n c a n f o r W o m e n ? W h a t d o e s i t m e a n f o r Y o u t h ?* and will take place on 3 March at 11:30 am at the Permanent Mission of Canada.

Thank you.