



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 70: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

Every day, thousands of children migrate across borders or are forcibly displaced. Many leave their homes to escape violence, persecution, natural disasters, poverty and food insecurity. In 2016, children made up about half of refugees and asylum seekers, which amount to 12 Mio. worldwide.

Migrant and displaced children and adolescents are among the most vulnerable persons within migratory flows, especially if they are not accompanied by or separated from their parents, relatives or a responsible adult who protects them. On the move, they are often deprived of their rights, such as the right to education or the right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Even worse, unaccompanied and separated migrant and refugee children are at particular risk of abuse, violence and exploitation.

In the New York Declaration we acknowledged the vulnerabilities and specific needs of migrant and refugee children. We are glad to see that the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees are child sensitive, promote existing international legal obligations in

relation to the rights of the child, and uphold the principle of the best interests of the child at all times. It is up to us to deliver on what we have agreed upon in order to leave no child behind.

Mr. Chair,

Child trafficking and slavery is one of the biggest human rights scandals of our times. Children make up almost a third of all human trafficking victims worldwide. Girls and boys are exploited for numerous purposes, including domestic servitude, agricultural and factory work, mining, begging and stealing, and commercial sexual exploitation and abuse. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development we all agreed to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. We also committed to eliminate worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and to end child labor in all its forms by 2025. We call upon all Member States to ratify the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Reaching universalization of the Protocol is essential in protecting children from being trafficked and trapped in modern slavery.

Mr. Chair,

The monitoring mechanism established by Security Council Resolution 1612 to document grave violations against children in conflict situations is another important tool in the protection of children's rights. This mechanism is all the more relevant as we are witnessing an overall erosion of the respect for international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law which includes serious violations of the rights of the child: The latest report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict indicates an increase in the number of verified cases for each of the six grave violations against children in 2017 compared with 2016. The trend is most striking with regard to child abduction, with an increase of more than 70 per cent. It is particularly devastating that boys and girls became victims as both the targets and the perpetrators of violence.

We reiterate our strongest support for the mandate of the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, and the necessity to protect its independence and integrity. Any interference with the mandate, such as through political pressure by Member States, seriously jeopardizes the independence and integrity not only of this mechanism, but also of others that the UN has created.

I thank you.