



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

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 65 (A) AND (B): RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

STATEMENT BY MS. KATHRIN NESCHER, SECOND SECRETARY

Madam Chairperson,

The protection and promotion of human rights and the rights of the child have always been at the forefront of Liechtenstein's engagement at the UN. We welcome South Sudan's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and urge for its universal ratification. Liechtenstein ratified the first two Optional Protocols to the Convention and is committed to ratifying the third Optional Protocol on a communications procedure as a matter of priority.

Madam Chairperson,

Liechtenstein commends the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and reaffirms its continued support for her mandate, which we will renew during this session. We welcome the SRSG's annual report, which illustrates the continued need to end impunity for the most serious violations of the rights of children. In the past year, the plight of children has gone from bad to worse in several situations, including in Gaza, Syria, Iraq and Nigeria. Liechtenstein particularly condemns the unspeakable violence committed by Boko Haram and fully supports its listing in the annex to the report as well as its inclusion in the Security Council's Al-Qaida sanctions list. We believe that the Security Council should enhance its efforts to ensure accountability and make full and productive use of the

tools available to it. In particular, it should consider expanding, where relevant, the mandates of existing Sanctions Committees and allowing the Working Group to apply targeted measures against individuals that violate the rights of children. Furthermore, the Council should enhance its cooperation with international tribunals and consider referring situations to the International Criminal Court (ICC), in a manner fully consistent with the Rome Statute. This applies first and foremost to the situation in Syria, where outrageous violations of the rights of children have been ongoing from the very beginning. In addition, efforts aimed at resolving conflicts must take greater account of children's needs. Mediation processes and peace negotiations and their outcomes should include the perspective of children at the earliest possible stage – this will lead to broader understanding and acceptance and ultimately better implementation.

Madam Chairperson,

Protecting children from violence is a moral and legal imperative. It is also an important priority in the post-2015 development agenda. We were glad to see this reflected in this year's report of the SRSG on Violence against Children. One of the lessons from the Millennium Development Goal process is that, despite important progress made, countries affected by violence tend to lag behind. They have a higher risk of poverty and malnourishment, higher levels of child mortality, poorer health and higher rates of children out of school. We therefore reiterate our strong support for SDG 16 as proposed by the Open Working Group. Target 16.2 specifically calls for an end to abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children. We furthermore appreciate the attention that children and violence against children are being given as a cross-cutting dimension of other goals, including gender equality and empowerment, decent work and education. Today's children are the future drivers of development. We must place them at the very center of the post-2015 development agenda. Access to quality education in particular is key in this regard, as currently reflected in proposed SDG 4 and its powerful targets.

I would also like to note that we fully agree with the SRSG's conclusion that, for the SDG agenda to be successful, it is indispensable to promote sound monitoring tools and indicators to accelerate and monitor progress.

Madam Chairperson,

In the year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the international community has a golden opportunity to place children's well-being and development at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda. Liechtenstein hopes that this will help generate unprecedented efforts and resources to invest in our common future, which lies in the hands of children.

I thank you.