



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

---

NEW YORK, 6 OCTOBER 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

**ITEM 106: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE / ITEM 107: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL**

**STATEMENT BY KATHRIN NESCHER, SECOND SECRETARY**

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madame Chair,

The issues we are discussing under agenda items 106 and 107 are often considered to be very technical. Yet, the crimes we want to prevent, the drug problem we want to control and the justice we want to provide are very real issues that affect people worldwide and their enjoyment of human rights. Allow me to comment on a few issues of particular importance to Liechtenstein.

(1) Human trafficking and modern slavery are grave violations of human rights and obstacles to sustainable development – they rightfully find their place in three SDGs: on gender equality (SDG 5), on decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) and on peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16). They can amount to a peace and security concern, especially when their proceeds are used to finance terrorist activities and fuel armed conflicts – in this respect, we look forward to concrete action by the Security Council in December this year. For human traffickers, slavery is a very lucrative business and one where virtually all perpetrators escape accountability, in spite of a de facto universal legal prohibition. It is estimated that over 45 Mio people today live in

conditions that qualify **as modern slavery**. A seminar which we organized earlier this year together with the United Nations University, the United Kingdom and with civil society partners resulted in a report outlining 10 ideas for action by the Security Council – but also in other bodies<sup>1</sup>. Our follow-up action will focus on disrupting financial flows and using relevant data for criminal prosecutions. In short: On “following the money”. We will also work towards a greater involvement of international justice mechanisms, where national judiciaries systematically fail. And of course we look forward to engaging in the framework of the relevant Third Committee resolution this year as well as in the review of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Madame Chair,

(2) The UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem in April resulted in a rather disappointing outcome that reflects largely the **status quo** – a status quo heavily based on a punitive approach. This approach has neither proven successful, nor does it do justice to the complex nature of the problem. The international drug control framework must address the health and welfare of humankind. Yet UNODC’s World Drug Report found that the unintended consequences of current drug policies have shifted precious resources away from public health to law enforcement. The current regime facilitates lucrative and violent criminal black markets, while criminalizing and marginalizing drug *users*. As well intentioned as our collective approach may have been, it is also hopelessly outdated.

2019 will be another chance for the international community to live up to the facts of the world drug problem and change course.

We are particularly alarmed by the continued imposition of the **death penalty** for drug-related offenses. These crimes do not meet the threshold of “most serious crimes”; the executions are in clear violation of Article 6 of the ICCPR and thus international human rights law.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://unu.edu/media-relations/releases/un-report-proposes-action-by-security-council-private-sector-on-human-trafficking-in-conflict.html#info>

Liechtenstein strongly urges the countries concerned to end this practice, which has no deterrent effect.

Even more alarming are the flagrant human rights violations committed by countries employing extrajudicial killings to combat drug use and drug trafficking – these violations can amount to crimes against humanity.

Madam Chair,

(3) Liechtenstein has long advocated for a thorough consideration of corrupt practices as an obstacle to the full enjoyment of human rights. Corruption goes hand in hand with violations of human rights, for example to education, health or access to justice. We welcome language in the corruption resolution condemning corruption not only in all its forms but also at all levels – thereby recognizing its effects on a large scale, and of bribery – small corruption – that affects millions of people on a daily basis in their exercise of their human rights and enjoyment of fundamental freedoms. The intrinsic link between corruption and human rights has recently been reaffirmed in a successful side event organized by Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova and UNDP.

To conclude, the resolution on corruption is one of the resolutions where negotiation dynamics lead to technical language overshadowing what we should focus on – pointing out the effects of these issues on human rights. If we are serious about crime prevention, criminal justice and drug control, we need to become serious about naming and preventing the underlying human rights violations.

I thank you.