



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 63: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

In the last few years, we have been witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. In 2018, more than 70 million people have been forcibly displaced. There have been more than 40 million internally displaced people, more than 25 million refugees and 3.5 million asylum seekers. Among the most vulnerable populations that are fleeing are unaccompanied and separated children as well as stateless people who have been denied a nationality. They are at the risk of being deprived of basic human rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

Armed conflicts and other situations of violence have long been major reasons for forced displacement across and within borders. More than two thirds of all refugees come from five countries, all of which are affected by conflicts and violence: Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia. While not in themselves causes of refugee movements, climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters increasingly interact with drivers of such movements and reinforce them. It is therefore important to address the root causes of forced displacement in a holistic way which in addition to conflict prevention also includes climate justice.

The United Nations has created milestone achievements to respond to causes and consequences of forced displacement. The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols form the core of international humanitarian law, which regulates the conduct in times of armed conflict and seeks to limit its devastating effects. With the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees last year, Member States have recognized that a sustainable solution to refugee situations requires increased international cooperation. The GCR provides a strong and balanced response to refugee movements and situations of prolonged displacement.

Liechtenstein is fully committed to international law, including human rights and humanitarian law, and the implementation of the GCR in the context of the Global Refugee Forum. For us it is of particular importance that the international community supports countries of first asylum. We have contributed to that end in the context of our international humanitarian and development cooperation. Moreover, by increasing our annual contribution to UNHCR by a third to 400'000 Swiss Francs, we have responded to its call for more financial support by Member States, and we hope that other States will follow suit.

Mr. Chair,

Forcibly displaced populations are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and modern slavery. The most recent UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons documents that criminal groups and individual traffickers specifically target refugees, internally displaced populations and asylum seekers. They recruit people from refugee camps with false promises of receiving payments or transport to safer locations.

Slavery and trafficking of forcibly displaced people – a hidden and complex phenomenon – requires comprehensive responses, which involve a variety of relevant actors. Liechtenstein's Government, but also its private sector, are strongly committed to fight these crimes. Together with our partners from Australia and the Netherlands, we have launched a public-private partnership, the "Liechtenstein Initiative" for a Financial Sector Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The final product of the FSC – ["A Blueprint for Mobilizing Finance Against](#)

[Slavery and Trafficking](#)” was presented during the high-level week. It equips the global financial sector to prevent and combat these human rights violations, by means of sustainable and innovative financing, responsible lending and investment, as well as compliance and regulation.

The General Assembly, and in particular its Third Committee, Special Procedures created by the Human Rights Council, as well as the Security Council can play an important role in the implementation of the blueprint and thus help better protect forcibly displaced populations who are particularly vulnerable to slavery and trafficking. Only if we promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons, can we achieve the 2030 Agenda and our joint commitment to leave no one behind.

I thank you.