



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

**ITEM 107: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE / ITEM 108: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL**

**STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY**

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

Human trafficking and modern slavery are among the biggest human rights scandals of our time. They deprive persons of their human dignity and human rights, undermine the rule of law and are a significant obstacle to sustainable development. More than 46 million people are directly affected worldwide, and the effects of modern slavery and human trafficking are pervasive in a number of industries. The brutal reality today is that all societies are affected, that we are all involved.

The United Nations has a long-standing engagement in the fight against these crimes. The Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Human Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children offers a solid legal framework for the necessary cooperation in the area of law enforcement. The Protocol has been widely ratified, but there are still 21 States that have yet to join. Liechtenstein will continue advocating for universality, especially in the context of the Universal Periodic Review.

Mr. Chair,

Law enforcement and criminal justice are key dimensions in our common fight against human trafficking and modern slavery. Last week, in the context of the high-level meeting on the issue Secretary General Guterres said that he has seen many drug trafficking lords being sentenced to prison, but he has never seen “human trafficking lords” in jail. This is a very pertinent observation as drug trafficking and human trafficking are indeed two of the most insidious and lucrative forms of organized crime - and because the difference in levels of accountability is so stark.

In keeping with our overall commitment to fight impunity for the most serious crimes under international law, Liechtenstein has identified two areas in which we are hoping to make a difference: First, we aim to strengthen accountability, not least through the involvement of international criminal justice mechanisms. There is a customary international law norm against slavery which can be the basis for stronger involvement of such mechanisms, especially the ICC. And second, we have used the expertise and knowledge of our financial center, in particular our Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), to adapt existing tools to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism in order to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. We wish to assist others in their efforts to “follow the money” to help eradicate this illegal business, which generates over 150 billion USD on the back of trafficked persons annually.

Mr. Chair,

Corruption is one of the main causes why human traffickers can continue their illegal practices and escape prosecutions. It undermines the integrity of institutions which are meant to protect citizens. More generally speaking, corruption hinders millions of people every day from fully enjoying their human rights, including the right to development. This is why corruption rightfully finds its place in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development under SDG 16 on

peaceful and inclusive societies.

The United Nations Conventions against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. Out of the 182 States Parties to the UNCAC, Liechtenstein has been the first country to be reviewed in the second UNCAC review cycle. The executive summary published earlier this year concluded that “overall Liechtenstein has in place a far-reaching legal and regulatory framework for all the Convention’s prevention provisions”. We urge all states to ratify and implement the UNCAC.

Human trafficking, modern slavery and corruption are often times not only interlinked, but also transnational in nature. Therefore, efficient international cooperation is crucial for the elimination of these crimes. A comprehensive response by the international community, including to new and emerging challenges, also requires strong cooperation in other aspects. We therefore welcome that the 2030 Agenda addresses human trafficking, modern slavery and corruption in three SDGs.

We believe that the UN can be an ideal platform to build the necessary partnerships among different UN entities and gain the support of those governments, private sector actors and NGOs that are committed and ready to fight against trafficking in persons, modern slavery and corruption.

I thank you.