

ITEM 69:

**STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER
RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE**

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

NEW YORK, 15 DECEMBER 2010

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

Coordination of humanitarian assistance is a core activity of the United Nations. Let me therefore join others in reiterating our full support for the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the work of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, USG Valerie Amos. We welcome the last report of the Secretary-General, which highlights the current threats and challenges in this field and provides us with an overview of the progress made with regard to the coordination of humanitarian assistance.

Mr. President,

The ability to deliver humanitarian assistance to populations in need is increasingly jeopardized by the growing number of deliberate attacks on humanitarian workers, facilities and vehicles. The changing nature of armed conflicts, which is often characterized by an increase in criminality and banditry, plays an important role in this regard. In addition, in many conflict situations around the world, humanitarian actors are no longer perceived as neutral. Attacks on them are thus political in nature. To increase the acceptance of humanitarian assistance in high-risk environments its delivery must be disassociated from political and military goals and underpinned by a constant outreach to community leaders and local authorities. In order to improve the safety and security of those delivering humanitarian assistance, any humanitarian response strategy should be complemented by an appropriate and sufficiently funded security management. Liechtenstein therefore supports the new United Nations security management approach, which aims to support humanitarian operations more effectively. We welcome further efforts made to increase the security collaboration between the United Nations, international organizations and NGOs, by enhancing the "Saving Lives Together" framework, which Liechtenstein has supported from the beginning. Furthermore, we call on all States to become parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its additional protocol which entered into force this year.

Mr. President,

As a small country, Liechtenstein's policy of humanitarian assistance is based on a "niche approach", with an emphasis on underfunded appeals and specific topics. The CERF gives us the opportunity to implement this policy in a consistent manner. During these times of financial and economic constraints, Liechtenstein reiterates its commitment to adequate and predictable funding for humanitarian assistance. We agree with others that it is imperative for OCHA and the CERF Secretariat to receive sufficient funds to fulfill their mandates, including from the regular UN budget.

Mr. President,

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has further increased this year to 27 million. The assistance they receive often fails to address the different vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys and men. Women are particularly vulnerable in situations of displacement as they are often forced to adopt new strategies to provide for themselves and their families. As a result, they sometimes have no choice but to travel to unsafe areas to find work, trade sex for food or become sex workers. Greater efforts are needed to address the link between gender-based violence and livelihoods in displacement settings, and more attention should also be given to re-starting people's economic lives.

Mr. President,

Access to fuel and firewood as well as their use in humanitarian settings poses a variety of serious risks. Women and girls are often raped and assaulted during the collection of firewood outside their camps. Cooking over indoor fires releases toxic smoke, causing respiratory infections that kill more people every year than malaria – especially babies and young children. Furthermore, the collection of firewood exacerbates environmental degradation. We are pleased to see that this year's resolution on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations addresses these important issues more clearly than in the past, in particular by referring to

relevant national and international initiatives. We particularly welcome the multi-sectoral guidance tools endorsed by the Inter Agency Standing Committee in this regard. These instruments will help humanitarian actors to address the issue of safe access to cooking fuel from the start of every emergency.

I thank you.