



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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY...

New York, 29 FEBRUARY 2012

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, 58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WELTAWLSEF

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Chairperson,

We welcome the focus of this year's session on the situation of rural women. Their particular needs as well as the risks and challenges they face, including those of discrimination, must not be addressed urgently as they cause ongoing poverty, marginalization and violence. Rural women encounter numerous challenges, for instance deprivation from access to economic, legal and political services, as well as access to education, health systems and the judiciary. Large gaps in gender equality, which are a fundamental human rights, States have an obligation to end all forms of discrimination and address all human rights violations. Gender equality is a key challenge for the advancement of women. Gender equality is a key enabler of sustainable and equitable economic growth and a relevant development of our country. Studies have shown that participation of women in agriculture, politics, health and urban sectors are directly linked to the economic performance, stability and growth of a country. Women's productive potential in rural areas are not only a basis for prosperity, but also has their potential gone unacknowledged and unappreciated. Therefore, the empowerment of rural women and girls, their participation in societal processes and decision-making, their access and control of resources, need to be strengthened with a view to eliminate discrimination and inequalities between men and women.

in order to increase their economic empowerment and financial independence of rural women, the  
Liaison for Development Agency supports projects such as the Rural Women's Centre  
for sustainable livelihoods for rural women in rural India. The Center gains 50% of its  
yearly budget from own earnings and helps rural women to get an income, support their  
families and increase their independence from subsistence economy through the  
manufacturing of baskets, goat breeding or creating vegetable gardens.

Chairperson,

Gender-based violence, in particular domestic and sexual violence as well as harmful  
practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting, violates fundamental human  
rights and is a major obstacle to development. Ending discrimination and violence against  
women continue to be a priority for international law and we remind States of their obligations  
under international law to end discrimination, to ensure redress for  
victims. States have a legal obligation to protect the human rights of all their  
citizens and to provide special protection to the most vulnerable groups from violations of their basic  
rights. Rural women are particularly vulnerable in this regard. They often face even more  
restrictions in their access to judicial services than their urban counterparts. Ending  
acts of violence and therefore necessary to break an vicious circle impacting many women on a daily basis. The  
collection of relevant data in this regard can support accountability and tailor protection  
policies. In order to address the current lack of data on violence against women in rural  
areas, access to remote areas should be improved. Women's representation in judiciary  
areas has to be strengthened and gender-sensitive law reforms need to be promoted.  
Liaison for Development Agency provides pioneer projects in this field such as the JIN Police Vulnerable  
Women's Initiative in rural India.

Chairperson,

in order to achieve peace, stability and sustainable development, rural women should get  
everywhere and to participate in decision-making at all levels and in all contexts. Rural  
women continue to be marginalized from the political sphere, particularly in political  
processes at the national level. Active at grassroots level, they face discriminatory practices  
and inequalities when laws are created and constitutions are written. States must do  
more to ensure that rural women's voices are carried to capitals. They should also be  
encouraged to participate on equal terms throughout all phases  
of political transition, to guarantee their right to speak their minds and to assemble freely.  
The UN must support these efforts and in this regard, we welcome UN Women's focus in  
2012 on women's political participation.

Despite the significant normative progress made in the Women, Peace and Security (WPS)  
agenda of the Security Council in the last years, mainstreaming the agenda in the  
national context remains a challenge. Women continue to be  
underrepresented as state and non-state actors in peace processes in various conflict affected regions

throughout the globe, leading to a neglect of their rights, in peace accords and institutional arrangements. Women have had to be involved in peace processes from the beginning of their interests and protection needs risk being unaddressed at later stages. Rape, sexual violence must be addressed throughout all stages of conflict resolution, from ceasefire agreements, and the presence of adequate gender expertise at the peace table. Here, we believe that the Security Council has a crucial responsibility to support the Council in addressing these issues and make concrete commitments. The Liechtenstein delegation held a workshop on 20 March 2019, in Vienna, Austria, hosted by H.E. Foreign Minister Aurelia H. Fröhlich, MP and WPS for Afghanistan. The workshop has been organized in close partnership with the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University (LISD) and was supported by the delegations of Afghanistan and Germany. Along with our Afghan partners we invite all delegation to a presentation of the main findings of the workshop on 20 March at 3:00 PM in Conference room 5.

Thank you.

throughout the global, leading to...  
managements. Women have to be involved in peace processes from the beginning of their  
interest and protection from the beginning of the process. In addition, social  
violence must be addressed. Women's leadership is essential in the process  
with overall agreement, and the presence of women's expertise in the peace  
table. Here, we believe that the Security Council has a crucial responsibility. To support the  
Council's efforts in strengthening its thematic agenda on Women, Peace and Security, the  
Secretary-General has established a high-level advisory group on Women, Peace and Security, led  
hosted by H.E. Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on the implementation of the WPS agenda.  
Algeria. The workshop was organized in close partnership with the International  
Institute on the Question of Palestine at Princeton University (IIQIP) and was supported by the  
delegations of Afghanistan and Germany. The workshop was held in  
delegation to a presentation of the main findings of the workshop on 29 March at 10:00 AM in  
Cairo on 29/3.

Thank you