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

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER**  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORT

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to speak before this Commission as a longstanding advocate for gender equality in our foreign policy, and to do so in the halls of the UN, after two virtual sessions of CSW. Unfortunately, we are meeting under the shadows of a terrible war close to our home. The Liechtenstein Government strongly condemns the aggression against Ukraine and calls for the immediate cessation of the hostilities and immediate withdrawal of the Russian armed forces, in line with the strong call from the General Assembly on 2 March.

All armed conflicts have devastating consequences for civilian populations. Every war is a setback in the achievement of gender equality and the rights of women in particular. Women typically bear a disproportionate burden of the effects of war. They suffer violence, discrimination, marginalization and exclusion in various ways. Yet, their resilience is inspiring, and I applaud the female civilians, peaceful protestors, human rights defenders, journalists and media workers that fight for democracy, human rights and peace – in Ukraine, in Afghanistan, in Myanmar, to name just a few. Their role is key in our task to defend our international rules-based order. These are also examples that illustrate clearly need for the active inclusion of women in peace processes. This is not a question of political correctness, but rather a prerequisite for successful and productive political processes. Together we can create a future that is peaceful, just, inclusive and sustainable, as we committed to in the 2030 Agenda.

Madam Chair,

Climate change is the theme of this session – a global challenge that burdens all of humanity, but not equally, with women and girls disproportionately affected. And the generations to come will have to bear the consequences of our action – or inaction. This Commission can and should address the interlinkages between climate disasters and gender inequality.

The unequal access of women to land and natural resources, to finance and to education, among others, constrain their ability to equally and meaningfully contribute to effective

responses to climate and environmental crises. But their voices are so desperately needed for all of us to be successful.

Climate change and environmental crises also exacerbate the precarious situation of women and girls in vulnerable situations. Modern slavery and human trafficking – the victims of which are mostly women and girls – increase during and after natural disasters. With our “Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking” (FAST) initiative we have developed a Blueprint for financial institutions to do their part to prevent these crimes, through financial inclusion in particular.

Climate is also a key dimension in our International Humanitarian Aid and Development Cooperation. Together with the ICRC, Liechtenstein has launched the ICRC Climate and Environment Transition Fund. This fund will enable the ICRC’s transition towards sustainable and climate-smart humanitarian action. And as – in the words of UN Secretary-General Guterres – every humanitarian emergency is moving the clock on women’s rights backwards, we hope that these efforts contribute to a brighter future for both our planet and people, including all women and girls.

I thank you.