

ITEM 64A:
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

STATEMENT

BY

MR. SWEN DORNIG
ATTACHÉ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY
OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, 13 OCTOBER 2010

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

The protection and promotion of human rights has always been at the forefront of Liechtenstein's efforts at the United Nations, in particular in regard of the rights of the child. Twenty years ago, the most universally ratified human rights treaty, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, entered into force. On this occasion, allow me to reiterate our full support for the Convention and for the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. We welcome the increase in the number of States Parties' reports that the Committee has considered and we are pleased to see that the two-chamber system¹ has at least prevented a new backlog of reports before the Committee. We remain concerned, however, at the remaining backlog of over 80 reports. We therefore favor the extended application of this working method, which facilitated the timely discussion of reports throughout the last three years.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome this year's focus on early childhood. High-quality care and education during the first seven years of life is particularly important, since growth and development processes during that time have a direct impact on the social and health prospects of a person's entire life. The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 is intrinsically linked to the fulfillment of the rights of the child in early childhood. As the Secretary-General's report rightly points out, the implementation of the rights of the child in early childhood is based upon a comprehensive child-centered framework of laws, policies and community-based services. This is, however, not a matter of resources alone. This framework must recognize young children as active participants in their development and not as mere recipients of care and teaching. Children in Liechtenstein had the possibility of participation in the legislative process of the new Liechtenstein Children and Youth Act, which entered into force in February 2009. Under the law, children have the right to be heard regarding decisions that concern them to the extent of their capability of

¹ Established by resolution A/RES/63/244.

expressing opinions. Furthermore, an Ombudsman has been appointed who, among other tasks, is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Liechtenstein.

Mr. Chairman,

Armed conflicts are a main source of violations of the rights of the child. Liechtenstein reiterates its full support to the work for the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict. Among the most heinous violations are systematic and deliberate attacks on students and teachers, as well as on school buildings. We are alarmed by a recent UNESCO study that reveals an escalating number of such attacks in various conflict settings. Both State and non-State actors perpetrate such attacks. The Security Council has a particular responsibility to promote the protection of children from such violations. We commend the Council for adopting resolution 1882, which expanded the trigger for the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism to include, in addition to conflict parties that recruit and use children in armed conflicts, parties that commit rape and other forms of grave sexual violence and/or parties responsible for the killing and maiming of children. However, to ensure the best possible protection of children, we believe that equal weight must be given to all six grave violations as triggers for the MRM. The current differential treatment of grave violations of children's rights in various conflicts is difficult to square with the universality and interdependence of human rights and the principles of international humanitarian law.

I thank you.