



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**OPEN DEBATE OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL:
PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICT**

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

NEW YORK, 28 JUNE 2006

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

Since the Council last met on this topic in an open debate six months ago, resolution 1674 (2006) has been adopted, which had been asked for by many delegations. We wish to take this opportunity to commend the Council for having produced a text that contains many crucial elements for the further improvement of the international protection regime for civilians in armed conflict. The recognition that the deliberate targeting of civilians and other protected persons, and the commission of systematic, flagrant and widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in armed conflict may constitute a threat to international peace and security is very welcome. We would, however, have expected that the resolution more specifically spells out the role that the Council is willing to assume with regard to the implementation of the responsibility of the international community to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. While the Security Council acknowledged that there are a number of national and international justice and reconciliation mechanisms which can be instrumental in ending impunity, we were also disappointed to note that the resolution does not contain any reference to the vital role which the International Criminal Court is playing in this respect. Such references would have updated and strengthened the resolution in a manner to take into account the major relevant developments since the year 2000, including the referral of a situation to the ICC by the Security Council.

Mr. President

Important developments have also taken place with regard to the quality of the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilian populations affected by armed conflict. The modernization of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and the establishment of clear leadership functions within the UN system for prompt and coordinated humanitarian action will significantly contribute to ensuring more predictable humanitarian financing and enhancing the overall response capacity. In order to have the intended impact on the ground, such improvements of the operational tools need to be supported, however, by the recognition of the right of affected civilians to humanitarian assistance and the acceptance of secure and prompt access for humanitarian organizations and workers by all parties to a conflict as well as by neighboring countries. It is with this purpose that the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence have to be understood and applied.

Mr. President

In his report of last November, the Secretary-General had also pointed out that a prompt and predictable humanitarian response can bring sustainable relief to civilians caught in an armed conflict only when there is a political solution to the