NEW YORK, 17 OCTOBER 2013
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIRD COMMITTEE
ITEM 65 (A) AND (B): RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
STATEMENT BY MR. CLAUDIO NARDI, SECOND SECRETARY

Mr. Chairman

For Liechtenstein the promotion and protection of the rights of children is a matter of priority. We fully endorse the Convention on the Rights of the Child and look forward to the 25th anniversary of its adoption next year. We hope that this will be the moment to finally achieve universal membership of the Convention. The commemoration should also be the occasion to significantly step up ratification of the Convention’s Optional Protocols. The second Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography entered into force for Liechtenstein on 28 February 2013. Liechtenstein has also committed itself to ratifying the third Optional Protocol on a communications procedure at the second round of our Universal Periodic Review (UPR) last June. We believe that it is imperative to give children or their representatives the opportunity to file complaints on violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two Optional Protocols.

At the national level, Liechtenstein established the Ombuds Office for Children and Young People in 2009. Last year, the Ombudsperson, together with the Liechtenstein Children and Youth Advisory Council, presented a report reflecting the perspectives of children and young
people in Liechtenstein. More than 1100 children participated in this survey which corresponds to 20% of the children in the country.

Mr. Chairman
Liechtenstein reaffirms its continued support for the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and welcomes her annual report. The report illustrates the continued need to address impunity for the most serious violations of the rights of children. We believe that the Security Council should enhance its efforts to ensure accountability and make full and productive use of the tools available to it. In particular, it should consider expanding, where relevant, the mandates of existing Sanctions Committees and allowing the Working Group to apply targeted measures against individuals. Furthermore, the Council should enhance its cooperation with international tribunals and consider making use of its power to refer situations to the International Criminal Court (ICC), in a manner fully consistent with the Rome Statute. We believe that the situation in Syria, where outrageous violations of the rights of children have been ongoing from the very beginning, is a clear example where a referral to the ICC is needed.

Liechtenstein has been actively engaged in furthering the Children and Armed Conflict agenda. Last year, Liechtenstein developed in close partnership with the NGO Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict a mobile application which seeks to provide international policy-makers, UN personnel and non-governmental organizations access to key documents and recommendations to protect the security and rights of children. The application compiles all thematic Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, identifies the relevant underlying sources of international humanitarian and human rights law, and provides examples of model language on child protection from previous Security Council resolutions. It also includes a checklist specifically aimed at Security Council members on mainstreaming child protection in Security Council resolutions. Users will also find background information on violations against children in situations of armed conflict. We are pleased to announce that the application is nominated for the Human Rights Tulip Award, a prize sponsored by the Dutch
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Hague Institute for the Internationalization of Law. I encourage you to cast your vote before October 18 on innovatingjustice.com.

Mr. Chairman

Liechtenstein has read with satisfaction how the different UN child protection mandates cooperate in practice while implementing their individual functions independently. While a one-time assessment of the extent and the quality of that cooperation has been useful, Liechtenstein considers the aim of this exercise fully achieved and does not see the need for further institutional follow-up. The resources and capacities bound by an ongoing reporting effort by the Secretariat on this issue will be much better put to use if fully applied to the discharge of the different mandates.

I thank you.