



**PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 JUNE 2012

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARTIN FRICK**  
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein is ready to contribute to our collective endeavor to build the future we want. We all agree that such a future should be free from hunger and poverty, allow for a life in freedom, stability and security for all, while respecting the natural limits of our planet and preserving its fragile climate and ecosystem. We owe it to future generations to make every effort to increase rather than restrict the breadth of their opportunities and choices by putting our standard of living and development efforts on a sustainable basis. We consider Rio+20 a milestone to bring us on the right track in advancing this agenda. Our agreement on the Future We Want also stands for the beginning of a new chapter in this process. We have created a sound basis and common political understanding to shape international development policy. A lot of work remains to ensure that the necessary institutional and policy measures are taken for serious follow-up and implementation. The global and cross-cutting nature of the challenges ahead does not allow for ad-hoc or isolated measures and requires bold and visionary common action. We believe that there is no alternative to inclusive multilateral processes within the United Nations such as Rio+20 to define and coordinate such action. At the same time, Rio+20 is a stern reminder that we must be more efficient and seek pragmatic solutions where currently ideological stalemate prevails.

Mr. President,

Rio+20 is an important step forward in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental. Liechtenstein welcomes the launch of a process to devise a set of concrete Sustainable Development Goals to guide our collective efforts in a post 2015 multilateral development framework. These goals will have to reflect a true balance in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development and overcome trade-offs between them as a misconception of the past. Devising the SDGs goes hand in hand with a vigorous effort for the timely achievement of all Millennium Development Goals in all regions. According to the most recent numbers Liechtenstein already invests 0.67% of its Gross Domestic Product in Official Development Assistance and remains committed to achieve the 0.7% target. The SDGs must build upon the experience made and lessons learned with the MDGs and must ensure the promotion, respect and protection of all human rights and of the principles of good governance and the rule of law. The world continues to witness how futile development gains are that leave aside this important dimension. The full enjoyment of economic,

social, cultural, civil and political rights is a fundamental and inalienable entitlement of each human person in realizing her or his right to development.

Mr. President

This Conference helps us make progress in reforming the United Nations institutions for sustainable development. The new institutional framework has to allow for broader and more inclusive participation by all relevant stakeholders, ensure higher political relevance, lead to a substantial consolidation of efforts within the United Nations system and be clearly focused on maximizing impact on the ground. Unfortunately, we have missed an opportunity to call for a robust accountability and review mechanism for sustainable development policies and commitments. Liechtenstein continues to believe that the core functions we have identified here in Rio can best be integrated by discontinuing existing inefficient bodies with largely overlapping mandates and functions. Instead we should establish a new consolidated body displaying a true balance between the three pillars of sustainable development. In addition, we cannot afford to lose time or momentum in strengthening the United Nations Environmental Programme along the agreed lines. We must also take substantial further measures to ensure policy coherence, maximize synergies and avoid overlap within the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Mr. President

Liechtenstein is convinced that the transition towards a Green Economy is an essential means to achieve sustainable development and consider our agreement as a solid basis to continue our work. It is disappointing that political skepticism has prevented us from tapping the full potential of Green Economy policies for poverty eradication, job creation and investment opportunities. Equally disappointing is our caginess in discussing appropriate means to implement such policies. Liechtenstein will continue its contribution to a collective transition to a Green Economy at the international level. Nationally, we commit to the following measures: We will reduce greenhouse gas emissions between 2013 and 2020 by at least 20% compared to the level of 1990 and will participate in a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. We further commit to reduce Liechtenstein's energy consumption as well as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% by 2020 and to increase the share of sustainable energy from currently 8% to 20% by 2020. In the social field Liechtenstein is committed to actively promote a just and inclusive society. We commit to substantially reduce inequalities in education opportunities and to reduce to zero gender-based inequalities in salaries by actively promoting equal pay for equal work.

Finally, we are convinced that the new registry of commitments that we have agreed to establish will serve both as an incentive and accountability mechanism for all relevant stakeholders. We look forward to submitting our pledges and learn about those of others.

---