



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

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NEW YORK, 11 OCTOBER 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECOND COMMITTEE

**ITEM 18: MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS / ITEM 19: FOLLOW-UP TO AND  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON FINANCING FOR  
DEVELOPMENT**

**STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY**

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

Earlier this year, we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The UNCAC provides a global legal framework to fight corruption and to strengthen the rule of law. Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that erodes trust in democracy and public institutions. It continues to hinder sustainable development and undermines human rights and fundamental freedoms. And it poses a threat to peace and security worldwide – we hope to see follow-up discussions to the first ever debate in the Security Council earlier this year. Eradicating corruption and promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies based on the rule of law are key ingredients for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Liechtenstein has a longstanding commitment to prevent and combat corruption. We have amended our Criminal Code based on the recommendations resulting from the UNCAC review and taken measures to enable competent law enforcement authorities to cooperate on the

international level by enacting a revised Financial Intelligence Unit Act. We have successfully engaged in the recovery and return of stolen assets and returned more than USD 230 million of such assets so far. Liechtenstein enjoys a close and longstanding partnership with the International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR) and the StAR initiative of the World Bank. As a founding member of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) we also continue to support capacity building efforts to strengthen the fight against corruption.

Mr. Chair,

The provisions of the UNCAC regulating the recovery and return of stolen assets are very diligently and carefully crafted. The concept of return of assets under UNCAC should not be mixed up with other forms of international cooperation, in particular with the concept of illicit financial flows. Such illicit flows are not limited to stolen assets, but may instead also encompass proceeds stemming from organized crime: Drugs and arms trafficking, human trafficking, as well as trade misinvoicing, transfer mispricing, or undeclared offshore wealth. Different components of illicit financial flows call for separate and distinct analyses to inform the design of effective policy responses.

Liechtenstein places particular emphasis on the fight against financial flows stemming from modern slavery and human trafficking. They constitute horrendous crimes with over 40 million victims worldwide and 150 billion USD in revenue every year. In the margins of this year's General Debate, our Foreign Minister, together with the Foreign Minister of Australia, launched the "Liechtenstein Initiative for a Financial Sector Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking" – a public-private partnership, which we developed together with the United Nations University. It brings together actors from retail banks, hedge funds, global regulators, institutional investors, survivors as well as the UN and the anti-slavery movement. The Commission will produce a set of measures for the global financial sector to tackle illicit financial flows of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Furthermore, Liechtenstein is committed to a rules-based order for global trade, with the World Trade Organization at its center. Our staunch support for the WTO is complemented by an active free trade policy. Together with our partners of the European Free Trade Association, we have concluded numerous preferential trade agreements, many of which include provisions to promote the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through trade.

Mr. Chair,

This Committee is well positioned and equipped to deal with the rise of blockchain and cryptocurrencies, to reflect on how to use their immense potential for sustainable development and, at the same time, to assess the risks and challenges that accompany them. As one of the first country in the world, Liechtenstein has initiated comprehensive blockchain legislation to create legal certainty for business activity on blockchain systems and to provide sound framework conditions for the evolution of the so called “Token Economy”. This landmark legislation aims at regulating property rights for Tokens, preventing abuse and at defining minimum requirements for business activity, including registration with the Financial Market Authority.

Blockchain technology already plays an important role in the daily operations of the United Nations, including in its development work and humanitarian assistance. We look forward to working with Member States, the UN and relevant stakeholders to improve regulatory measures and to fully use the potential of blockchain worldwide.

I thank you.