



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORT OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

Mister President

It is an honor to speak before the High-level Political Forum as the Sustainable Development Goals continue to provide the necessary compass to navigate the most pressing challenges of our time. They offer effective responses to the climate crisis, conflict and inequality. And they build the foundation for a sustainable world for generations to come. In many ways, the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes a reminder of the 2030 Agenda's immense value. Our common commitment to build back better – and to prevent future pandemics – must concentrate on the full and effective implementation of the SDGs. Strengthening the rule of law at the national and international level – in line with SDG 16 – is a crucial prerequisite in this regard. We all must do our part to reinforce the increasingly fragile trust in public institutions, fight corruption and uphold democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms that have come under attack over the past years. Priority should furthermore be given to those areas where no progress has been made, or even reversed, such as access to quality education for all. As Liechtenstein's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Education, I welcome the Secretary General's timely convening of the Transforming Education Summit this fall and look forward to further global collaboration and innovation for the achievement of SDG 4.

Mister President

The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the drivers of modern slavery and human trafficking, including growing poverty and economic inequality. Ending these horrendous crimes requires the active engagement of all relevant stakeholders. Together with international partners and private sector actors in Liechtenstein we launched the Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking Initiative – “FAST”. This global public-private partnership has offered financial actors a practical blueprint to promote sustainable and innovative financing, responsible lending and investment, and compliance and regulation. While still a young initiative, FAST is already showing encouraging results around the globe. For example, FAST launched a Survivor Inclusion Initiative to assist survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery receive access to financial services – participating financial institutions have opened over 1,500 accounts for survivors referred by FAST. And, with the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS), FAST developed an Online Training Certificate on Fighting Modern Slavery which trains government, intergovernmental and development personnel. These concrete achievements are promising – the Liechtenstein Government will continue its strong support of the FAST initiative and, in doing so, contribute to the realization of SDGs 5, 8, 16 and 17 among others.

Mister President

With less than a decade to implement the 2030 Agenda, we will also put a strong focus on increasing policy coherence with the SDGs both domestically and abroad. For this legislative period, all parliamentary bills must include a detailed analysis of their contributions towards the achievements of the SDGs. And in light of the multiple and intersecting crises we are currently facing, my Government has committed to increase its development and humanitarian budget by almost 8% for the current and coming year. We are currently preparing our second Voluntary National Review, and I am particularly excited to be presenting it in the halls of the United Nations – the center of our so highly valued international rules-based order – next year.