

**FOURTH HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT:  
THE MONTERREY CONSENSUS AND DOHA DECLARATION  
ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT:  
STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND TASKS AHEAD**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

The Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration have been good tools for us in addressing the different crises which have hit us in the last years. What is needed is the implementation of our commitments with a greater sense of urgency and resolve. We further need improved monitoring of the implementation of these commitments and accountability in this respect. Let me briefly explain how Liechtenstein has implemented its commitments from Monterrey and Doha.

The negative impact of the financial and economic crisis on our economy has not affected our commitment to achieve the agreed Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 0.7%. Liechtenstein has consistently increased its ODA contributions since 2002. Even though we do not have all the relevant numbers yet, we are confident that we have been able to further increase our ODA percentage in 2009. Liechtenstein continues to be well on track and remains firmly committed to reach the target as soon as possible. This commitment is accompanied by a firm belief in the principle of aid effectiveness as reflected in several UN documents.

Mr. President,

On the matter of international cooperation in tax matters addressed in the Doha Declaration, the Government of Liechtenstein has committed itself to implementing internationally recognized standards of transparency and exchange of information more than a year ago. Through this declaration, we have reaffirmed our commitment to international cooperation on tax matters on the basis of internationally agreed standards applied on the basis of the principle of a level playing field. We have thus concluded numerous tax information exchange agreements (TIEAs) and double taxation agreements (DTAs) and are determined to continue to engage with our partners in Europe and elsewhere in this respect. In addition, the Liechtenstein Government has prepared the legal basis for implementation of the agreements concluded over the past few months as well as

for the implementation of all future agreements of this kind. The first set of agreements as well as the implementing legislation shall be passed by the parliament before the end of June this year. In this regard we would like to point out the importance of transparency in international regulation processes as an indispensable element for the equal participation of all States and the implementation of the principle of level playing field.

We have taken a long time ago effective measures to combat the problem of illicit financial flows, especially money laundering and to protect our financial center from criminal activities in this respect. We have also ratified the relevant international conventions and are actively engaged in efforts to secure the recovery and return of stolen assets, in particular through the International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR) and the StAR initiative of the World Bank. These efforts complement our long-standing commitment in the area of combating money laundering, corruption and the financing of terrorism.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein has also become increasingly active in the field of Microfinance. The Liechtenstein Government, in co-operation with foundations, academia and the Liechtenstein Development Agency set up in 2005 a public-private partnership, called "Microfinance Initiative Liechtenstein (MIL). A fund was established in 2008 with the aim to further support and strengthen Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), best equipped to help the poor in their entrepreneurial endeavors. We believe that Microfinance – one of the most innovative instruments in the development field – can play a particularly important role in times of limited credit financing. Microfinance aims to help business activities and thereby job creation. It has shown resilience and has served as a buffer against the impact of the different crisis in certain developing countries. Liechtenstein has supported the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) for its activities in micro-finance with 100'000 Swiss Francs consistently for a number of years.

Mr. President,

The global financial and economic crisis has furthermore underscored the need for more effective global governance mechanisms for economic policy coordination. Good and effective solutions require the support of those who are to implement them. And, most importantly: Rules must apply to everyone equally, based on a level playing field. The notion of sovereign equality is one of the core principles of the UN Charter – and it is indeed the main pillar of genuine multilateralism.

There are times when concerted action by groups such as the G-20 can bring us closer to solutions for everyone. But for the G20's deliberations to be translated into effective actions on a global scale, they will need to be more consultative, inclusive and transparent. The informal Global Governance Group – the so-called 3G – of which we are a member, proposed an approach of how to strengthen the framework of engagement between the G-20 and the non G20 members. This approach has been circulated as an official UN document a week ago. We look forward to engaging constructively on the proposals contained therein. We hope that the G-20 and other partners will find interest in our input and ideas. Our goal is positive engagement and productive cooperation – and the highest possible quality in decision-making.

Mr. President,

One of the main and most important tasks ahead is the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We are concerned to see their achievement jeopardized through the different crises to various degrees in many countries. The Millennium Development Goals are among the most ambitious and most important goals that the international community has ever set for itself. We welcome the MDG Summit which will be held in New York in September as a unique opportunity of galvanizing all efforts towards reaching these goals. A closer coordination by the 192 UN member states, but also by other stakeholders, the private sector and civil

society is indispensable in this critical endeavour. Only by such a global approach can we achieve more predictable and sustainable development for all and achieve the MDGs. Transforming them from goals into achievements requires a massive collective effort, of which our work on development financing is an indispensable part.

I thank you.