

ITEM 20

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam Chair,

25 years have passed since the world has first tackled the challenge of sustainable development. Addressing its three pillars - economic, social and environmental - has since become an integral part of the UN agenda and in particular of the Second Committee. Liechtenstein is committed to progress in all three dimensions, but we would like to take the opportunity today to address the environmental pillar of sustainable development. Climate change and ecosystem destruction are already deeply affecting humanity and are likely to have an ever growing and irreversible impact on our collective future if left unaddressed. The impact of global climate change is most threatening to the most vulnerable and the development gains achieved so far in their support. The recent MDG Summit as well as the High-level Meetings on Biodiversity and on Small Island Developing States have recognized the urgency for appropriate collective action to address these challenges. MDG 7, to which all States have just recommitted, specifically asks for the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and development programmes and to reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Madame Chair,

Environmental pollution and climate change do not stop at boundaries. As a small country we are particularly aware of the need for comprehensive action in this field. Therefore, the preservation of the environment and the promotion of a sustainable handling of natural resources is one of the main objectives of Liechtenstein's foreign policy, in particular of its development activities. Liechtenstein is ready to contribute its part to a collective answer to new development challenges arising in connection with climate change. We have signed the Copenhagen Accord and already set aside the first round of new and additional funds to help developing countries address the challenges.

Significant reductions in global CO₂ emissions require the collective political will by all States. Agreement must be achieved especially among those responsible for the most significant CO₂ emissions and who so far lack the necessary political will to foster a substantial compromise. As

stated in the Copenhagen Accord the global community should cooperate in achieving the peaking of global emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that a low-emission development strategy is indispensable to sustainable development. We sincerely hope for a meeting of the COP 16 in Cancun that will take our discussions and decision-making a significant step forward. As a member of the Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) we will continue to engage in the UNFCCC negotiations in order to support the conclusion of a legally binding climate change agreement after 2012 through our national and international climate change related activities. As part of these activities Liechtenstein, together with the Club of Rome, will organize a side event in Cancun on 10 December 2010 where various approaches on how to develop green markets will be presented. International experts will provide their views on how to get on the green track through the establishment of a low carbon economy. Moreover, different ways forward for the UN Climate Process will be discussed on the basis of lessons learned from Copenhagen.

Madam Chair,

In addition to the disastrous consequences for future generations, ongoing stalemate in the climate negotiations would have a detrimental effect on the primary governance role of the UN in this field. We believe, like the Secretary-General, that other fora like the G20 can provide valuable input to facilitate progress within the UN on this issue. As a member of the 3G (Global Governance Group) we stand ready to assist in feeding substantial political agreements wherever they are crafted into the broader discourse of the General Assembly that will be the only basis for a legitimate multilateral consensus. We are aware that the political will to a substantial compromise must ultimately come from the negotiation parties and hope that States Parties will adopt a pragmatic approach in the upcoming negotiations in Cancun. Only in such an environment can the UN provide the framework for efficient multilateralism that is a precondition for its recognition as the primary forum in global environmental governance.

Thank you.