



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AURELIA FRICK  
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**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Mr. President,

We are here to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a groundbreaking text. It feels like a lot has changed since the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development in 1986. I was still a child at that time. We lived in a world divided by a conflict between the East and the West. Communication was via fax and pagers. At the same time though, some realities we live with today are hardly different. A large number of people worldwide continue to be denied the possibility to shape their own lives. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development offers the opportunity to explore the full potential of the right to development. Both documents seek to create **enabling environments** in which every individual's human rights and fundamental freedoms are fully realized. They acknowledge that peace is essential for development. A reaffirmation of each State's responsibility to ensure equal opportunities for its citizens based on non-discrimination is central to both documents; as is the full respect for the principles of international law. Regrettably, we have not been able to use the right to development in a constructive way in our discussions over the past few years: it was adopted by vote initially, but then unanimously reaffirmed at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993. Thereafter discussions were increasingly characterized by ideological battles and the obfuscation of its true meaning: the inalienable right of every individual to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.

The 2030 Agenda will be at the center of our discussions for the years to come. We no longer live in a world divided by East and West, but in a time of much more complex political crises. Conflicts and crises continue to lead to violations of human rights and hamper development. Over 65 Million people are currently displaced because of conflicts; the current average length of resulting displacement is 17 years – 17 years in refugee camps or other transitional places, often without access to education, health services and proper work. Protracted crises create generations of children caught in a cycle of short term solutions to their immediate needs. They are denied any prospects of developing their full potential in the future. This affects all of us. And it affects sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein has been a strong proponent of the rule of law, of accountable and transparent institutions and of inclusive governance. We view the rule of law as a prerequisite for sustainable development, and its absence as the possible cause of conflict. Our development aid therefore focuses on areas such as building sustainable institutions, implementing anti-corruption initiatives, providing education to all as well as empowering women. And I am happy to report that we reached the ODA target of 0.7% GNI in 2012 for the first time. Internally, ensuring that every citizen of Liechtenstein can reach his or her full potential has also been a core goal. We provide the highest levels of education and participatory government structures. At the same time of course, we still have work to do, for example in the area of gender equality. Women are still underrepresented in our government and parliament as well as in leadership positions in the private sector. It is very difficult to encourage especially young women to become active in politics, because of the time and effort they need to invest in the job itself – and in gaining the respect they deserve from some of their male colleagues. These are challenges that are a personal priority for me.

The Declaration on the Right to Development was not adopted by consensus. But then again neither were the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or the two Covenants, whose 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries we are celebrating later this year. And yet these three instruments form the International Bill of Human Rights. . This anniversary is an opportunity to finally move forward. We can move beyond the unproductive and repetitive discussions if we look at the right to development for what it really is: sustainable development for everyone.

I thank you.