



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

**NEW YORK/VADUZ, 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
75<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**SUMMIT ON BIODIVERSITY**

**ADDRESS BY**

**H.S.H. HEREDITARY PRINCE ALOIS VON UND ZU LIECHTENSTEIN  
ACTING HEAD OF STATE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

Mr. President, Secretary-General,

The stress on our planet continues to increase with far-reaching consequences. This year's forest fires in the Amazonas are more devastating than ever, destroying vast parts of the planet's biodiversity vault. In our part of the world, the loss in biomass of insects that are so important for the human and animal food chain reaches staggering proportions. Climate change is well-known to further exacerbate already negative trends. While public awareness is growing, our collective response fails to correspond to the challenges at hand. Today's summit can hopefully help to change the dynamic.

Preserving biodiversity belongs in the long-term, strategic planning of Governments. In Liechtenstein we have identified an increasing threat to our biodiversity that we need to treat as a high priority in our effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This is not just an environmental necessity. It is also of great importance for the success of biotechnology. And ultimately, it is a question of intergenerational justice.

We could lose one million species within decades as a result of human action. Such a world would be incomparable to today. I support the Secretary-General's call for transformative change. We must do more and do better to protect our nature. Our production and consumption patterns must be guided by sustainability. In Liechtenstein we have undergone a rapid change from a rural economy to an industrialized and technology driven nation. I believe that we can be equally efficient in transforming our relationship to nature – with the right knowledge, the proper technology and the correct values. Liechtenstein is committed to this cause in our own country, in cooperation with our neighbors and at the United Nations.

Thank you, Mr. President.