

**HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING
OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

ADDRESS

BY

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

Ten years ago, world leaders gathered in New York and agreed on the Millennium Declaration, one of the most noble efforts ever undertaken in the framework of the United Nations. The world's leaders promised to "spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty". The Millennium Development Goals are the centerpiece of the most broadly supported multilateral development campaign in history. They constitute the benchmark by which we will measure success in 2015. They are one of the landmark achievements of this organization. The Millennium Declaration was complemented by the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which firmly established that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked. The activities of the United Nations are based on all three of these equal and complementary pillars.

Mr. President

We welcome the adoption of the Outcome Document earlier today as an important reaffirmation of the international consensus in the field of development. The constructive and successful negotiation process has strengthened the United Nations as the center of global governance. The Outcome Document presents concrete measures that will help us achieve each of the MDGs. All efforts towards their realization are mutually reinforcing because all the MDGs are interlinked. Unfortunately though, some crucial challenges that will have to be addressed as a matter of priority, have not received the required attention in the Outcome Document. Armed violence and conflict, for example, are a constant threat to human security and the rule of law, and as such represent a major impediment to development. Preventing and ending armed violence and conflict must be at the core of every sustainable development effort. This requires in particular determined action to eradicate impunity for those who use violence against civilians as a tactic of war.

Mr. President

With two thirds of the road to 2015 behind us, we have a wealth of experience about factors conducive and detrimental to sustainable development. We know that development achievements remain fragile if they are not supported by serious efforts to strengthen good governance, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and an active civil society. Liechtenstein continues to support such efforts by prioritizing education projects in its bilateral development assistance, with a particular emphasis on projects empowering women. We are also keenly aware of the problem of illicit capital outflows from developing countries. This problem must be addressed both on the demand and the supply side. We have been a long-standing supporter of initiatives that build good governance capacities, for example, through the fight against corruption and the recovery of stolen assets that have been transferred abroad. Liechtenstein fully implements international standards against money laundering as well as internationally recognized standards of transparency and exchange of information in the field of tax cooperation.

Mr. President

The international partnership for development is of particular importance for the achievement of all MDGs. As of today, our Official Development Assistance represents about 0.6% of our Gross National Income. We fully recognize the benchmark of 0.7% ODA/GNI as an internationally agreed development goal and will continue to do so, despite temporary domestic budget constraints as a consequence of the financial and economic crisis. Liechtenstein is particularly committed to addressing new development challenges 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 these challenges.

The international partnership for development is an undertaking that entails collective and individual responsibility. A renewed commitment is needed from all of us to achieve the MDGs by 2015. This gathering provides a unique opportunity to do so. We can still succeed if we stand united.

I thank you.