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**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
68TH SESSION**

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE:

**GOOD PRACTICES FOR STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND MAXIMIZING FINANCING TO ACHIEVE
GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

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Madame Chair,

It is an honor to participate in this roundtable today, on a topic that is very timely. Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions – in line with SDG 16 – are fundamental for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women. As the Secretary-General outlined in his report, it is indeed crucial for public institutions to consider and be responsive to the specific needs of women, and especially those living in poverty, by challenging existing gender biases and increasing women's representation and participation. In so doing, we also need to closely listen and strengthen our cooperation with civil society. In Liechtenstein, non-governmental organizations advocating for women's rights are well-organized as part of the "Liechtenstein Women's Network" and receive state funding for their important work alongside public institutions to advance gender equality in a more comprehensive manner.

Addressing poverty and promoting the development of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are key priorities of Liechtenstein's international solidarity. And all our development and aid projects adopt a gender-sensitive approach. Two weeks ago, I visited the "Sisters of Code" project in Cambodia that Liechtenstein supports and was impressed how young women run programming clubs for fellow young women. The gender digital divide is surely a big challenge. This project is one small step to address it, as it specifically aims at improving digital literacy and coding skills of women and girls. This will help them pursue careers in the technology sector, thereby enhancing their prospects for success and autonomy in the 21st century digital economy. Being the first project of its kind in Cambodia, this is but one small example of how local grassroots initiative can, with the

benefit of global partnerships, contribute to the economic empowerment and financial independence of women and girls in the long-term.

I am keen to learn from other examples and best practices presented during this roundtable on how we can further accelerate action on gender equality.

Thank you.