



**STÄNDIGE MISSION**  
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

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**PERMANENT MISSION**  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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## 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### Item 8, 22 September 2014

Mr President

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland and my own country, Liechtenstein.

The VDPA recognized the “mutually reinforcing relationship between development, democracy and human rights”. This statement is as true today as it was 21 years ago. Yet we continue to struggle to put these words into action. We welcome the progress made in recognizing the link of human rights with development in ongoing processes. We gladly notice that the outcome document of the Open Working group on Sustainable Development Goals includes a number of goals and targets that reflect important elements of human rights and the rule of law, albeit mostly without using these terms. However, further efforts for prominent inclusion of human rights and rule of law in the new UN development agenda are needed. As the international community moves on from the MDGs to the SDGs, there is broad consensus that we seek to achieve development that is *sustainable* and *inclusive*. We strongly believe that development of this kind can only be achieved on the basis of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We encourage all delegations to use the remaining post-2015 negotiation process to reinforce this important premise, and look forward to working with them to this end.

One of the most important elements of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action is its strong affirmation of the universality of human rights. For many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, however, these rights are still far from realized. More than three years ago, this Council sent a strong signal when it adopted a landmark resolution on the rights of LGBTI persons. It expressed grave concern at acts of violence and discrimination committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Also, we very much welcomed the global OHCHR campaign Free & Equal. We strongly believe, however, that we must do more to live up to the Council's mandate of promoting and protecting human rights everywhere and for everyone. We must not close our eyes to the human rights violations, violence and discrimination LGBTI persons still face all over the world. We must continue to work toward the full realization of the rights of LGBTI persons, and in doing so be guided by the VDPA.

I thank you.