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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
67TH SESSION

**MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE: GOOD PRACTICES IN ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO BRIDGE THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE
AND PROMOTE EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE FOR ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to participate in this roundtable today, on a topic that could not be more timely. Despite meaningful technical and digital advances in the past decades, women to this date do not enjoy the same access to the internet, computers and mobile phones, for example, as men do. Affordability, digital literacy and skills, privacy and safety, as well as access to electricity all too often remain obstacles especially for women. Such gender gaps are rooted in long-standing and persistent stereotypes. In addition to support women's access to education and economic empowerment, we thus also need to invest in breaking up harmful gender stereotypes that prevent any meaningful progress.

As a way of doing so, in Liechtenstein, we launched an experimentation laboratory called pepperMINT - MINT standing for mathematics, IT, natural sciences and technology – aimed at helping children, and especially girls, deepen their interest and knowledge in STEM disciplines. Since 2017, almost 20'000 children and youth participated in the laboratory. We are hopeful that the skills they acquire will support their awareness of stereotypes, their empowerment, participation and leadership that help transform the male dominated world of STEM into a more inclusive and innovative field. This is all the more relevant as women and girls play an integral part in our collective effort to address global challenges of our times, such as climate change, poverty and inequality.

Excellencies,

In Liechtenstein we also invest in children's media awareness as part of our curricula. While online and social media provide important channels to share information and stay connected, they also come with great risks. Social media has given rise to gendered disinformation, misinformation, hate speech and new forms of societal narratives that undermine online expression. It is our duty to protect children from violations of their rights, both offline and online, and to create a safe and inclusive environment for all learners.

I thank you.