



## **28 th Session of the HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**12th March 2015**

### **Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child “Towards better investment in the rights of the child”**

#### **Intervention by H.E. Mr. Peter Matt, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Mr. President,

The promotion and protection of the rights of children is a matter of priority for Liechtenstein. In this regard, today’s meeting marks another significant step toward universal membership of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Protocols. Liechtenstein is already party to the first and second Optional Protocol and plans to ratify OP III soon.

Liechtenstein agrees with the High Commissioner that the lack of public spending on children is one of the main barriers to the realization of the rights of the child [as he has stated in his landmark report 28/33]. Financial investment especially in children’s right to education is not only a legal obligation, but also an economic strategy for sustainable development. Education is a thematic focus in our bilateral development cooperation, with Liechtenstein contributing to numerous education projects in developing countries.

We are proud to say that Liechtenstein has invested heavily in ensuring children’s rights. Education and access to services as well as to social, sporting and cultural activities are provided for all children. Liechtenstein has successfully established the Ombuds Office for Children and Young People, which is mandated to receive complaints and offer mediation in the event of difficulties between individuals and authorities dealing with children’s rights.

Mr. President,

Regarding the post2015 development agenda, Liechtenstein is pleased that the new set of sustainable development goals is not only taking primary education into account but also early childhood development and secondary education. We also strongly welcome the commitment to end all forms of violence against children. Liechtenstein will continue to be a strong supporter of international efforts aimed at responding to the plight of children affected by violence and armed conflict.

Mr. President,

To guarantee that resources dedicated towards realizing children's rights actually reach their target, we must also strengthen the fight against corruption in all its forms and at all levels, including so-called "petty corruption". Petty corruption disproportionately hurts the poorest members of society, who may experience requests for bribes regularly in their encounters with public administration and services like hospitals and schools. We call on Member States to consider this cross-cutting issue in their work to implement the rights of children.

I thank you.