



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of the pathfinders for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

2019 is a special year for Liechtenstein. We are celebrating our 300th anniversary. Many factors have contributed to the preservation of our sovereignty, to our economic, social and cultural prosperity, and to our environmental sustainability. Liechtenstein has greatly benefitted from good relations with its neighboring countries, strong global partnerships, and a rules-based international order. Among the milestones of our history is certainly our admission as a member of the UN, and we look forward to our 30th anniversary next year. Liechtenstein has consistently advocated a constructive and inclusive multilateralism based on international law, as a way to ensure peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. We strongly believe that these three main pillars of the UN are interdependent and mutually reinforce each other.

The Government is strongly committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at both the national and the international level. It has declared the 2030 Agenda part of the Government program 2017-2021 and defined a set of priority SDGs where action is particularly urgent. In addition to specific measures taken to realize these and other SDGs,

Liechtenstein has reviewed its implementation, including in consultation with the private sector and civil society, and presented its first VNR at this HLPF. Among the presenters were civil society and youth representatives, which also reflects our Governments efforts to unite all stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Madam President,

The rule of law is a common thread of all 17 SDGs. In SDG 16.3 we specifically agreed to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The focus of this year's HLPF on SDG 16 also serves as a reminder that justice remains inaccessible for too many all too often. According to the recently published Justice Task Force report, two thirds of the world population lack meaningful access to justice. At least 253 Mio. people live in extreme conditions of injustice. 1.5 bio. people cannot resolve their justice problems. 4.5 bio. people are excluded from the opportunities the law provides. And advances in increasing access to justice are uneven globally. Corruption remains a particular challenge, both with respect to access to justice and more broadly speaking as a big obstacle to achieving the SDGs. According to the Global Sustainable Development Report, corruption is one of the main factors conducive to violence, insecurity and injustice. The successful eradication of corruption is therefore crucial for the achievement of peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and enhanced international collaboration and renewed efforts at all levels are essential to move towards that goal. Liechtenstein remains strongly committed to the fight against corruption.

Madam President,

Women and girls face particular challenges with respect to the access to justice, even though it is a key element of sustainable and inclusive societies. Many women and girls are subject to legal discrimination as well as discriminatory social norms related to poverty, ethnicity, disability, geography, and migratory status. SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is of crucial importance to achieve the 2030 Agenda in a comprehensive manner. In recent decades, de jure equality between women and men has been established in Liechtenstein with some exceptions such as the absence of paternity leave. Yet, de facto full gender equality in politics, in

society and at the workplace has yet to be achieved. In the sphere of work, women are five times less likely to hold management positions than men. There are also significant differences in terms of wages: The median wage of women was roughly 85% of the median wage of men in 2016. According to the latest statistical findings, 42% of this difference cannot be explained by objective factors such as occupational status, sector and education level. Finally, women are under-represented in politics, particularly at the national level. In the current legislative period (2017–2021), only three out of 25 representatives in Parliament are women, amounting to a significant decrease since 2013. Yet, at the municipal level more women than ever were elected into office earlier this year (39,1%), and for the first time two women were elected mayors (out of eleven in total). To support this positive trend, the current Government aims to optimize the conditions for reconciling work and family life and to improve the choices between different models for families. In line with this goal, the supply of governmentally subsidized day care spots, after-school programmes and lunch tables for schoolchildren has been strongly expanded in response to a rising demand.

Madam President,

The 2030 Agenda is an important catalyst for global partnerships. The Government of Liechtenstein is committed to realizing the SDGs together with relevant actors and has therefore joined forces with private sector partners to help end modern slavery and human trafficking, as contained in SDG 8.7, SDG 5.2 and SDG 16.2 and which worldwide affect 40 Mio. people. To this end, we have set up a Financial Sector Commission under the “Liechtenstein Initiative” – developed in cooperation with the United Nations University, Australia and the Netherlands. The Commission elaborates a Blueprint that places financial institutions at the center of the global effort to end these crimes which generate an estimated 150 billion US dollars every year. The Blueprint will be launched during high-level week on 27 September, followed by a multi-stakeholder dissemination and implementation phase. International organizations, and in particular the United Nations and its Security Council, will be crucial platforms in helping end modern slavery and human trafficking.