



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

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE ECOSOC FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT FORUM

**STATEMENT BY Ms. MYRIAM OEHRI**

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

More than two years after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic with its severe socio-economic effects on all of us, this year's Financing for Development Forum is an important and timely opportunity to strengthen our collective resolve to build back better, address the growing inequalities between and within States, and to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through sustainable financing.

Sustainable financing ensures global financial stability and resilience, and it is particularly necessary during global crises such as natural disasters, pandemics and conflicts. We must better integrate it into our collective toolbox, including through Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) criteria which have the potential to reverse destructive trends such as climate change and social injustice by upholding corporate responsibility and creating new pathways for investment. Recent activities by private sector actors directed at Russia as a result of the aggression against Ukraine is a welcome step in that direction, also because of the war's severe effects on the achievement of the SDGs. Yet, ESG needs to be applied more systematically and consistently globally, including with regards to human rights violations.

One obvious example is human trafficking and modern slavery – one of the biggest human rights scandals of our times. They are both cause and consequence of economic inequality, generating

billions USD in revenues annually worldwide. And they are rightly addressed in multiple SDGs and Targets, most notably Target 8.7. Liechtenstein's Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking initiative, or FAST in short, places financial institutions at the heart of the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery. This public-private partnership – supported by the Governments of Australia, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and United Nations University – resulted in a blueprint that outlines action in the areas of compliance, responsible investment and financial innovation. It further provides an opportunity to harness knowledge and financing for prevention and support for survivors. We are hopeful that many more States, the global financial sector and other relevant stakeholders will assist in the blueprint's implementation, as a way to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. President,

One of the biggest impediments to achieving the SDGs is corruption. Liechtenstein is fully committed to preserving the integrity of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) – the universal international legal framework to fight corruption. It is of utmost importance that UNCAC and regional anti-corruption frameworks are effectively implemented. The 2030 Agenda, and in particular SDG 16, provides another necessary guidance to prevent and respond to corruption in all its forms. It is clear to us that many of the health and socio-economic setbacks by the COVID-19 pandemic could have been prevented if stronger, more accountable and transparent public institutions were in place. And it is also clear that pandemic prevention and preparedness necessitate investing in strengthening such institutions and the public trust therein. In order to reduce corruption and support good governance, Liechtenstein will continue promoting the rule of law and democracy worldwide.

One example of Liechtenstein's commitment towards a rules-based financial system is its innovative Token and Trusted Technology Service Provider Act to establish legal certainty, to maximize the opportunities and minimize the risks of such technologies. Financial innovation and new technologies such as blockchain indeed have the potential to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, and we are delighted to share our experience and expertise with interested States and the UN system.

I thank you.