



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

---

NEW YORK, 27 SEPTEMBER 2019

**LAUNCH OF “A BLUEPRINT FOR MOBILIZING FINANCE AGAINST SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING”  
STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a big moment for us – Governments, commissioners and donors of the “Liechtenstein Initiative” for a Financial Sector Commission against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. Together, we have worked very hard over the last twelve months to make this event happen today. But it is, even more, a milestone for the many victims and survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking from all around the world - many of them women and girls. The blueprint we are launching today has the potential to be a game changer in the fight against modern slavery. It is clear to us that the financial sector alone cannot win the fight against slavery and human trafficking. But it is also clear that we will not win this fight without the global financial sector. The Blueprint gives financial institutions the tools to do so. It is a highly innovative product of excellent quality and utmost relevance to one of the big challenges identified in the 2030 Agenda. And I would like thank everyone who has helped make this product possible – in particular our partners from Australia and the Netherlands, our private sector partners back home – and of course the Commissioners who have worked with passion and commitment to produce the Blueprint. A very special thanks goes to United Nations University and their outstanding substantive support.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the presentation of the Blueprint, the Financial Sector Commission of the “Liechtenstein Initiative” has concluded its work. But our work is far from over – and just entering the next phase. The next months will be crucial to unlock the potential of the Blueprint. We will continue our common effort in the form of Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking - “FAST”. FAST will provide guidance and support to those implementing the blueprint. It can count on the ongoing engagement and support from the Commissioners. It will bring together a “network of networks”. These will deal with different dimensions of implementation, but be connected to exchange their experiences and lessons learned. Once we have concluded a good part of the implementation phase, we will gather everyone to review the progress made, identify good practices, challenges, and new opportunities.

The United Nations is a natural platform for the implementation of this Blueprint: The Security Council has called upon Member States to join forces with the private sector to help identify and detect suspicious financial activity related to human trafficking. The work of the FSC fits that bill perfectly. The High-Level Political Forum – the main follow-up and review mechanism of the 2030 Agenda – is tasked to assess progress on the SDGs, including SDG 8.7, 5.2 and 16.2 on modern slavery and human trafficking. And we have worked with the relevant Special Procedures created by the Human Rights Council. This is work that we will continue, together with our partners, and use the UN system as one key platform to implement the Blueprint. Endorsement by Governments and political bodies will be essential. But most importantly we will be looking for opportunities of direct engagement with financial institutions around the globe.

The blueprint’s implementation is a big undertaking. The Liechtenstein Government remains fully committed. And we are very grateful for the continued support – both political and financial – by our partners, the Government of the Kingdom of The Netherlands and Australia. We hope to expand the network of supporters and we will be looking for new partnerships. We are of course also grateful to the commitment and generous contributions of Liechtenstein’s private sector,

and we hope to continue our rewarding partnership in the implementation phase.

The Liechtenstein Initiative was set up as a public-private partnership, and it showcases what can be achieved when different stakeholders work together – a model we hope will gain in popularity at the UN. We look forward to working with you all to mobilize finance against slavery and trafficking.

I thank you.