

ITEMS 104 AND 105:
CRIME PREVENTION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

STATEMENT

BY

**MR. GEORG SPARBER,
SECOND SECRETARY
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY
OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

NEW YORK, 8 OCTOBER 2009

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman

Liechtenstein is a traditional co-sponsor of the resolution on Strengthening the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, specifically its technical cooperation capacity. The UNODC, and in particular the Programme, is an important instrument to promote effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice as well as in providing technical assistance to Member States to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Liechtenstein, as an internationally recognized financial center, is particularly committed to the highest standards of transparency, professionalism and legality in this respect. Against this background, we are aware of the need for capacity-building in the domain of legal assistance and support relevant activities of the UNODC with financial contributions, the sponsorship of a secondment and by providing expertise in the framework of training seminars. An important partner of UNODC for the implementation of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (STAR) is the International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR). The Center provides targeted capacity-building by training officials from developing countries and equipping them with effective information technology tools. Its activities are demand-driven and focused on the practical aspects of international cooperation. As one of the main donors of the ICAR, Liechtenstein is convinced that this kind of direct contacts and exchanges of practitioners from developing and developed countries are highly instrumental to putting the provisions of the Convention against Corruption, in particular those on asset recovery, into daily practice.

Mr. Chairman

In March 2009, the most recent revisions of Liechtenstein's anti-terrorism legislation entered into force. They provide for the substantive implementation of the latest international standards in the fight against money-laundering and combating terrorist financing. The legislative package includes in particular a comprehensive revision of the Due Diligence Act as well as several amendments to the Criminal Code. The Counter-Terrorism Committee established under SC resolution 1373 has already

acknowledged these domestic legal amendments in its "Preliminary Implementation Assessment" (PIA) of May 2009. Liechtenstein has consistently been supportive of multilateral efforts to fight international terrorism. We recognize the eminent role of the UN as the only global forum to intensify international cooperation against terrorism and promote the comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy. Liechtenstein has ratified and implemented all sixteen UN anti-terrorism conventions and protocols. The four new instruments that were adopted in 2005 have been ratified by the Liechtenstein Parliament in July 2009 and the relevant instruments of ratification have been recently deposited. Liechtenstein has also signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Most of the substantial provisions of the Convention have been implemented already, and we hope to conclude the ratification process in 2009.

Mr. Chairman

As a State Party to the Palermo Convention and its two protocols, we are pleased to see that this milestone agreement attained the ratification of 150 countries and in preparation for the 10th anniversary next year we would like to call on all member-states to consider becoming a party to the Convention and its optional protocols. While we welcome the broad support for the Palermo Convention we are deeply concerned about the growing dimensions of transnational organized crime. Transnational organized crime is a global security challenge and has the potential to jeopardize the stability and social coherence of individual nations. We hope that the upcoming anniversary will be used as an opportunity to intensify the operational work of the UN to combat the threat posed by transnational organized crime.

I thank you.