

**65<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**ITEM 9**  
**REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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Mr. President,

I am glad to take this opportunity to discuss the report of the Economic and Social Council. Liechtenstein's very first tenure in the Council will come to an end later this year. During our membership we have experienced the Council as a forum of substantive discussion where important governance mandates come together. We have seen, this year in particular, how important the strategic input of the Council to major UN agenda items can be, such as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In the Development Cooperation Forum and in the Annual Ministerial Review the Council has set the tone for the successful negotiation process leading to a consensual outcome of the MDG-Summit. In this regard, the Council has made its contribution to strengthening the central role of the UN in the governance of international development policies.

Mr. President,

The Council has an important role in the governance of its functional committees and in the election and supervision of the executive bodies of specialized agencies, funds and programmes. Currently, the Council is acting swiftly to guarantee a smooth transition for the new gender entity. In particular, where its subsidiary bodies do not live up to the standards of transparency, inclusiveness, objectivity and good faith in the application of rules of procedure, the Council itself must take leadership. It has done so in the past, for example in the context of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. Such action by the Council shows that it can and will assume its responsibility to rectify decisions of its subsidiary bodies if need be. Moreover, there are areas in which the Council should consider structural reform. In this regard, we hope that the report of the Secretary-General that will examine the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters will reflect the view of many member states, including ours, that the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters must become more transparent and more inclusive.

Mr. President,

Another field of particular importance to us and one where the Council is mandated to assume a policy governance function is the humanitarian dimension of the work of UN funds, agencies and programmes. The Council has the specific mandate to strengthen the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the UN system. We are aware of the high political sensitivity of these matters, but also believe that the Council could contribute more to UN policy coherence on the ground, without entering into notorious fields of political disagreement. The inclusion of concrete policy guidelines of a cross-cutting nature such as a health and environment friendly approach to nutrition processing in emergency situations would strengthen the Council's humanitarian policy guidance and contribute directly to its governance capacity in this field.

Mr. President,

We acknowledge that during our tenure the Council has streamlined its agenda and focus considerably. There is much less overlap now in the work of the Council and of other fora, most importantly of the Second Committee. The Council now has a clearer understanding of its mandate as the central UN body for strategic financial and economic policy coordination. We must, however, strive for more complementarity in order to strengthen the legitimacy and the authority of the Council. Only on this basis can the Council contribute in a meaningful way to the work of all major UN bodies, including the Security Council and the Human Rights Council. With the experience of our membership in the Council, we will continue to contribute to these efforts as we continue to see a potential in the Council that surmounts its current impact by far.

I thank you.