



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

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66TH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE

**“WOMEN’S VOICE AND AGENCY: GOOD PRACTICES TOWARDS ACHIEVING WOMEN’S FULL, EQUAL AND
MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION AND DECISION-MAKING IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES”**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORT**

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate change is the most far-reaching global threat of today. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to its detrimental environmental and socio-economic effects. These include deepening poverty, heightened risk for sexual and gender-based violence, modern slavery and human trafficking. Structural causes of gender inequality, such as lack of access to education and resources, further limit women's ability to cope with environmental crises. It is important that access to quality education is ensured for all and at all times. And it is high time to break up gender stereotypes regarding education and professions. In 2017 Liechtenstein launched an experimentation laboratory called pepperMINT – MINT standing for mathematics, information technology, natural sciences and technology. It helps especially girls deepen their interest and knowledge in STEM disciplines. These girls can be the world leaders of tomorrow, only if we create enabling environments free of discrimination.

The underrepresentation of women in the political sphere, and acts of persecution and intimidation against them are particularly concerning. I cannot underline enough the importance of ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels and in all contexts, including environmental policy. Liechtenstein has been providing support for women interested in seeking political office through workshops and roundtables, and I am proud to represent a Government with a majority of female Ministers. However, for a society to thrive sustainably and to ensure inter-generational justice, we need all, from a vivid civil society to inspired and engaged youth. Liechtenstein has been actively promoting political education for young people and supporting national and European youth parliaments. Students from Liechtenstein also take part in the "Climate and Environment Pioneers" project in our schools and vocational training institutes, where they actively develop their own ideas to combat climate change. Only if we recognize and enable youth as agents of change can we create a world that is peaceful, just and inclusive, sustainable and prosperous, in line with our common commitment to the SDGs.