



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**SDG SUMMIT**

**LEADERS' DIALOGUE 3 "GAME-CHANGERS: APPLYING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND DATA FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION"**

STATEMENT BY H.S.H HEREDITARY PRINCE ALOIS VON UND ZU LIECHTENSTEIN

Excellencies, dear moderators,

It is a great pleasure to participate in this important dialogue today. The potential of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is immense, and I am personally fascinated by its rapid growth and transformative power. STI connects societies, spurs economic growth and informs our policy making – to effectively address national and global challenges of current times, be it climate change and natural disasters, health and humanitarian crises. Science and data are also our best tool to counter the unwelcome trend of dis- and misinformation, with its dangerous threats to good governance and the rule of law.

While there is enormous potential of STI and big data, we also must navigate and adequately respond to challenges that come with it: most importantly its unequal access that undermines human rights and only widens already existing inequalities, such as the gender digital gap. In Liechtenstein, for example, we put strong emphasis on STEM disciplines in our education curriculum and dual vocational training. It supports the knowledge of children and youth about

new technologies and also helps break up gender stereotypes.

We also have a longstanding commitment to the rule of law. It is thus not surprising that Liechtenstein – being a hub for digital technology, especially in the area of financial technology or so-called Fin-Tech – has created the first blockchain act worldwide, to ensure legal certainty and to enable innovative and sustainable ways of human interaction that also facilitate the implementation of the SDGs, such as in the field of humanitarian assistance.

Cyberwarfare, which we have increasingly witnessed in recent times unfortunately, is one of the most extreme and blatant examples of misuse of new technologies. Liechtenstein, together with partners, has assessed the application of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to cyberwarfare, which helps us increase our legal certainty and ensure accountability for cybercrimes but also contributes to SDG 16 on peace, justice and the rule of law – the foundation for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

I thank you.