



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

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. AURELIA FRICK
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

Mr President,

The Liechtenstein Government is strongly committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An interministerial working group carried out a gap analysis at the end of 2017 and identified a number of focus areas, and the Government subsequently adopted its strategy for the implementation of the SDGs, consisting of two main pillars:

First, the Liechtenstein Government declared the 2030 Agenda part of the Government programme 2017-2021 and defined a set of priority SDGs, where action is particularly urgent. Second, the Government defined the following specific actions: elaborating the education strategy 2025 to contribute to the implementation of SDG 4; improving the compatibility of family and career in accordance with the targets reflected in SDG 5; assessing the energy strategy 2030 for the implementation of SDG 7; and elaborating a mobility concept 2030 in accordance with SDG 9.

Moreover, Liechtenstein is committed to working towards achieving an ODA-percentage of 0.7 in the long-term, having met this target for the first time in 2012. As a first step, the Government is

currently undertaking efforts to increase the ODA-budget and exceed the percentage 0.5 in the near future.

Mr President,

Migration is a global reality. While it is not a new phenomenon, the current numbers are certainly impressive. There are an estimated 258 million international migrants. Managing migration and making it beneficial for all is one of the biggest challenges of our times. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance of migration in reducing inequality within and between States. If managed well, migration is an engine for economic growth, sustainable development, cultural enrichment and innovation. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which we agreed on last week, is a historic document and a first step in this direction.

Liechtenstein promotes the inclusion of migrants and refugees through innovative language training. “Liechtenstein Languages”, in short “LieLA”, is a non-profit language course project designed to teach German or other languages to migrants and refugees with a method inspired by early language acquisition. The courses are gender-inclusive and enable participants to communicate on a basic level within four weeks. The project also trains teachers and social workers, without any teaching background, how to teach a language course. To date, more than 300 trainers have undergone training and more than 10’000 people have been introduced to the German language. This initiative is also our contribution to the roadmap of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, a group of UN Member States, international organizations, global partnerships, and other partners who lead on the implementation of SDG16+. This also reflects our commitment to the comprehensive implementation of the SDGs is in keeping with our long-standing engagement in favour of the rule of law at the national and international levels.

Mr President,

We are also a particularly strong advocate of Target 8.7, which calls for “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking.” Slavery is a crime

that disregards and undermines the humanity of its victims. It is both one of the biggest human rights crises of our times and one of the big business models of organized crime, generating an estimated 150 billion USD in revenue every year. A key element of our efforts is to leverage the crucial role that the private sector can play. Individuals living in slavery-like conditions are hard to detect because they are hidden from our societies today. Slavery-related activities can be embedded within multinational networks of supply chains. Developing and growing positive engagement with the private sector is therefore essential to eradicating modern slavery. The financial sector in particular can help to tackle these crimes by taking measures to end modern slavery and human trafficking in the areas of lending, investment, compliance, sustainability and innovation. In this regard, Liechtenstein is analyzing how best it can utilize its expertise as a financial center to be a leader in global efforts to end modern slavery and human trafficking. We also fully support the Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking under the leadership of the United Kingdom. Today, I ask all of you to come together to make the eradication of modern slavery an urgent priority.

I thank you.