

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE ON THE
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES
AND GETTING BACK ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE MDGs BY 2015**

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

We thank you for your initiative to convene this important thematic debate that deals with three core questions for development, i.e. poverty, health and education. These issues cover the concerns of six out of eight Millennium Development Goals and basically concern all targets. The seventh Millennium Development Goal on environmental sustainability, not on the agenda, should be taken into account when dealing with these fundamental issues. The linkages are obvious and therefore need to be underscored. The General Assembly devoted most recently a special thematic debate on the sub-issue of climate change. Unfortunately, the latter thematic debate then failed to address the interrelationships with these three fundamental questions.

The commitments undertaken as part of the Millennium Development Goals are, in practice, intrinsically enmeshed with other important commitments to which we all agreed. The 2005 World Summit Outcome Document clearly states that multilateral solutions to problems in areas other than development need to be found. These are peace and collective security, human rights and the rule of law as well as strengthening of the United Nations. For development to succeed in the medium to long-term, good governance in the broadest sense is basically a sine qua non. It is for this reason that the Liechtenstein Government has decided a few years ago to treat the promotion of good governance as priority issue in its multilateral development cooperation.

Mr. President,

Let me briefly turn to what my country is doing in concrete, practical terms to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as we speak:

The Liechtenstein Government attaches great importance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The government decided some years ago to consistently increase its Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards the target of 0.7% of the gross national income (GNI), as reaffirmed by the Monterrey Consensus. Liechtenstein is on track and will hopefully be able to reach an ODA of 0.6% of the GNI in 2008.

The three main issues of today's meeting are incorporated in the new national law on humanitarian and development cooperation. The promotion of basic food and health supply as well as basic education and vocational training, in particular in rural and structurally weak regions, is the core of our bilateral development cooperation.

With the new law, the different development actors in Liechtenstein are also in charge of public outreach. They are bound to regularly inform about the focus areas, the organization, the objectives and the impact of Liechtenstein's humanitarian and development cooperation. We regard it as essential to promote

the understanding of the Liechtenstein population for the causes of underdevelopment and poverty as well as possibilities for their alleviation. Currently, the Liechtenstein Development Service organizes for example a series on "A Vision for Africa". Scientists and journalists discuss topical questions, also deliberated in the UN context, such as a new approach in agriculture for "a green revolution in Africa".

Liechtenstein is also positioning itself as an active and competent agent in the field of microfinance. It launched the public private partnership „Microfinance Initiative Liechtenstein“(MIL) in 2005. The partnership is made up by institutions such as the Foreign Ministry, the Liechtenstein Development Service, the Liechtenstein Bankers Association, two private foundations and the Liechtenstein University of Applied Sciences. The MIL promotes projects through which microfinance investment opportunities are created in the financial services sector. Liechtenstein realizes that microfinance is one of the ways to contribute to development. However, Liechtenstein sees micro-financing as an important contribution to fighting poverty, in particular by stimulating entrepreneurship in targeted developing countries.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein shares the opinion of the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), that, and I quote "strong economic growth, while not the only condition, is essential to generate the necessary resources to achieve the Millennium Development Goals." Since the Millennium Summit Declaration in 2000, the shift in economic importance amongst state actors has become increasingly pronounced. In many developing countries, stable economic growth has become a fact of life so that these countries have consistently surpassed those in the developed world. The increasingly important role that some developing countries are now playing in the global economy goes hand in hand with new responsibilities. In a world that is often described as a "global village", all national actors in the North and South need to pull their fair weight. It is only natural that some developing countries enhance their contribution to global development, particularly to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In short, the so called South-South cooperation needs to be taken into better consideration when looking at the "current architecture of international cooperation". This aspect is important for "getting back on track to achieve the MDG by 2015" in a more sustainable and effective way.

With regard to the Monterrey Consensus, the status of implementation of the six leading actions of the said consensus is currently under review. Many activities and initiatives have been put into place and positive effects on the consensus are palpable. The follow-up Conference in Doha will be another important milestone on "our road to 2015". Millennium Development Goal eight on global partnerships

intersects with the Monterrey Consensus, containing targets like aid, trade and debt relief. We are of the opinion that in these areas more can and must be done.

Mr. President,

Let me assure you that Liechtenstein will continue to show international solidarity in our common endeavor to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on time. We are therefore looking forward to continuing the debate on how best to pursue our MDG work in progress in the latter part of this year.

I thank you.