

**UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 61<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**  
**HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON**  
**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**ADDRESS**

**BY**

**H.E. CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**  
**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**  
**OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**NEW YORK, 15 SEPTEMBER 2006**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madame President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

191 million international migrants constitute an important factor in the global economy. Their decision to migrate has, however, first and foremost an impact on local communities, in countries of origin as well as in countries of destination. And the impact is not only an economic one. The report of the Secretary General illustrates that migration also generates far-reaching social, cultural and political consequences. The challenges of governing international migration are radically different from those that arise in managing the movements of inanimate objects such as goods, capital or information. Co-development through international migration should therefore be understood and discussed as a people-centered process of which a lot of aspects cannot be measured in economic terms. Promotion of a people-centered process would help to be responsive to the many differences in global migration patterns and to local conditions of sending and receiving societies. It would also enable a human-rights approach in our policy-making at the local, national and international levels.

Madame President

Lack of rule of law and low levels of human security, together with underdevelopment, are often at the origin of the wish to search a better future abroad. Coupled with misinformation on the possibilities and limitations of migration, such situations may lead to the exploitation of migrants and to violations of their human rights. States have a responsibility to properly inform about the conditions of regular migration. They also have the obligation to raise awareness of the positive contributions of migrants to society, in order to counter racism, xenophobia and discrimination, and they have to take firm action against any elements in society that seek to abuse, intimidate or exploit migrants. Migrants who deliberately challenge the rule of law or the human rights of others must, on their part, expect States to take measures against them. Ensuring the rule of law with full respect for human rights in countries of origin and destination must be an essential element of any international and national migration policy. Rule of law and human rights are the basis for good governance of international migration which is beneficial for the sustainable co-development of all countries and for the migrants themselves.

Madame President

While migration is a global phenomenon, its forms and manifestations vary from region to region, as does its impact on individual countries. The experience of small countries shows that their ability to cope with the challenges of migration is more likely to be stretched. Emigration of highly educated persons tends to affect small countries earlier because their pool of human resources is limited. Similarly, the economies of many small developing states depend to a high degree on remittances. On the receiving side, it is often the small countries which account for the highest percentage of migrants living or working in their jurisdiction. The impact of large cross-border movements of persons tends to be more directly felt in small

communities. As a small country, Liechtenstein has been seeking to balance economic necessities with the social challenges of migration. With a population of roughly 35.000 persons and 34 per cent non-Liechtenstein nationals residing in the country, Liechtenstein is home to people from about 90 different countries. One of the priorities of Government policy lies on the promotion of integration through the provision of targeted services for migrants to learn the national language. Those services have proven especially helpful for the integration of women migrants and their young children. Many other measures are currently under discussion to further promote integration, which is based on the cooperation of both sides, of the receiving and the migrant communities. In its development cooperation, Liechtenstein has been placing special emphasis on the development of rural areas in small developing countries. The projects it has been financing seek to improve the livelihoods of people in rural areas and thereby reduce the pressures which may induce them to migrate within or outside their countries. Political and financial investments in integration measures, based on the rule of law and the respect for human rights, as well as development cooperation with small countries are the two pillars of the migration policy with which Liechtenstein will continue to contribute to the international efforts aimed at ensuring that migration can unfold its full potential for the co-development of countries and migrants alike.

I thank you.