



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

NEW YORK, 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GROUP OF FRIENDS OF MEDIATION 9TH MINISTERIAL MEETING

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. THOMAS LAGEDER, MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN POLICY COMMISSION OF
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

We would like to thank you for organizing this Annual Ministerial Meeting and welcome your decision to open the discussion to all interested States. We are a long-standing committed member of the Group of Friends of Mediation, and strongly support its work. As many of us stated during last month's open debate on mediation in the Security Council, inclusive mediation is the best way to prevent and resolve conflicts and to contribute to sustainable peace. The Group of Friends has had concrete impact in strengthening the role of mediation in the United Nations, including through four General Assembly resolutions. It provides crucial political support to the Secretary-General's efforts to put mediation at the forefront of the United Nations' work.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

We were pleased that this year's meeting focuses on the inclusion of youth in mediation efforts. The effective participation of youth can ensure that mediation processes are not only aimed at preventing or ending conflict in the short-term, but that they also focus on creating opportunities for young people to build an ongoing and sustainable future peace. This is important as young people may need to take on much of the burden of peacebuilding where former generations have borne the physical and emotional scars of conflict.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Issues of self-governance are often a key driver of intra-state conflict. In such situations, in which a community seeks greater self-reliance from its central state, young people may grow up with a new sense of identity and a lesser sense of 'belonging' to the state, particularly where attendant conflicts are protracted. In these situations, young people should be at the forefront of a dialogue between the central state and the community, in order to find sustainable arrangements that account for different identities within a state and prevent recourse to secessionist conflict. The Liechtenstein Initiative on the Right of Self-determination focuses on exactly these questions with a view to finding means of expression for self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, in particular the principle of territorial integrity. Its main goal is to prevent the outbreak of violent conflict. We work closely on this topic with the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination in Princeton, and are happy to keep the Group of Friends informed about the results of the initiative as we go forward.

I thank you.