

ITEMS 105 AND 106:
CRIME PREVENTION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

STATEMENT

BY

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OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein is a traditional co-sponsor of the resolution on strengthening the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. The Programme is particularly important where it promotes capacity-building in domestic criminal justice systems and strengthens international cooperation. Liechtenstein is a long-standing supporter of such efforts inside and outside the UN system, as it considers the access to a strong and independent justice system not only as a precondition for sustainable development, but first and foremost as a human rights imperative.

Mr. Chairman,

We have consistently supported UNODC in fulfilling its mandate to strengthen national capacities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Hitherto, UNODC has successfully assisted states in their efforts to combat corruption, money laundering and transnational organized crime in all its forms. We believe that UNODC's wealth of experience in this field should be put to use in order to strengthen the ability of domestic criminal justice systems of States, at their request, to investigate and prosecute the most serious crimes under international law – genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Such capacity-building is particularly relevant for States in post-conflict or transitional stages, in line with UNODC's existing priorities. Under its rule of law programme, UNODC is mandated to assist any requesting State in the promotion of an effective criminal justice system, irrespective of the types of crimes under consideration. By giving special emphasis to the most serious crimes under international law, UNODC would not only contribute to the strengthening of the judiciaries in question, but also to the overall goal to eliminate impunity for such crimes. The ICC Review conference in Kampala earlier this year reaffirmed the primary responsibility of States for the investigation and prosecution of such crimes, with the ICC playing a complementary role. We hope that UNODC's role in this respect can be reflected in the resolution before the Committee this year.

Mr. Chairman,

In August, Liechtenstein became a party to the UN Convention against Corruption after the implementation of the necessary domestic legal reforms. We have also joined the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and participate actively in other relevant political initiatives in the framework of the UN, the OSCE, the FATF, the Egmont Group and other international institutions. We welcome in particular the recent creation of the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Laxenburg, Austria. Liechtenstein continues to consider the Palermo Regime as the central tool to address effectively transnational organized crime. We believe that 10 years after the adoption of the Palermo Convention, we must focus on implementation in order to realize its full potential. We support current efforts, within the framework of the Conference of States Parties, to establish an effective mechanism to monitor implementation. This mechanism should strengthen the commitment of States Parties to the Palermo regime and promote sustained capacity-building for national judiciaries. In this regard, we welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, which should strengthen and complement the Palermo Regime.

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein actively works to address the problem of illicit capital outflows from developing countries, both on the demand and the supply side. As an internationally recognized financial center, Liechtenstein fully implements international standards against money laundering as well as internationally recognized standards of transparency and exchange of information in the field of tax cooperation. We support the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (STAR) of the World Bank and are among the main donors of the International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR), which provides targeted capacity-building by training officials from developing countries and equipping them with effective information technology tools.

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein has ratified and implemented all sixteen UN anti-terrorism conventions and protocols and implements the latest international standards in the fight against money-laundering and combating terrorist financing. The Counter-Terrorism Committee established under SC resolution 1373 has already acknowledged these domestic legal amendments in its "Preliminary Implementation Assessment" (PIA) a year ago. We continue to support the comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy as the principal multilateral effort to fight international terrorism.

I thank you.