

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY – THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEM 99:

**STRENGTHENING THE UN CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
PROGRAM**

STATEMENT

BY

**MR. GÜNTER FROMMELT
MINISTER
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

NEW YORK, 9 OCTOBER 2008

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman

We wish to concentrate our intervention under this item on three issues: organized crime, curbing corruption and technical and financial assistance, all pertaining to Liechtenstein's international engagement.

Liechtenstein has been a member of the European Economic Area for the past 13 years. With this agreement, Liechtenstein is merged with the other EU member states into a single market. Since then, Liechtenstein legislation has been continuously adapted to the developments and requirements of the EU body of law, the so called "acquis communautaire". Also, other important European and international agreements, i.e. by the Council of Europe and the UN, and standard setting recommendations, i.a. the 40 recommendations of the FATF have been implemented. A strong set of laws and regulations are now in place that respond effectively to the current challenges of organized crime, most specifically to counter transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, and to prevent crime and to enforce the cooperation between criminal justice systems. In parallel, existing institutions were expanded and reinforced while new ones were established. Recently, in February 2008, Liechtenstein announced the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and two of its Protocols. We are well aware of the fact that effectively combating organized crime is an ongoing process, not only at the level of legislation but also at the practical working level. Pursuant to the results of the IMF assessment report on anti-money-laundering and combating financing of terrorism of 2007, further legal improvements and amendments in the field of mutual legal assistance and the criminalization of terrorist financing and money laundering have just been submitted to the parliament. Once these amendments will enter into force, Liechtenstein will have fully implemented the Palermo Convention and the 3rd EU Money Laundering directive. Due to the foreseen reduction of legal remedies, mutual legal assistance procedures will be concluded even more swiftly than today.

Second, Liechtenstein has signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption shortly after its adoption in 2003. Cooperation in international cases of corruption is efficient and pro-active. As international cooperation in the fight against and prevention of corruption has a high priority, we actively support a number of anti-corruption initiatives, most prominently the International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR) and the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR). As one of the first activities of the latter, a Liechtenstein asset recovery expert currently is taking part in the drafting of a guide on key concepts for non-conviction-based forfeiture. With regard to this convention, we expect the completion of the ratification process by the end of 2008.

Thirdly and lastly, Mr.Chairman, Liechtenstein has considerably supported the activities of UNODC with financial means as well as with expertise for consecutive years. Liechtenstein has intensified its cooperation with UNODC and has become an emerging donor country since 2005. The Liechtenstein funds have been channeled into a number of well-known programs and projects. The Global Program against Money Laundering (GPML) was given assistance in the establishment of a Financial Intelligence Unit in Kyrgyzstan and a Liechtenstein officer has been seconded to the program. In the framework of a recent IMF event, the head of the Liechtenstein FIU took part in the training of FIU Kirgis representatives. Also, the cooperation and experience with the UNODC Global Program against Terrorism has been excellent and very useful for both sides.. Liechtenstein is willing to continue its support for UNODC's capacity building activities in the areas of money-laundering, corruption and terrorism in the years ahead.

I thank you.