



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

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NEW YORK, 31 OCTOBER 2011  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SECOND COMMITTEE  
**STATEMENT BY ALESSANDRA GREGG, ADVISOR**  
ITEM 19: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

This month marks the birth of the seven billionth citizen of the earth. At the same time unsustainable production and consumption patterns have increased the stress on the earth's natural resources and are pushing up against planetary boundaries. The know-how to tackle this fundamental crisis exists and most all understand the urgency, yet the political will to address it has been largely missing. It is against this background that Liechtenstein considers Rio+20 a generational opportunity to set a new course.

Liechtenstein believes a successful Rio+20 Conference should result in the political commitment at the highest level to accelerate and broaden the world-wide transition towards a green economy that promotes sustainable development and contributes to poverty eradication. It should send out a clear, unified signal to all peoples that sustainable development is the only model for development and that economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Rio+20 should acknowledge the importance of democracy, good governance and respect for human rights to achieve sustainable development. It should also remind governments of their core responsibility to guarantee and promote the comprehensive right to development for their people.

A short political text will be the best way to effectively catalyze political will. To this end, Liechtenstein favors a forward-looking and action oriented outcome, guided by Internationally Agreed Development

goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) while addressing new and emerging challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

The green economy should be seen as a pathway to sustainable development, which provides policy tools to correct deficiencies in market, development and trade policies and mechanisms that have contributed to current global problems including climate change, resource depletion, inequality, poverty, and economic instability. As such it can be a win-win opportunity for all. Rio+20 should produce an outcome on the green economy, which should be action-oriented and include a range of economic and policy options that will advance all countries on this pathway. In this regard, Liechtenstein supports proposals for a Green Economy Roadmap containing common goals, concrete measures and timelines, a platform to bring together best practices and examples and a monitoring mechanism, such as a peer review, in order to secure implementation. Partnerships should be promoted and enhanced as a result of the conference. Finally, Rio+20 should provide the impetus to develop new indicators that take into account, for example, the health of the environment, biodiversity, air pollution, social welfare and which complement traditional measures of economic growth such as GDP.

Liechtenstein also considers Rio+20 an opportunity for the international community to translate discussions on the integrated pursuit of the three pillars of sustainable development into tangible goals. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could address problems of integration and implementation of the current framework for sustainable development. Such goals should apply universally. In addition, they must not be seen as diverting attention from MDG goals, but rather as a renewal of commitment to development, with a new focus on sustainability. In designing the SDGs, best practices and lessons learned from the development to the achievement of the MDGs should be fully taken into account. A strengthened and consolidated institutional architecture for sustainable development should be mandated with the coordination of efforts and the monitoring of progress towards the SDGs.

Mr. Chairman,

Rio+20 should further result in timely reforms that will lead to a coherent, coordinated, and balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, and that are geared towards enhanced implementation of sustainable development policies and programmes. Liechtenstein supports proposals

to improve interagency coordination for sustainable development within the UN and to transform the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) into a Sustainable Development Council (SDC), subsidiary to the General Assembly.

In order to address the gaps and weaknesses of the current IEG system, Liechtenstein supports proposals to upgrade UNEP to the status of a UN Specialized Agency, to enable it to become the leading global voice for the environment, to better inform decision-making, and to mobilize necessary resources to respond to past, current and emerging challenges. The specialized agency should be built upon existing UNEP structures.

Rio+20 is also an opportunity to launch and endorse sectoral priorities, initiatives, commitments and pledges that contribute to sustainable development. These could be included in an Annex to the outcome and should be followed-up upon.

Finally, it is important to underscore that the processes leading up to Rio+20 should be conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner with the aim of reaching a consensus on a way forward that we can as a global community can consider a success.

I thank you.