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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

GENERAL DEBATE ON THE THEME FOR THE 2014 SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE THEME OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CONVENED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COUNCIL: “ADDRESSING ON-GOING AND EMERGING CHALLENGES FOR MEETING THE MDGs IN 2015 AND FOR SUSTAINING DEVELOPMENT GAINS IN THE FUTURE”

**STATEMENT BY MR. STEFAN BARRIGA, MINISTER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I.**

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein welcomes the focus of this year’s Annual Ministerial Review and the High-level Political Forum on “Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”. We would like to thank the Secretary-General for launching the Millennium Development Goals Report 2014, which shows both impressive progress on a number of goals, but also that we are likely to miss several key targets. Progress is not only uneven across the goals, but also among regions. Sub-Saharan Africa is likely to miss almost all targets. It thus appears that a number of important challenges can no longer be addressed in the context of the soon-to-expire MDGs, but must be responded to in the context of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Liechtenstein is strongly committed to the intergovernmental process of formulating concrete SDGs, and hopes that this process will continue in a spirit of inclusiveness and transparency.

In devising the SDGs we must build upon the lessons learned from the MDG process and thereby ensure that our new goals and targets can be achieved in an equitable manner in all parts of the world, and also sustained in the long run. The MDG's have certainly been successful in mobilizing efforts that brought great progress to a number of specific areas. Nevertheless, it is already clear that the MDGs have not lived up to their full potential due to a number of factors. These include a lack of focus on the enablers of sustainable development – including peace, stability, good governance, gender equality, rule of law and human rights. Some degree of development may be possible without these elements – but not *sustainable* development.

Mr. President,

The MDGs also come up short in the area of accountability and effective review of the commitments made. It will therefore be absolutely critical to establish an effective SDG review mechanism within the High-level Political Forum allowing for accountability in the implementation process. The HLPF provides us with a strong institutional framework for this purpose, and GA resolution 67/290 has established the main parameters for such a review. The HLPF allows not only for universal intergovernmental dialogue, but also for broader and more inclusive participation by all relevant stakeholders. This should lead to higher political relevance and help consolidate the efforts undertaken within the United Nations system. The development of a state-led and voluntary, but robust SDG review mechanism starting in 2016 is a key priority for Liechtenstein. In achieving this objective it is crucial to look at lessons learned from existing mechanisms, including from the – in this respect - rather unsuccessful MDG experience, in order to identify building blocks for an appropriate review mechanism. The mechanism should be based on an inclusive, interactive and constructive dialogue with the full involvement of the country concerned, civil society, the private sector, statisticians and other relevant stakeholders. As the new agenda shall be people-centered, such an inclusive review will first and foremost provide accountability to the people of the country concerned.

To promote the discussion on the review mechanism, Liechtenstein is working informally with Egypt, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland. We are committed to

making the new review mechanism a priority and hope that many others will be interested in joining the discussion on the parameters of the review mechanism, which will be a key ingredient for the success of the SDGs.

I thank you!