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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
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**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
58TH SESSION**

**CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM
DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR
WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman,

Liechtenstein welcomes the focus of this CSW session on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. This stocktaking exercise will help us in our efforts to include gender equality and the empowerment of women in the new development agenda. The MDG's stated unequivocally that gender equality and women's empowerment are a global priority and a precondition for development by dedicating MDG 3 entirely to the issue. This was without a doubt a great achievement. Almost 15 years later, however, progress on gender equality remains too slow and uneven. The shortfalls of the MDG campaign have become clear: its non-inclusive and quantitative approach has proven unsustainable in many countries and it failed to address the many dimensions of gender equality. It failed in particular to tackle the root causes of gender discrimination. And it failed to address violence against women – the missing MDG. We must build on these lessons learnt as we start negotiations on the post-2015 development framework.

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio+20 outcome document gives us reason to be optimistic. It foresees a major role for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda, including as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. It has provided us with a strong basis for including a comprehensive and transformative gender approach in the post-2015 agenda and the SDGs. The time has come to take a clear stance in this regard.

Liechtenstein fully supports the SDG gender framework proposed by UN Women. We need a stand-alone gender SDG. And it should be based on three target areas: access to resources and capabilities; freedom from violence; and full and equal participation. Furthermore, gender-specific targets and indicators should be integrated across other SDGs. We are convinced that only such a comprehensive approach will help achieve progress toward the elimination of gender-based discrimination, the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission should therefore make a strong statement in favor of a stand-alone gender SDG as well as comprehensive gender mainstreaming throughout the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

We were pleased to see that the Open Working Group on SDGs is now working on the basis of so-called focus areas, which include gender equality and the empowerment of women. Nevertheless, the future SDG framework needs to be more explicit on women's human rights and empowerment. This includes, to name just a few elements:

- women's full participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making and at all times, including in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery;
- women's access to justice;
- the right to decide freely and responsibly over matters related to their sexuality;
- women's equal land, property and inheritance rights; and
- the human rights and empowerment of adolescents.

In addition, the OWG needs to recognize and build upon the numerous interlinkages between gender equality and other focus areas.

Mr. Chairman,

The post-2015 development agenda will only be successful in promoting gender equality if it includes a strong monitoring framework that promotes public awareness and accountability. In this regard, it will be absolutely critical to establish an effective review mechanism within the High-level Political Forum.

Liechtenstein sincerely hopes that our common objective – defining a promising and ultimately successful framework for future development – will guide our work at this session of the CSW. We must come together for a strong outcome document that sends a clear message to the world and shows that the UN is determined to live up to one of its core mandates.

I thank you.