



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

ADDIS ABABA, 14 JULY 2015

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT  
**GENERAL DEBATE**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. Ms. AURELIA FRICK**  
FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

70 years ago, the drafters of the United Nations Charter wrote that “we the peoples” were “determined [...] to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom”. To reach this goal, they decided to “employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples”. There could be no more accurate words to describe why we have come together here in Addis Ababa, and why we will convene again in September in New York. 2015 undoubtedly is a historic year for the United Nations - some have called it a historic test. It certainly is **a historic opportunity**: We can be the first generation to end poverty and hunger. We can be the first generation to achieve sustainable development in all three dimensions – economic, social, and environmental. We have the opportunity to agree on a truly transformative development agenda– and to ensure its implementation by providing the necessary means for its implementation, financial as well as non-financial. We are the generation that can and must save our planet to make it livable for those coming after us.

Mr. President,  
Financing for sustainable development is a complex undertaking. It requires far greater action than what can be achieved through official development assistance (ODA) – essential as ODA is. I am proud to say that Liechtenstein has reached the ODA according to the most recent numbers, by spending **0.75% of our Gross National Income (GNI) on** such assistance. We have also far exceeded the target of 0.15-0.2% of GNI to be allocated to Least Developed Countries. The Liechtenstein Government remains firmly committed to stay the course on ODA, and we hope that more States will join us in reaching the internationally agreed ODA goal.

International financial assistance, however, will not have the intended effect unless it is placed in a framework in which it can thrive. This is why we attach highest importance to the notion of enabling environment in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

**Only stable environments are enabling environments.** The correlation between the rule of law and good governance on one hand and peace and development on the other has been confirmed by empirical data. Its role as both enabler and outcome of sustainable development is undeniable. Two statements are crucial in this respect:

**First, enabling environments empower people.** We know that we cannot achieve our goals without the massive mobilization of domestic resources. For this to happen, we must ensure that the entire adult population can contribute to the progress and prosperity. Discrimination and marginalization undermine sustainable development – be it due to gender, age, disability, belief or any other status.

The empowerment of women and full gender equality are particularly key in this regard. Women make up 50% of the world's population. But in most countries, their economic potential has yet to be unlocked. Obstacles range from girls being denied their right to education – especially when it comes to secondary education. Evidence shows that not even 50% of countries will achieve gender parity in secondary education by the end of 2015. This significantly diminishes their chances to become full participants in a country's economic and social life. It also exposes them to legal discrimination and lacking financial inclusion, for example by preventing women from opening a bank account. Women are often the entrepreneurs and main providers of the family, and yet they are often not allowed to access the family's financial means, let alone take part in financial decision-making. Obstacles such as these seriously hamper and delay sustainable development in many countries.

**Second, enabling environments attract private investments.** The private sector and foreign direct investments are crucial in achieving our goals. Conducive environments for businesses and investments are based on core principles of the rule of law: Legal transparency and access to legal remedies, accountability and the respect for human rights are of particular importance. Corruption – be it on a grand scale or petty corruption – or arbitrary political and legal systems are harmful to these environments. Governments must also offer incentives for the private sector to invest sustainably and efficiently, especially in sectors that have been neglected in the past, such as infrastructure or health care - areas that are beneficial not only for a few but for all.

Excellencies,

Our most important commitment in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is ensuring accountability for its implementation. We cannot leave sustainable development to chance and must embrace one of the most important lessons we have learned from the MDGs. Liechtenstein stands ready to fully participate in the global follow-up and review processes for this Agenda and the post-2015 development agenda. We look forward to sharing experiences and engage in constructive dialogues in the High Level Political Forum in New York and are confident that by 2030 we will proudly look back to this historic year where we laid the foundation for a truly new global partnership.

The adoption of the Addis Abeba Action Agenda is one important step in this direction. This would also create the foundation for a successful post-2015 summit in September as well as a historic agreement on climate change in December in Paris.

I thank you.