



Check against delivery.

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

NEW YORK, 27 SEPTEMBER 2015

“GLOBAL LEADERS’ MEETING ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT: A
COMMITMENT TO ACTION”

STATEMENT BY MR. ADRIAN HASLER, PRIME MINISTER OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Mr. Secretary-General,

Mr. President,

Madam Executive Director,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Gender equality, the promotion of women’s rights and the empowerment of women and girls is both a long-standing priority in Liechtenstein’s engagement at the UN and an area in need for further action at the national level. We remain committed to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and were happy to endorse the Political Declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women earlier this year. The Beijing document remains perhaps the most comprehensive and powerful tool to promote full gender equality to date.

Here at the United Nations, we have been particularly active on the Security Council’s Women, Peace and Security agenda. A significant part of our budget dedicated to international humanitarian cooperation and development is – and will remain - directed towards initiatives in support of women, in particular in situations of armed conflict. We partner with leading civil society groups such as the NGO Working Group for Women, Peace and Security, or the Peace

Women Project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and provide financial support to them; our commitment to international criminal justice also has a strong focus on gender issues, as illustrated through our work with Justice Rapid Response and the ICC trust fund for victims.

At the national level, we have made significant advances in the past two decades, but shortcomings remain. Equality before the law has been largely established, but women continue to be disadvantaged in practice in certain areas. Additional efforts will be needed to reach our goals with respect to political participation and to ensure equal pay for equal work. We note in this regard the "Call to Action" by the UN Global Compact and others: indeed we must bring down the legal barriers for women's economic empowerment. On the positive side, women have consistently been represented in political level positions and are currently occupying 40% of the ministerial posts. We have also achieved significant improvements with regard to women's access to tertiary education. Liechtenstein furthermore pays special attention to ending violence against women. To this end, we have strengthened national legislation and run a successful Government campaign to raise awareness. In addition, response mechanisms as well as support services and protection for victims of violence have been improved.

The timing of today's event is apt since it coincides with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The strong commitment to gender equality as a prerequisite for sustainable development and the inclusion of a standalone goal thereon are one of the big positives in the 2030 agenda. This makes it clear that the full inclusion and participation of women is not a matter of political correctness, but rather an indispensable element of success.

I thank you.