



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**ECOSOC SPECIAL MEETING:
GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS**

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. President,

I wish to commend you on organizing this special ECOSOC meeting on the global food crisis. 854 million people are currently affected by food insecurity, and up to another 100 million are to be added soon as a consequence of the current international commodities market crises. This initiative is therefore both timely and important. The causes of the increase in food commodities prices witnessed over the last months are complex and interlinked, in addition to being temporal and structural in nature. Nevertheless, because the causes can be identified, there is an obligation on all states to act without delay. Without an immediate response, the achievements of MDG 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 will be at risk and the security situation in an increasing number of countries will be severely jeopardized.

Mr. President,

Many of the factors contributing to the global food crisis such as climate change, world population increases, changing dietary habits and an increasing demand for bio-fuels are likely to have a lasting effect. These causes need to be addressed by implementing mid and long-term measures that look at the underlying causes while taking into account the fact that agriculture has been neglected in too many countries for too long. We therefore believe it is imperative to reinvest in agriculture in developing countries. In addition the Doha Development Agenda must be brought to a successful conclusion aiming at further strengthening the local agricultural market of developing countries. As far as emergency measures aimed at mitigating the negative effects of poor harvest, natural disasters, conflicts, high oil prices and commodity speculations, it is crucial that state-imposed policies do not exacerbate the current structural rise in food prices. Food supplies needed for humanitarian purposes in particular must be allowed to freely circulate without hindrance. Moreover, in order to mitigate the most dramatic consequences of this emergency it is crucial to further strengthen the flexibility of the World Food Program to respond to the immediate crises by providing more non-earmarked contributions. Indeed, we have done so with a contribution of 200.000 CHF to the last WFP appeal of which 100.000 CHF are not earmarked. For the future we stand ready to consider further support if needed.

Mr. President,

The UN must play a key role in our common efforts to find a sustainable solution. Liechtenstein therefore commends the Secretary General for establishing a high-level task force on the global food crisis and welcomes the high-level conference on food security to be held from the 3rd to 5th of June in Rome. We believe that this provides us with an excellent opportunity to ensure that the international response to this emergency is coherent and inclusive.

I thank you