

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

49<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
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**STATEMENT**

BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Madam Chair,

Ten years after Beijing, the Declaration and Platform of Action are as relevant as ever and need our full reaffirmation again. The Beijing and Beijing+5 outcome documents constitute the foundation of our work on the advancement of women. Despite considerable progress achieved in many parts of the world, concerted action is needed to ensure equal treatment and rights of women and men worldwide. As the Secretary-General outlined in his address to the Commission, "there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women." In the report "Investing in Development" by the UN Millennium Project, gender equality and women's empowerment were defined as vital conditions for development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It is now up to our national implementation strategies to translate the acknowledgment that sustainable economic growth requires the strong involvement and further economic empowerment of women into tangible results.

There is also an inextricable link between development and peace and security, as stated both in the High-Level Panel report and the Millennium Project report. The empowerment and active involvement of women is crucial for conflict prevention as well as **post**conflict reconciliation and peace-building. It is therefore important to strengthen the role of women as peace agents in all stages of peace processes.

In Liechtenstein, a detailed Plan of Action for the implementation of the outcome of the Beijing Conference and the follow-up process was adopted in 1998, and its implementation is subject to an annual review. We have identified two "critical areas of concern" of the Platform of Action where special action needs to be taken at the national level:

- **Inequality between men and women in the sharing of the power and decision-making at all levels**

The area of equal representation of women in politics is particularly urgent and has special relevance in view of the parliamentary elections taking place in Liechtenstein next weekend. In order to promote female participation in politics the Office of Gender Equality offered a translational (Austria-Liechtenstein) lecture series about women and politics as well as a training program to encourage women to run for political office. In addition, the Government has established a program offering women with interest, but without experience in politics the opportunity to meet with female political representatives to exchange views and get advice on how to become actively involved in political life.

- **Violence against Women**

Liechtenstein attaches great importance to combating all forms of violence against women, in particular domestic violence. The publication of a manual for relatives and friends of victims as well as a widely distributed "emergency card" in different languages which provides the victims with important information such as addresses of contact points, were very successful tools in the awareness-raising process.

In the legal area, the Victims Protection Act, which ensures the victim's protection during the judicial interrogation, entered into force on January 1st 2005. As a general rule, a victim must not be confronted with the perpetrator in the Court room against her own will. A Victims Aid Act, which would provide immediate medical, psychological, social and legal aid to the victims of violence, is currently under consideration in Parliament.

Madam Chair,

While women and women's groups were the driving forces in the promotion of equality for women, it is clear that progress is not possible without men playing an active role in achieving gender equality. Men in decision-making positions are

requested to actively contribute to the advancement of women and to the removal of obstacles on the way to gender equality.

Madam Chair,

Without the political will and the respective leadership to empower women in all political, economic and social areas the achievement of the MDGs in accordance with the established time frames remains threatened. In conclusion, Madam Chair, let me join the Secretary-General in stating that "promoting gender equality is not only women's responsibility – it is the responsibility of all of us."

Thank you, Madam Chair.