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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY MR. SINA ALAVI, LEGAL ADVISER

THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

Mr. Chair

Liechtenstein welcomes the engagement of the UN in collective efforts to promote the rule of law. While we were encouraged by the inclusion of the Rule of Law as part of the 2030 agenda in SDG 16, a recent and comprehensive study on the implementation of SDG 16 by the Justice Task Force is a stark illustration of just how much is left to be done. According to the Justice Task Force: at least 250 million people live in extreme conditions of injustice, 1.5 billion people cannot resolve their everyday justice problems, and 4.5 billion people are excluded from the opportunities the law provides. And, the Covid-19 pandemic has only exacerbated things. There is therefore much work to be done. This is a critical moment for all of us to stand up for and further develop the rule of law at the national and international levels.

Mr. Chair

In the context of the agreed sub-topic for this year's Rule of Law debate in the Sixth Committee on 'measures to prevent and combat corruption', the Secretary-General recently reminded us that "corruption in the time of Covid-19 has the potential to seriously undermine good governance around the world, and to send us even farther off-track in our work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." We have also taken note of the warning in the United Nations Common Position to Address Global Corruption Challenges that "Corruption and the

looting of staggering amounts of assets undermine the achievement of the SDGs and has a negative impact on peace, stability, security, gender equality, the environment, human rights *and the rule of law.*” These alerts from the UN system taken together with the findings of the Justice Task Force are very concerning. We must therefore increase our efforts to reduce corruption, as reflected in SDG 16, and in this regard, Liechtenstein is fully committed to achieving a substantial outcome of the Special Session of the General Assembly on Corruption.

In the same vein, we would like to highlight that a growing body of evidence shows that corruption is “both an underlying root cause and a facilitating tool to carry out and sustain [modern slavery and human trafficking]” (UN-GIFT, 2008). In other words, corruption is what allows exploiting vulnerable individuals as part of a low cost, low risk, high profit illicit trade. Profits of \$150 billion per year are generated by modern slavery (ILO, 2014). Estimates also suggest that 40 million people – 71% of them women and girls – are trapped in different forms of modern slavery. (ILO, 2017). This is why Liechtenstein’s flagship initiative for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the international-level is one focused on ending modern slavery and human trafficking. The “Liechtenstein Initiative on Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking” (FAST) is a public private partnership launched by Liechtenstein together with Australia and the Netherlands, and with the support of the United Nations University. Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking aims to engage the financial sector to tackle modern slavery by focusing on the areas of compliance, investment and innovation. Specifically, it offers financial actors a practical blueprint to help eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking through the promotion of sustainable and innovative financing, responsible lending and investment, and compliance and regulation. The Blueprint also includes an Implementation Toolkit to help institutions act to ending these abhorrent crimes. We invite everybody to work together with us in the dissemination and implementation of the FAST blueprint to help eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking.

Mr. Chair,

Liechtenstein considers the fight against corruption to be intertwined with the fight against impunity, as corruption and other organized crime can contribute to the commission of atrocity crimes. We therefore reiterate our unwavering support and commitment to continued

cooperation with all international criminal courts and mechanism fighting impunity. We also take this opportunity to recall that upholding international law in cyberspace is critical, as grave cyberattacks can result in massive civilian casualties. Developments in the cyber realm also require us to better align international criminal justice with 21st century realities. In this regard, together with other ICC States Parties, Liechtenstein has convened a group of legal experts to elaborate the extent to which the Rome Statute applies to cyber operations. A report on the application of the Rome Statute to cyberwarfare is forthcoming.

I thank you.