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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

BOTSCHAFT  
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

**52<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States**  
**"Together against inequality and discrimination"**

*Written Statement by Ambassador Georg Sparber,  
Permanent Observer of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Organization of American  
States,  
on the occasion of the Dialogue between the Heads of Delegation of OAS Member States,  
the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General with Permanent Observers*

Lima, Peru  
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Liechtenstein is honored to contribute in written form to this exchange between Member States of the OAS and Permanent Observers. The open and transparent involvement of observers in the work of the Organization is a testament to the commitment to multilateralism so broadly shared in the Western hemisphere. Liechtenstein thanks the host State Peru for receiving the OAS community in the beautiful city of Lima and the General Secretary and his team for the support and cooperation extended to us in advancing our joint priorities.

In light of the grave challenges the world currently faces the OAS is a stronghold for the promotion of peace, democracy and the rule of law, its significance spanning far beyond its own region. Liechtenstein values and strongly supports the work of the OAS in pursuit of its key objectives – democracy, human rights, security, and development. We welcome the clear position of the OAS to condemn Russia's illegal and brutal aggression against Ukraine and the important decision to suspend Russia as Observer to this organization. Our European sister organization, the Council of Europe, was swift in its reaction to the Russian aggression concluding that Russia's acts are serious violations of the core principles – respect for human rights, democracy and rule of law – leading to Russia's expulsion. Liechtenstein strongly supports efforts to ensure accountability for the grave crimes committed in Ukraine, including the crime of aggression. We value our strong partnerships in this region in fighting impunity for international crimes.

Russia's frontal assault on our common values and the United Nations Charter has global consequences. The weaponization of food and fertilizers affects the poorest countries most dramatically. Russia's nuclear escalation is an existential threat to all of us. Tragically, Russia's illegal war deflects much needed attention off the key challenge of our times – climate change. It also risks putting us even more behind schedule in our efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The main theme of this session "Together against inequality

and discrimination” is at the very core of the SDGs and thus has its rightful place at center of our attention here in Lima.

As long as inequalities between States and within societies remain at unsustainable levels stable, peaceful and inclusive societies as well as the peaceful co-existence of all States will elude us. Liechtenstein is committed to the global partnership to reduce inequality and we see an enormous potential for the private sector to join in this endeavor as part of a whole-of-society approach. In the spirit of the SDGs, measures to address inequality must focus on those hardest to reach and suffering from multiple and often intersecting forms of discrimination and vulnerabilities, such as women in rural areas or children in poverty. These measures must aim at strengthening the agency of people and at including them meaningfully in all decision-making processes that affect them. Social and economic empowerment and access to quality education are instrumental in this regard and have been longstanding priorities of Liechtenstein’s partnership with States of the Western hemisphere. We are committed to continue those partnerships in the long run.

The pandemic, armed conflicts, and challenges to energy supplies have put us behind in our battle against climate change which is at heart a question of intergenerational justice and, for many, a question of survival. Some Small Island Developing States are threatened in their very existence by the consequences of climate change, from sea-level rise to extreme weather events. Sadly, we have to witness again the devastation brought by hurricanes passing through the Caribbean. The Liechtenstein Government expresses its deepest condolences to all who have suffered from the recent calamities. Liechtenstein is committed to transition to the green economy and to achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Accord in time. We are intent on being at the forefront in the fight against obstacles to achieve our goals. Among these obstacles green corruption is of rapidly increasing relevance. We invite all States to join forces as we develop the necessary policies together with our partners from the Basel Institute and the international community.

Another priority area for Liechtenstein remains the fight against human trafficking, a risk in particular for vulnerable people on the move or in humanitarian crisis situations. The public-private partnership “Finance against Slavery and Trafficking”, or FAST<sup>1</sup>, initiated by Liechtenstein, aims at mobilizing the financial sector to fight this heinous crime with 50 million victims, an alarming increase of 10 million victims since 2016, and annual proceeds of USD 150 billion. We believe that financial inclusion and other forms of empowerment, in particular of women and girls, help reduce vulnerabilities significantly. In this regard, Liechtenstein also expresses its deep appreciation for the longstanding close partnership with Interamerican Commission of Women (CIM). Liechtenstein remains committed to supporting the CIM’s important work for this region.

Finally, Liechtenstein is looking forward to working with the OAS Member States on our common priorities. The exchange and cooperation with the OAS will be of continued high importance as Liechtenstein prepares to take on the chairmanship of the Council of Europe starting in November 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fastinitiative.org/>