New York, 14 February 2022

Check Against Delivery

Second inclusive, informal thematic consultations convened by the President of the General Assembly on the UN Secretary-General’s report on “Our Common Agenda”

Statement by H.E. Christian Wenaweser
Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations

Mr. Vice-President,

I thank you for convening the second consultation in follow up to the Secretary-General’s report on “Our Common Agenda”. We view today’s discussion on acceleration the Sustainable Development Goals through sustainable financing and building trust as particularly pertinent.

Public trust in institutions has been steadily eroding, even more so in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to rebuild that trust, we need to address corruption, which is prevalent in all parts of the world, in developing and developed states. Corruption undermines the rule of law, democracy and human rights, and has negative effects on peace and security and sustainable development. As a matter of fact, corruption is one of the biggest impediments of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and international cooperation will be crucial in tackling it. We welcome the Secretary-General’s new vision for the rule of law, in line with the 2012 Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and SDG 16.

Corruption, poverty and economic inequality leave the most vulnerable members of society exposed to exploitation. As we approach the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2023, and the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
on human rights, human trafficking and modern slavery remain a defining challenge of our time, with women and girls at particular risk. We believe sustainable financing and financial inclusion are key elements in combating these crimes. The Financing Against Slavery and Trafficking Initiative embedded in UN University, which engages the financial sector in this context, provides a blueprint for financial actors to take meaningful action, including through investigating illicit financial flows, promoting reporting and transparency and investing in prevention. We further highlight the importance of robust legislation and policies in achieving effective alignment with SDG 8.7 and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Any efforts to further develop standards and rules in the global economic and financial arena need to be inclusive and transparent, with the UN at its center, and in accordance with existing legal frameworks and standards, including UNCAC.

Mr. Vice-President,

Liechtenstein is among the few countries to pay its regular budget contribution in full and on time. In order for the Organization to be effective, it is crucial that all Member States’ contributions be met in a timely manner. We call upon all Member States to join us, so that the UN can fulfil its mandates and continue to deliver. Adequate financing for human rights and humanitarian activities is also essential. These activities are where the UN most visibly comes into contact with the public, and our ability to provide aid where most needed is essential in maintaining trust in the Organization.

I thank you.