



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD SUMMIT 2005

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ADDRESS

BY

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PRIME MINISTER
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

The sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations coincides with the fifteenth anniversary of our membership in the organization. Joining the United Nations on 18 September 1990 was a historic step for Liechtenstein. To this day we consider our membership a cornerstone of our national sovereignty.

Effective multilateralism, as envisioned by the Charter of the United Nations, is more important than ever. Today's challenges and threats are manifold, and most of them require collective action based on a functioning international framework and the rule of law. Environmental and health threats, terrorism, natural disasters and humanitarian crises are but a few examples which amply illustrate this fact. The United Nations is the only organization that can provide the framework for such global collective action. At the same time, today's world and the challenges it poses greatly differ from those for which the organization was originally designed. The United Nations clearly needs new tools to address new threats, and this is the reason why we have all gathered here in New York at the Summit level.

We welcome the fact that the original purpose of the Summit - the review of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals - has found a central place in the outcome document. We also subscribe fully to the underlying philosophy of the outcome document that development, security and human rights are mutually reinforcing and interdependent.

We had hoped for far-reaching and bold decisions to be ready for our common agreement at this Summit, in particular in the area of institutional change. No less was required from us in order to make the United Nations fit for the challenges ahead, and to prevent the repetition of past mistakes, such as those which occurred in the management of the Oil-for-Food Programme. Success on the many reform issues in front of us is uneven. The next months must bring more progress.

Efforts to strengthen the various arms of the United Nations system are needed to tackle institutional imbalances. The strengthening of this General Assembly, the only universal organ of the organization, is one essential element in this respect. We must therefore put the Assembly back to a central place in our multilateral system. We are encouraged by the efforts to make the work of the Security Council more representative, accountable and transparent vis-à-vis today's membership.

The establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission to help countries emerging from conflicts will close an institutional gap. This body has the potential to dramatically improve the United Nations' performance in the area of conflict prevention, by assisting countries to find the transition to long-term recovery and to prevent the relapse into conflict.

We support the early conclusion of the work to design a Human Rights Council that reflects the central position of human rights among the core activities of the organization. The agreed doubling of the resources for the Office of the High Commissioner will help give human rights activities their rightful place within the UN system.

On the conceptual side, we are particularly pleased that the Summit recognizes the responsibility of the international community to protect civilian populations when governments fail to do so. More advances in the area of terrorism and use of force would have been necessary, and we deplore that the Summit has failed to reach any agreement in the areas of disarmament and impunity, including the role of the International Criminal Court.

Mr. President

We have taken important decisions, but fallen short of what is necessary in some areas. We must turn around a corner and create a new basis for an organization which has difficulty to keep up to the speed of global change. The work on the many issues before us will continue with great intensity and must lead to more and to real change.

I thank you, Mr. President.