



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT

GENERAL DEBATE

**PLACING DEMOCRACY AT THE SERVICE OF PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING THE WORLD THE PEOPLE WANT**

**ADDRESS BY H.E. MR. ALBERT FRICK
SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The mandate of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union** remains as visionary and relevant today as it was 125 years ago. It calls on us to work together to defend democracy, promote human rights, and create opportunities for development.

2015 presents unique opportunities for us to do so.

As the United Nations prepares for the **Sustainable Development Summit**, we cannot overemphasize the importance of democracy for the new 2030 Agenda. Strong, transparent and accountable institutions, both nationally and internationally, are essential to achieve the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our parliaments must keep governments accountable for the agreed commitments, and keep our citizens informed.

The SDGs recognize that every country in the world, from the richest to the poorest, must work hard to create an environment that enables every single individual to pursue prosperity.

Liechtenstein is ready to do its part.

In 2012, we reached the **Official Development Assistance** (ODA) target of 0.7%. Our industrial sector continues to create jobs both home and abroad. We are effectively fighting illicit financial flows, while supporting capacity-building in other countries. We continue to reduce our carbon emissions, and strongly support efforts toward a new climate change agreement in December in Paris.

The SDGs also recognize that violent conflict and oppression are our main enemies in the fight against poverty. Liechtenstein therefore strongly supports Goal 16 on peaceful societies and rule of law. Democracy is indeed a key ingredient of peace. Governance must always stay close to the people. This is why our Constitution contains strong elements of direct democracy. This is also why our country, shortly after joining the United Nations 25 years ago, set out to promote a practical approach for self-

determination of peoples. Competing interests should be decided at the ballot box, and not on the battlefield.

Another key ingredient of peace is justice.

Liechtenstein strongly supports the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**. Our Parliament was the first to ratify the Kampala Amendments on the crime of aggression. Starting in 2017, the ICC will be authorized to prosecute the most serious forms of the illegal use of force – thereby also helping to enforce the United Nations Charter.

I encourage you all to join us in achieving this milestone, and to learn more about it at **an event we are organizing at lunchtime today**.

2015 is also the year in which the **United Nations celebrates seventy years** of existence. As a small country without an army, Liechtenstein is deeply invested in the effectiveness of this organization. That is why we are working to make it fit for the challenges of today. Together with like-minded countries we have recently proposed a Code of Conduct that will enable the Security Council to take more effective action to prevent or end mass atrocities.

I hope that many of you will support this important initiative.

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As elected representatives we may be primarily the servants of our own citizens. But we cannot effectively fulfill our mission if cooperation and solidarity end at our borders.

Peace, human rights and sustainable development can only be achieved if we intensify our collaboration across nations. I therefore look forward to constructive exchanges at this Fourth World Conference.

Thank you.