

**Geneva Conference on
Preventing Violent Extremism – The Way Forward**

**Session II – Addressing the Drivers of Violent Extremism
7 April 2016**

**Intervention by Mr. Claudio Nardi, First Secretary,
Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Mr. Chairperson,

Liechtenstein wishes to underscore its resolute and unconditional condemnation of all forms of violent extremism and terrorism as well as its profound solidarity with the victims of this scourge. Liechtenstein reaffirms its commitment to contribute to the fullest extent to countering violent extremism and terrorism, including through national, regional and international cooperation, and in particular through the implementation of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. The barbaric acts committed in various parts of the world over the last few weeks only, show how urgently we need to work together to address the root causes and drivers of violent extremism.

It is crucial that we address violent extremism throughout all three pillars of work of the United Nations: peace and security, development, and human rights. We strongly believe that the General Assembly must continue to play a key role in shaping the work of the United Nations to combat and prevent violent extremism and terrorism, along with the Security Council and the Human Rights Council. The full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an important building block in preventing violent extremism by ensuring economic and social inclusion for everyone. Legislative and programmatic actions on the regional level play also an essential role in addressing the conditions which drive individuals to join violent extremist and terrorist groups. Liechtenstein fully supports the efforts and initiatives undertaken by the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in addressing violent extremism.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is widely recognized that efforts to counter violent extremism and terrorism are only successful if citizens can address legitimate grievances through democratic processes as well as through their full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Unfortunately, we are facing a situation today where the very same people who enjoy peaceful, just and inclusive societies are violently challenging these democratic principles. In addressing these challenges, Liechtenstein implemented a twofold national approach. It includes the better integration of foreigners as well as the prevention of radicalisation. For example, migrants in Liechtenstein have an integration obligation in order to receive a permanent residence permit. This includes the obligation to learn our official language and to pass a civics test. Our national approach also includes a commission on the prevention of violence which has been mandated in 2003 to implement measures against any forms of violence in the public, particularly coming from right-wing extremism. Last year the commission expanded its focus to any form of extremism, including religious and political extremism. It launched an informal dialogue with our Muslim community to discuss measures against radicalisation. Furthermore, the commission established an expert group which can give advice to people affected by extremism.

I thank you!