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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
69TH SESSION

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE:

**NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS:
RECOMMITTING, RESOURCING AND ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM
FOR ACTION, ALSO WITH A VIEW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT THE SDGs**

STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chair,

It is an honor to participate in this roundtable today, on a topic that is very timely. The 2030 Agenda is clear that gender equality is a cross-cutting topic, and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future. We cannot effectively address and overcome pressing challenges like climate change and armed conflict as long as half of the world's population does not enjoy equal rights and opportunities. Especially in a century of rapid technological advancement and the exponential growth of artificial intelligence systems, the gender digital risks further perpetuating inequality.

Along with effective, accountable and inclusive institutions – in line with SDG 16 – women in leadership positions at all levels of decision-making will deliver better outcomes that benefit all of society. Balanced political participation and power-sharing between women and men had already been agreed upon as an objective in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. While I am pleased that my country will likely soon be headed by a female prime minister, more progress is still needed for equal representation in the political, economic and public life. To track and evaluate the advancement of gender equality, our Office of Statistics has recently updated and expanded gender equality indicators, which provide gender disaggregated data on 35 key indicators. In the field of education, for instance, we have witnessed a steady increase of women in tertiary education over the last fifteen years, almost outnumbering men today. These statistics give me hope to see more women in positions of leadership if we continue to actively address systemic barriers that hold them back.

Mr. Chair,

To ensure the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as human rights obligations, national institutions responsible for gender equality must be adequately resourced and empowered. In this context, I am pleased that Liechtenstein has upgraded its Equal Opportunity Unit to a full Division by the start of this year. At the same time, we are currently in the process of finalizing our first comprehensive national gender equality strategy, to be adopted later this year. These additional efforts to advance gender equality mark a milestone in our commitment to both the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as the achievement of SDG 5.

Thank you.