



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

NEW YORK, 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

HIGH-LEVEL WEEK

FEMALE FOREIGN MINISTERS DINNER

WELCOMING REMARKS BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORT

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Dear colleagues,

It's a great pleasure to welcome you at the Liechtenstein residence tonight, a first for me as Foreign Minister, and it is an honor to host this dinner together with Ann Linde.

In times when in person meetings cannot be taken for granted, I am particularly happy that we are convening tonight in this beautiful way. We will have an opportunity to strengthen our network of women leaders and to discuss, in an informal way, all the issues that are dear and important to us.

Coming together in this way is particularly meaningful at a time when gender equality and women's rights are increasingly under pressure. As we all know, women have been hit disproportionately by the COVID-19 pandemic: as frontline workers, unpaid care workers, home schooling teachers and victims of violence and abuse, among others.

We have a special role in generating political leadership against backtracking on our achievements in gender equality. We have to stand up for zero tolerance against gender-based violence, and for empowering women and girls to be agents of change. Ensuring access to quality education is an important prerequisite to that end. And for us female leaders in particular it is important to keep inspiring women and girls. Only if we tap their immense potential can we achieve peaceful, just, inclusive and sustainable societies.

I look forward to a wonderful evening and thank you all for being here tonight.