



GOVERNMENT
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

National Statement
Principality of Liechtenstein

His Serene Highness
Hereditary Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein

World Leaders Summit

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- Check against delivery -

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me start by expressing my gratitude to the Government of the United Kingdom for their huge efforts to welcome all of us in Glasgow and to assure the continuity of international climate diplomacy at times of a global pandemic. The fact that so many of us are present at the highest possible political level is a proof of the importance and urgency of the topic. I truly hope that today and in the coming two weeks, we will not only speak about climate change. We must move forward, increase ambition and turn our collective and individual commitments into true action. We need a concrete and positive outcome of the COP26 and Liechtenstein will support the Presidency as much as possible to succeed.

Our meeting today is much more than just a conference about climate change. It is a conference about the future of our planet, the future of our States and the future of humankind. It is our moral duty to ensure a liveable planet and a healthy environment for future generations. A dialogue with the youth is essential. We must also listen to science and the IPCC in particular. What does science tell us? Global warming is not simply a raise in temperatures that leads to more extreme weather conditions and deteriorates biodiversity. If we do not succeed to limit global warming below 1.5 °C, we will be unable to ensure food security, water and sanitation in many regions of the world. Inundation due to sea-level rise threatens the ability of Small Island States to express their peo-

ples' right to self-determination through Statehood. New conflicts about resources and forced migration will emerge, if we do not succeed in our individual and collective efforts. In short, climate change is a global security threat that calls for collective multilateral action. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must therefore guide all our decisions.

The time for decisive global action is now and Liechtenstein urges all States to take up their global responsibility. Every state can and must contribute to tackle climate change and so does Liechtenstein. We recognise the urgent need to protect biodiversity and improve adaptation measures and to take early action to reduce vulnerability to the massive effects of climate change. Liechtenstein therefore supports the Glasgow Leader's declaration on Forests and Land Use.

Some of us have argued that reducing greenhouse gas emissions while achieving economic and social well-being is incompatible. Liechtenstein can serve as an example to prove the opposite. Since 1990, our population has grown by one third and our GDP has more than quadrupled. Nevertheless, Liechtenstein will achieve the Kyoto-target 2020 and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to levels well below those of 1990. Greenhouse gas emissions per capita are amongst the lowest in Europe, despite the fact that Liechtenstein is one of the most industrialised countries in the world. It is therefore possible to decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions. To make this happen, consistent investment in innovative technologies to boost renewable energies and to increase energy efficiency is essential. For instance, Liechtenstein has been solar world champion since 2015 with the highest installed photovoltaic capacity per capita.

However, we need to go beyond these achievements. We are committed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. In October 2020, the Liechtenstein Government has adopted the climate vision 2050, the energy strategy 2030 and the energy vision 2050. The goal of net-zero-emissions has also been introduced into our national legislation. I am personally committed to promote the implementation of these goals.

In the spirit of the 2030 Agenda – which embeds climate change in SDG 13 – we are fully aware that we should not limit our action to reduce emissions domestically. Many of the goods we import and consume are produced abroad. Also, our financial sector invests globally and has an influence on emissions in other countries. Sustainable finance and production are therefore crucial. Many private companies in Liechtenstein from the industrial and financial sector have published ambitious commitments with regard to sustainability. Such private commitments towards sustainable transformation of the global economy are crucial and I encourage more private actors to follow this path.

The Liechtenstein Government supports developing countries in their effort to improve mitigation actions and adaptation to climate change and dedicate around ten percent of our annual budget for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development to climate finance. Supporting the Green Climate Fund is a key element of our financial engagement. Per capita, we contribute with USD 70 to climate finance annually. And the Government is committed to further increase climate finance from next year, with a focus on the humanitarian sector. I personally welcome the Climate and Energy charter of the ICRC. Liechtenstein will support the efforts of the humanitarian sector to become more climate and environment friendly.

In the course of our more than three hundred years of sovereignty, Liechtenstein has developed from an agrarian into a highly industrialised economy. Only farsighted thinking and clear dedication to multilateral cooperation allowed us to overcome and continuously prosper amidst many challenges. In that sense, I urge all States, according to our common but differentiated responsibility, to collectively and individually increase our ambitions and follow through with implementation.

Thank you!