



Statement

**by Claudia Fritsche,
Vice-President, Liechtenstein Human Rights Association,**

**on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in
Liechtenstein**

July 18, 2019

Chairperson,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this contribution on behalf of civil society in my country, the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Civil society activities

A very engaged civil society developed in Liechtenstein since the 1960s. It supports the Government and the municipalities in discharging many of their public tasks. In addition, approximately 1300 non-profit foundations are headquartered in Liechtenstein. Their financial contribution to social and humanitarian projects domestically and abroad exceeds the ODA by far.

A working group of NGOs was established a few months ago. It aims at promoting the SDGs on all levels. This working group conducted a review of 30 Organizations of Liechtenstein civil society organizations which revealed that all of them contribute to all 17 SDGs in Liechtenstein or elsewhere in the world.

Comments on the report submitted by the Liechtenstein Government

Three particular Sustainable Development Goals, namely SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), which get the highest marks on their implementation status in the Government report, are, in addition to SDG 15 (Life on Land) also those goals to which civil society contributes the most.

According to a poll conducted by the Government amongst 40 actors of civil society and the private sector, particular importance is attached to SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) as well as SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).



The Liechtenstein Government has identified key projects to promote four SDGs. They are still in the planning phase and have not yet produced noticeable results. Also, civil society feels that it has not been adequately consulted when those areas and the key projects were chosen and identified.

It is disconcerting that no positive trends to reduce inequality (SDG 10) and to avoid poverty (SDG 1) can be detected and that no key projects have been planned in these areas.

Action required

Chairperson,

In Liechtenstein, the notion of the SDGs has not yet reached the grass roots level. Many NGOs are not aware that their work is a contribution towards implementing the SDGs.

NGOs in Liechtenstein lack the statistical tools in order to analyze their work in the light of the SDGs and to measure their implementation. The system of indicators, which was developed within the Government report, is in this respect very helpful. It should be further developed in a participatory way and it should target more precisely the SDGs.

Despite including the SDGs as political guiding principles in the Liechtenstein Government program for the period 2017 - 2021, visible and noticeable SDG activities are missing in the daily lives of politics and society. Very rarely is the political importance of the SDGs articulated.

There is no central fund to finance sustainability projects nor is there adequate information available on funding provided by Government departments.

It is necessary to establish a National Sustainability Strategy as well as institutional structures for the implementation of SDG-programs and to include the municipalities, the private sector and civil society in this effort.

Commitment

For many years, civil society in Liechtenstein has been engaged in promoting the goals of Agenda 2030. Together, we intend to use Agenda 2030 to align our common activities with efforts to follow sustainability goals. Civil society in Liechtenstein is ready to actively and constructively work towards making the world a healthy and diversified place worth living - in the year 2030 and beyond.