



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

17TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE CRPD

GENERAL DEBATE

STATEMENT BY H.E. DOMINIQUE HASLER

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND SPORT

Chairperson,

Excellencies

It is a particular honor for me to speak at Liechtenstein's first Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The ratification of the Convention late last year marked an important milestone in our trajectory towards the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society. Almost twenty years ago, Liechtenstein took the first significant step in this direction by adopting the Act on Equal Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities. At the same time, the UN has played a pivotal role in the further advancement of a human rights-based approach to disability at a global level. With the ratification of this landmark Convention, we reaffirm our commitment to promoting and upholding the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities, and are proud to stand with the international community in this critical endeavor.

Chairperson,

With the entry into force of the Convention in Liechtenstein, we ensured that the crucial standards set out in the CRPD were incorporated in our legal framework. We are proud to have been able to set up our national independent monitoring mechanism during this process, as it assumed its new task upon entry into force of the Convention. Rest assured that we will continue to strive for the elimination of all obstacles and barriers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities. As a concrete example, we are currently in the process of further amending our legal framework regarding guardianship. I am confident that once we submit our Initial Report next year, we will report on excellent legal foundations and effective measures.

Chairperson,

Our efforts addressing the inclusion of persons with disabilities are not only domestically oriented, we also want to actively support these efforts abroad. In line with one of the themes of this year's conference, Liechtenstein contributes to the ICRC Special Appeal on Disability and Mine Action, which specifically aims to support the rehabilitation of persons with physical disabilities, including those victims of violence or injured by mines and explosive remnants of war. Pursuant to the CRPD, and in the very spirit of leaving no one behind, we indeed need to ensure that international cooperation is and remains inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Thank you.