

Speech at the 140th IPU Assembly (Doha/Qatar, 6-10 April 2019)

Hasler Johannes, Member of Diet

(09.04.2019)

Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr. President,

Dear honorable colleagues,

This year Liechtenstein is celebrating its 300th anniversary. In the European context, 300 years of stability is quite remarkable.

For most of that time, Liechtenstein was a poor agricultural country. It survived Napoleon in the early 19th century – and came out even stronger, as a sovereign nation recognized by its peers. Smart diplomacy by the Prince of Liechtenstein was one key reason for this little miracle. And ever since then, Liechtenstein has sought to strengthen its sovereignty through partnerships. This has led our country into: for example the United Nations, the European Economic Area and of course the IPU.

For a country the size of Liechtenstein, multilateral organizations play a very important role.

We have a keen interest in a well-functioning multilateral international community.

Liechtenstein strongly believes, that high quality education leads to sustainable peace.

My dear colleagues: I strongly believe that investing in education offers a strong return on investment for a more peaceful and happier society and leads to more fairness in our world. Education therefore needs to be seen as not just training people as workers but to educate people for a better way of life in our globalized world.

I am convinced that we as lawmakers and representatives of the people have a powerful role to play. We are responsible for the budget, the legal framework and the legislation regarding education. And therefore: we are accountable to establish and initiate peace, security and the rule of law.

Starting at the primary school level, political Education, human Rights and tolerance is promoted as part of our national curriculum. It is important that we take into account, that education regarding peace, security and the rule of law does not stop after finishing school.

Therefore I would like to focus on youth participation. As youngest Member of our Parliament, I'm very happy that youth participation is well established in Liechtenstein. Young people who are interested in politics may join the "Youth Council" where they get the opportunity to step into the role of parliamentarians.

Also on the regional level, young people from Liechtenstein participate annually in the YPAC- a program by CIPRA, where they discuss relevant issues of the Alps and present their ideas. CIPRA, with its international executive office in Liechtenstein, is the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, committed to the protection and sustainable development of the Alps since 1952.

Ladies and Gentleman's, we will never be able to ensure peace, security and the Rule of Law without providing people with high-quality education. From our own historic development from a poor country to one of the most industrialized countries in the world, Liechtenstein is well aware of the crucial role of education. Thanks to its dual education system, Liechtenstein has one of the lowest rates of youth unemployment, in fact less than 2%. Not surprisingly, access to inclusive and high-quality education is one of the top priorities of Liechtenstein's Development cooperation. Roughly half of the total budget for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development is dedicated to projects related to education and vocational training.

In conclusion I would like to summarize that for Liechtenstein, peaceful societies are of high importance. Conflicts and inequality lead to instability and threats that affect each country. For many years Liechtenstein's priorities have been in the areas of rule of law and accountability:

In December of 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, known as IIIM [Tripple "I" "M"]. It was first initiated by Liechtenstein. Its mandate is to assist in the investigation and criminal prosecution of the most serious crimes committed in Syria. This initiative does not bring back lives nor heal wounds. However it will collect information and documentation of the crimes committed in Syria.

Another initiative from Liechtenstein is the Financial Sector Commission to stop modern slavery: The Liechtenstein Initiative is a public-private partnership that aims to put the financial sector at the heart of global efforts to end modern slavery and human trafficking. This global consultation could lead to responsible investment, lending practices and financial sector innovation that will address modern slavery and human trafficking.

As we can see: all of us can play an active role to ensure long lasting peace, security and the rule of law. Working together my dear colleagues... anything is possible.

Thank you.