



**GOVERNMENT**  
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
JUSTICE AND CULTURE

# **14<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

**H.E. DR. KATRIN EGGENBERGER**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JUSTICE AND CULTURE OF THE  
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

Kyoto / Vaduz, 7. March 2021

Madame President,

We congratulate you as President of the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and we thank Japan for hosting this Congress.

I would like to further express our sincere gratitude for all the efforts of the government of Japan and of the Facilitator, H.E. Ambassador Takeshi Hikihara, which made the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration possible.

The theme of the Congress could not be more relevant given the impact of the current pandemic.

The Covid-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected the most vulnerable members of society. Inequalities have worsened heavily. All these factors are prime drivers of crime.

Due to the pandemic we are suffering massive setbacks in achieving the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time, the SDGs provide us with the perfect framework for building back better therefore more resilient.

Madame President,

Liechtenstein has put the fight against Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery at the centre of its efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Unfortunately, the vulnerability of the marginalized will increase since the pandemic has been causing unemployment, growing poverty and inequalities which are drivers of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. Even before the pandemic, the figures around modern slavery and human trafficking were shocking – affecting an estimated 40 million people, the majority of which are women and girls.

Bearing in mind the staggering USD 150 Billion that are generated yearly through these abhorrent crimes, it was obvious to us to put the

global financial sector at the heart of the fight against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. We therefore have created the “Liechtenstein Initiative on Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking” (FAST).

FAST offers financial actors a practical Blueprint comprising an Implementation Toolkit to help identify, prevent and eradicate Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking through the promotion of sustainable and innovative financing, responsible lending and investment, as well as compliance and regulation.

With FAST we are looking to forge new partnerships. Of course, financial institutions themselves should be at the centre of the implementation, while Governments and civil society can continue playing a crucial role.

Madame President,

The COVID-19 pandemic cannot serve as a pretext to undermine the rule of law and human rights standards.

We believe that no crime justifies measures that violate human rights or run counter the principles of the rule of law.

I thank you, Madame President