

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

H.E. Ms. Renate Muessner,

Minister of the Environment of Liechtenstein

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to first take the opportunity to thank the Government and the people of South Africa for its warm hospitality during the past two weeks.

We are all aware of the fact that climate change is a global threat that requires a global answer. Yet, the Kyoto Protocol as the only binding agreement we have, is at stake. It is still unclear what happens after 2012. However, it would be irresponsible towards future generations to leave the path of further emission reductions.

Rest assure that Liechtenstein will continue its work on an ongoing decrease of its emissions. We stick to our pledges from Copenhagen as well as to the respective submissions in the run-up to Cancun last year. The goal to reduce emissions from

20 – 30 % until 2020 is already part of our national policies and legislation and formed the shape of our climate and energy policies until 2020.

Liechtenstein has a population of 36'000 inhabitants, its territory is only 160 km² big. In order to achieve our climate goals, we will invest over 20 Million US Dollar to reach further domestic emissions reductions. In addition to that, we will invest around 1 Million US Dollar to achieve emission reductions abroad. Both sums will be made available on an annual basis – that means an investment from over 160 Million US Dollar in 8 years.

Liechtenstein also provided its fair share to the initiated fast start finance process launched in Copenhagen and is deeply committed to engage in the process of reaching the long term financing goal of raising an annual amount of 100 billion Dollars by 2020.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

as mentioned above, Liechtenstein will continue its way to implement a low carbon economy – even without a comprehensive and legally binding agreement in sight.

However, if only a group of a few countries will follow this path we will not manage the challenges ahead of us – the global community needs to move closer together in this regard.

We are ready to engage in this necessary task, always inspired by Mandela's quote:

"Everything is impossible until everything is done."

Thank you very much.