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UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting Rio+20

Statement by Karin Lingg, Liechtenstein Delegation

ITEM 7: The institutional framework for sustainable development

Mr. Co-Chair

In our view the Rio+20 Conference should result in timely reforms of the institutional framework for sustainable development. The reforms should lead to a coherent, coordinated, and balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, and should also be geared towards enhanced implementation of sustainable development policies and programmes.

Liechtenstein supports proposals to improve interagency coordination for sustainable development within the UN and to transform the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) into a Sustainable Development Council (SDC), subsidiary to the General Assembly.

In order to address the gaps and weaknesses of the current IEG system, Liechtenstein supports proposals to upgrade UNEP to the status of a UN Specialized Agency. This would enable it to become the leading global voice for the environment, to better inform decision-making, and to mobilize necessary resources to respond to past, current and emerging challenges. The specialized agency should be built upon existing UNEP structures. It could also function as the mechanism for global coordination and streamlining among existing multilateral environment agreements (MEAs).
Finally, it is important to underscore that the processes leading up to Rio+20 and beyond should be conducted in an open and transparent manner that includes and engages a broad variety of stakeholders including the civil society and the business community.

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair