

“Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all ”
by Dagmar Bühler-Nigsch (Head of Delegation)

Madam President, Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to begin with a brief introduction to my country. Liechtenstein is a small European state located between Switzerland and Austria, with a population of 40,000 people. Our country may be small in size, but we share the same responsibility as every nation represented here today: to strengthen trust in public institutions and to ensure that every person has the opportunity to participate fully in society.

For Liechtenstein, the theme of this Assembly is therefore highly relevant.

Good governance is not only about effective institutions. It is about creating a society in which people feel heard, respected and included. Trust grows when citizens can contribute to decision-making and when everyone has the opportunity to participate, regardless of their background or abilities.

One important measure of an inclusive society is the participation of persons with disabilities.

Liechtenstein ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2024 and continues to advance its implementation. We are committed to creating conditions that enable persons with disabilities to live independently, exercise their rights and participate fully in all areas of life. Education plays a central role in this effort. We continue to strengthen inclusive approaches within our school system because inclusion begins early. When children learn together, they learn not only academic skills but also respect, understanding and appreciation of diversity.

Our experience also shows that inclusion is most successful when government and civil society work hand in hand. In Liechtenstein, several organisations make an important contribution. The Association for Human Rights promotes awareness of human rights and supports an inclusive society. The Liechtenstein Association of Persons with Disabilities ensures that the voices and experiences of persons with disabilities are represented in public discussions and political decision-making.

The Government's Office of Equal Opportunity plays a coordinating role by bringing together public authorities, civil society organisations and affected persons. This cooperation helps translate principles into practical action.

Inclusion must also be visible in everyday life.

A powerful example comes from the cultural sector. The Young THEATER Liechtenstein has been bringing together children, young people and adults with and without intellectual disabilities in theatre productions for many years. Through inclusive projects participants create and perform together as equal members of one ensemble, demonstrating that culture can be a powerful space for participation, dialogue and mutual respect.

Another inspiring example is Special Olympics Liechtenstein, which promotes inclusion through sport, strengthens self-confidence and creates opportunities for people of all abilities to participate actively in community life.

These examples demonstrate an important lesson: Inclusion is not merely a social policy. It is a foundation of trust, belonging and democratic resilience.

As parliamentarians, we have a responsibility to ensure that no voice remains unheard, and no person is left behind. By investing in inclusion, we strengthen not only individual lives but also the cohesion and stability of our societies.

Liechtenstein may be a small country, but our experience confirms a simple truth:
when people are empowered to participate, communities become stronger, trust grows, and democracy flourishes.

Thank you.
