

**Explanation of vote after the adoption of draft resolution A/61/L.67
“United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”**

by

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Liechtenstein has been a long-standing supporter of innovative approaches to the right of peoples to self-determination in order to fully explore the potential of this concept for the promotion and protection of human rights. We are therefore pleased that the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples just adopted contains a number of provisions which mark an important new step in the way the United Nations is dealing with the concept of self-determination. The introduction of the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to internal and local affairs, including their financial aspect, offers a promising new approach which would help to genuinely address the aspirations and needs of many peoples to create an enabling environment for the full protection and promotion of human rights, without resorting to strife and violence.

It is our understanding that the reference to “political unity” in Article 46 of the Declaration does not preclude a gradual granting of increasing levels of self-government to such peoples, which is based on a democratic process and the promotion and protection of minority rights. It does not exclude any democratic decision on the State structure, either.

Liechtenstein voted in favor of the Declaration because we are convinced that such innovative concepts are particularly important for harmonious and cooperative relations between the State and indigenous peoples which are beneficial to the promotion and protection of all human rights of indigenous individuals without discrimination.