



Check against delivery

31th Session of the HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

15th March 2016

Intervention by H.E. Mr. Peter Matt, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission of Inquiry,
We thank the Commission for its latest report on the Syrian Arab Republic. We value and appreciate the Commission's work and reports. The Commission serves as a voice for victims and brings those voices to us.

Mr. President,
The cessation of hostilities is necessary and needed. But all efforts to bring a peaceful conclusion to the ongoing conflict in Syria must fully reflect the need to ensure accountability for the crimes committed in the country. This is a prerequisite to bring about reconciliation and sustainable peace. It is of utmost importance that the atrocities be properly documented. The Commission is the only body of international standing that does so at the moment and its reports are an indispensable record. We thank the Commission in particular for sharing important information with criminal justice authorities in various countries.

Mr. President,
There has been a serious lack of progress on the justice dimension. The veto in the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court is just one example. The justice dimension has also been neglected in the peace talks taking place so far. The level and scale of atrocities committed make it clear to us that justice must be an integral part of the peace talks. Another integral part of the peace talks must be the inclusion of women, as also recognized by the Commission. Indeed, women are powerful voices in advocating for the resolution of the conflict. It is highly commendable that this important factor is also being recognized and put into practice by the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura.

I thank you!